

# **The Sure Footing of Faithfulness**

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**2 Peter 1: 8-11**

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And so, for our time this morning, we're going to be jumping back into our study in 2 Peter. And if you recall from a few weeks ago, we spent some time in 2 Peter 1:3-5. And I hope this study has been encouraging for you so far. I hope that God has been instructing your heart and teaching you truth, comforting truth, that these verses are designed to bolster you up, and in fact, to establish you in truth, which is why this series is titled as it is. And I hope you can see why God would've chosen to use Peter in his last words, his final words, to speak these words to us, to encourage us and to bolster us up in the strength of God's word. And we're just getting started. We have a lot of incredible things to discover still in this letter.

So we're going to be diving in back into our study in verses 8-11 this morning. And if you got one of those blue Bibles from the ushers, that's on page 1120. And as we get to our verses for today, I want to make note that Peter again, begins with a callback to the previous section. He begins this section with the word for, which explains to us that everything that happens in these verses is contingent on what he just said in the previous verses. And so he's building for us a logical process of both thought and of action. And when we look at what the content of these verses show us, we see the reasoning that Peter gives us here is built on the fact that disciplined behavior will supplement our faith and give us a sure footing in our faith. And so we're given the inferred why to the questions that were answered in the previous section of the what and the how of our faith.

I truly, I love that about Jesus and I love that about his word, that we're not just left in the dark. We're not just, God's just not an evil task master telling us, do this and do this. And here's your marching orders and you better obey. He's saying, you do this because I love you and I care about you, and this is what is good for you. We're his adopted children into his family, brought into his blessing, and his gracious heart and will are on display for us this morning. And so, as we transition to these verses, I want to recall what that call to action was from the previous message. Peter's purpose in writing this letter and writing this final sermon, which is this section of the letter, is to establish his audience in the truth, but not just the truth in content, but the truth in practice. And so he gives us this imperative command to make every effort to put on and practice these 7 supplements of Christian faith. Which were Virtue and Knowledge, and Self-Control, and Steadfastness, Godliness, Brotherly Affection, and Selfless Love. And these virtues are to be sought for, they're to be fought for and to be disciplined into our practice of our faith in our life. So that our truth is not simply knowing the Bible, but it is living the Bible. Able to be demonstrated and seen, and tested, and proven by the evidence of your actions, the Holy Spirit at work in your life. So we are to make every effort to thrive in these supplemental virtues of the faith. And that is the what and the how. And as we get to our text for today, Peter is going to provide for us 4 reasons why we should make every effort to fulfill these virtues actively in our lives so that we have a sure footing in our faithfulness before God.

4 Reasons, we're going to see those in the 4 verses that we read. And what we're going to do is we're going to, we always do this when we read God's word, we're going to stand together in a

minute and I'm going to read. But I'm going to start in verse 5 so that we kind of have a bit fuller of a context for what we're going to study, and then our verses will be 8-11. So if you're with us and you're able to stand, please stand. If you're watching online and joining us, thanks for joining us. Please stand wherever you are. We do this out of reverence for God's word. This is the most important thing I'll say this morning.

This is 2 Peter 1:5, It says this, "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities, you will never fall. For in this way, there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." That is God's word for this morning. You may be seated. As you are please join me in prayer for our time in the word this morning. Father, I approach these verses with fear and trepidation. And I thank you Lord for convicting my heart and breaking down my thoughts as I studied this passage this week. Please God, use this time to speak truth and to convict the hearts of everyone who is listening, not just those who need the gospel, but those who have the gospel and need to demonstrate its power and practice in their lives with more clarity and precision. May you be honored and glorified in our study. We ask in Jesus name. Amen.

So, as you can see from this passage, we're getting the heart of Peter on display. He's laying out for us these incredible reasons why. He's shepherding the audience of his letter. He's being a warrior for the truth. And he is avidly representing Jesus and his heart for ministry as an apostle. So, he gives us both his heart as an apostle and Jesus heart for our disciplined pursuit of these godly supplements in our life. As we break them down, we're going to see a simple outline, very simple 4 points, 4 verses. And we want to ask this question, why should we make every effort? Why should we care? And how will these supplements serve as good guardrails and protective practices in our faith? And so 4 answers are given and those 4 answers are the points of your outline.

So, if you're following along taking notes, inside the program, there's a note sheet. Point number one is the first answer to the question, why should we make every effort to practice these supplements? And the answer is **Point #1), They keep you Proficient in your Principles.** Proficient, that is adequately equipped or having an expertise in or demonstrating an aptitude for something. That is, actively putting these on in proficiency. And verse 8 says this, for if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

There's lots in this verse and we could spend a lot of time here. But what I want you to see here is there is, this verse built on what's called a conditional statement. If one thing is true, then what follows will happen. And so, we say, if we live in Phoenix, it's going to be hot outside. If we live in Alaska, it's going to be cold outside. Whatever it is, that's the conditions that have to be true. And it's only going to be true if these conditions are met. So, what are those conditions? If these qualities are yours and are increasing. And so we need to break these down and see that these conditions will only come to pass if, number one, if you possess these qualities. If you possess them, that is, if you presently actively possess them. That is that you are known by these things,

you practice these things, you pursue these things, you own these things as part of your character. Like we all want to be known as nice, honest people. So that people look at us like, yeah, he's an honest guy. That means you possess the character quality of being honest. And in the same way, this text is telling you, these previous supplements must be a part of your character in possession. Like if you own a boat or you own a house, you are in possession of those things, until you don't pay your bills and then the bank repossesses them, takes them from you. Nobody's awake this morning. That was a joke. It's okay. But basically, you're known to other, you can't call yourself a homeowner if you don't own a home. But if you possess a home, then you are called a homeowner.

Let me ask you a question as an analogy. Can I call myself a Ferrari owner? No. Well, thanks. I could, but I'd be lying. I could call myself that, but I'd be a liar. I am not a prosperity pastor and therefore I do not have a Ferrari. Nobody's going to look at me and say, what a great Ferrari owner he is. But if I fooled everyone, say I put on the Ferrari jacket and spun my key chain, and went to the Ferrari car club, and I'm hanging out. And everyone's like, So what Ferrari do you drive? And I'm like, Huh? I don't have a Ferrari. I'm just part of the club. People would just, what would they say? They would call me a fraud, a faker. And you would all see that too and you would mock me for wearing a Ferrari jacket without owning the car. And so, I ask the question then, do you call yourself a Christian? Do you call yourself a follower of Jesus? Are you in possession of the necessary supplements of your faith to be able to in confidence call yourself a follower of Christ, or are you simply pretending and attending the club every Sunday, wearing the hat? How's your sure footing in your faith? Because my friends, this is not me being mean to you. This is eternity at stake. This is the most important question that you could ask yourself. And Jesus gives us a litmus test by the way, to test our own character. In Matthew 7:16 and following, he's describing the fruits of false teachers against real believers. And he says, you will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or are figs from thistles? So every healthy tree bears good fruit and every diseased tree bears bad fruit. So my friends, do possess good fruits? Is your foundation in Christ solid in its footing because of that?

Peter tells you it is solid in its footing because of Christ, but it's demonstrated to you and is assured to you because of your supplemental qualities and virtues that you add to your faith, only if you possess them. But not only if you possess them, also if you increase in them. And that's what the verse says next. And this speaks to our constant need for spiritual growth, constantly conforming to the image of Christ, mortifying sin. That is putting sin to death and putting on righteousness. And Hebrew 6:1 tells us, therefore, let us leave the elementary doctrines. Let's not abandon them, but let's build on the foundation and grow beyond them and go on to maturity. Not laying again the foundation. We know the foundation, let's build on it. Colossians 3:9-10 says, do not lie to one another seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. The new self constantly being renewed, constantly being reformed or *semper reformanda* was the cry of the reformation. Always reforming, always growing in holiness, always increasing in these qualities, never content in our spiritual condition. Always seeking to be more like Jesus.

So how do you know if you're constantly being renewed? Litmus test right here. Are you increasing in these supplements of faith? Now, I'm not asking you to measure it on a daily basis. Right in the same way you don't measure progress on a nationwide road trip by watching every mile marker go by. The trip would never end. But you measure, this day we made it hundreds of miles and tomorrow we're going to make it 10 states across. That's how we measure. So, in our

lives as we're walking, we can look back periodically and see, am I more like Jesus today than I was before in my life? Sometimes it takes years and decades, and we thank God for his patience and steadfast love.

But like Paul said in Ephesians 4:1, I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of your calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. And so the apostle Paul calls us in our proficiency to also exercise these supplements. That's what he's calling us to do. The possession and increase of these by nature means that we will exercise these. We will work them out in our lives and not figure them out, strengthen them. And that's exactly what Paul is saying in Philippians 2:12 when he says, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. He's referring to the process of sanctification. We learned last time that justification is all God. That's him declaring us righteous. We were dead in our sins. We could do nothing to change that. He declares us righteous, breathes spiritual life into us. And now our condition of working out our salvation is that process of becoming made more like Jesus, more righteous, more holy, putting off sin more. Why? So the world can look at you and see the holy spirit at work in your life and see the transforming power of the gospel and know that is exactly what they need, to be rescued.

So, as we move to our second point, Peter kind of switches gears here from a positive practice of these things to what a negative practice would look like without these qualities in verse 9. So point #2), why is the practice of these qualities in your life good? ***Because they keep you cognizant of your cleansing***, point number two. And I just as easily could have said mindful or aware, mean the same thing, but they don't start with C. So, you get cognizant because that'll help you remember and that's the whole point of these. We keep them constantly in our minds, at the forefront of our minds. The very opposite of forgetting is being cognizant of something. We're mindful, we're aware. And verse 9 tells us two consequences for not being cognizant. And so practicing these things keep us aware of these things. Verse 9 says, for whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted and blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. And so consequence number one that we see in this verse is spiritual ineffectiveness. Imagine you're in the military, you're in the army and you're on a mission. And you're going to be sent on a mission and you just bolt out the door, and you didn't even listen to the parameters. You need to have perspective for the mission. You need to have sight of the battlefield and what to expect in order to be successful. And this verse is speaking here to spiritual blindness or spiritual nearsightedness, and the lack of ability to see God's big picture in your life will keep you from being effective.

And so what happens? We get caught in encumbrances and sins. And so the writer of Hebrews gives us advice. Keep your thumb here and turn to Hebrews 12. Some of the best verses in all of the Bible, some of the most encouraging. Hebrews 12:1-2, therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. He just spent the previous chapter telling us all about these horrific racks of human beings that God turned into pillars of faith. Because of them let us also, like they did, lay aside every weight. That's not sinful. Those are just things that distract us and weigh us down. By the way, and sins which clings so closely and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus or fixing our eyes on Jesus. Guys, that's perspective. That's biblical perspective. Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated now at the right hand of the throne of God. How do we maintain perspective? We fix our eyes on Jesus. He's waiting for

you at the finish line, at the end of your life. And in doing so, we fixate on Christ. We live then in the fear of God, knowing his word, eyes on Jesus. In obedience, we will practice these things and be kept from being ineffective.

Verse gives us a second consequence here of not possessing and increasing in, and exercising, and knowing these qualities. Consequence number two, acting like salvation never happened. Peter's not saying it never happened. He's not saying you lose it. He's saying, you're acting like it. That's what it looks like. You're going back to your old lifestyle. Now, kind of a silly analogy here, but it kind of works. Okay. Bear with me. Anyone remember the show of The Beverly hillbillies? Yeah, it's funny. It's kind of a cute show, but what were they famous for? They were this little family that were extremely dirt poor who overnight became extremely rich and still lived like they were dirt poor. They did not understand the implications of the privilege and position that their money put them in. They were just still simple, poor, unaware hillbillies. And guys, I have nothing against hillbillies. Please hear me. But the analogy stands to reason here. When we're forgiven in Christ, follow with me, when we're reconciled to the father, when we're adopted into God's family, when we're sealed with the royal divine seal of the holy spirit, when we're blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, when we are freed from sin and united to Christ, and yet we don't live like it. We forget it. We fail to act like it. We revert to forgetting that we were cleansed from our former sins. And also we act like we we're not united to Christ. We act like we have no spiritual blessing. We act like we are not sealed in the spirit. We have no assurance of our salvation. We act like we are not adopted into God's family. We act like we are not reconciled to the Father. And we act like we are not forgiven in Christ. We've forgotten that we're rich. Abounding in spiritual blessing, we're no longer dead in our trespasses, like Ephesians 2 says. We are in fact, new creations as 2 Corinthians 5:17 says. 'The old has passed away and behold the new has come.' And so the why of practicing these qualities, point number 2, so that we avoid these consequences. So that we're not blind and ineffective for gospel ministry. And so that we do not forget the gracious and glorious, and miraculous, and complete salvation that we have in Christ. And folks, to be honest, some of you, and I'll point the finger at me too, some of us need to face a reality check. We need to face that we may need growth in these areas. J. C. Ryle says, 'Oh, if you would but follow Christ, be not content with the world's Christianity, tremble, tremble and repent.'

And Isaiah 66:2 echoes this. The second half of it, God says, "But this is the one to whom I will look. He who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at my Word." Do we tremble before God's Word? Or are we just discontent with our circumstances? Discontent with God's plan for our life. Discontent with our obedience to him, maybe we just stopped trying. We must try and we must submit. Instead recognize the grace of God, which he has spelled out for us, teaching us how to maintain that joy that is promised in the world that is so empty. That contentment and fulfillment, and empowerment for ministry that comes only in Christ and obedience to him, and how we can remain fixated on Christ and our minds engaged in the battle against the flesh and against this world. Because I need you to know something, in the battle for your spiritual life, if you're not fighting for it, you're losing. There's no neutral ground. There's no like, well, I'll just kind of, I'm Switzerland. You're either fighting or you are losing. Interesting study, in Ephesians, the full armor of God, it's all front facing. You ever wonder why when you turn and run from battle you feel like you're just getting shot? It's because all of the armor of God is front facing. He expects you to engage in battle and he will protect you.

So that brings us to our **Point #3**), the third reason why we practice these qualities and why it's so important for us is because **They keep you Diligent in your Design**, verse 10. And Peter puts things back in the positive for us here and he exhorts some deep truth. Verse 10 says this, "Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities, you will never fall." Lots of deep truth here. We're just going to see a couple of things for our edification. Number one, God has designs for you. God has designs for work in your life. He has established, as Ephesians 2:10 says, "Good works from beforehand that you might walk in them." So we see God's design for us, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election. Does this accomplish the work of your calling and election? Does it complete it? Does it earn it? Does it accept it? No. It confirms it. That means exactly what James is telling us in James 2:18. When James says, "Show me your faith by your works." How do you prove an apple tree is an apple tree? You talk about it, you adamantly defend it or you see it's growing apples? That's the proof. So it doesn't accomplish but it rather confirms that you are no longer dead in your sins, unable to accomplish righteousness, unable to please God, as Romans 8:8 says, "Because you are controlled by the flesh and instead you are now in Christ controlled by the holy spirit."

Accomplishing righteousness, empowered by the holy spirit, in performance of good works, for the glory of God, confirms for all who see that God is the one at work in you and God gets all the glory for that one. And don't you dare steal it. You give him the glory. God accomplishes his work in you by his will for his kingdom good. And by the way, he doesn't need you for that. But he has chosen to set his grace on you to use you for that, to bless you. And so Peter exhorts you with all of his being, be all the more diligent, hard in pursuit of these qualities.

The second design we want to see from this verse is the design of sure footing in your walk. For if you practice these qualities, you will never fall. The 4 here again so graciously is God caringly giving us this reason for his instruction and design for your life. God doesn't want you to fall Christian. He doesn't want you to fail. He doesn't set you up for failure. He doesn't put you in a scenario and sit back and eat popcorn going, I wonder how he's going to get out of this one. He wants you to trust his plan for your life and walk through every circumstance with biblical wisdom coming out stronger and more like Jesus on the other side, because he knows that is what will bring you the ultimate joy, not the pursuit of sin in this world. Only through faithful worship of God. Worship with our hearts, worship with our minds and worship with our bodies, fulfilling the designs that he has for us. And Christian, can you resonate with that? Do you desire to do that? True believers desire to follow Jesus in that. By the power of the holy spirit, he will accomplish and complete the work that he has begun in us, according to Philippians 1:6, by empowering us to be faithful to him and accomplishing these things through us.

That brings us to our final reason why. Why we should make every effort to practice these things and that is found in verse 11. **Point #4**), in practicing these qualities, **They keep you Secure in your Salvation**. And this is just remarkable divine blessing here spelled out for us. Verse 11, "For in this way, there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the kingdom, the eternal kingdom of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ." Again, a gracious why from God. Why the practice of such qualities, why the increase in these qualities and the possession of them, and the exercise of them is so good for you, because faithful effort grants you victory in Christ, victory in Christ. Not just a consolation prize, not just a participation trophy or a pat on the back. Hey, thanks for playing. Guys, if you're in Christ, your salvation is secure. Your justification has been taken care of. There is not a thing you can do to add to your righteousness in Christ. But then

why are we here? Remember last time, previous two times we asked the question why when we're saved and we're not just zapped to heaven. We won the game. Game over. No, the game is not over. And that's the whole point. Our race, our mission, our term of service for the king is not yet completed. But like Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7 and 4:8, he shows us what it looks like when your term is completed. He says this about himself. He's about to die. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race and I have kept the faith." Notice he does not say, I earned my salvation. I accomplished it all. I did it all. He says, no, I fought, I ran, I was steadfast and faithful. How and to who? To Christ through these virtues, through the practice of virtue and knowledge, and self-control, and steadfastness, and godliness, and brotherly affection, and selfless love. And just like a victor running into the stadium eagerly to claim his prize. Paul says he will on that last day, in verse 8, be awarded a crown.

And it's like the hymn writer Charles Wesley says, 'bold I approach the eternal throne and claim the crown through Christ my own. Not through his own righteousness, but through Christ and his righteousness accomplished through his obedient life.' And so another reason why it's good to practice these things is connected and that is that faithful effort grants you reward in heaven. Paul says again in 2 Timothy 4:8, that the results of a faithful life are this. "Hence forth, there is laid upon me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will award, mark that word, to me on that day. And not only to me, but to all who love his appearing." And so what we see here is not merely the grace of being ushered into the kingdom, but it is award, literally award. That means to be paid what is owed. To be paid back. So Paul can't be speaking of his salvation here because we know that salvation is by grace through faith alone, all God. So, what is he saying here? In Romans 2:6 Paul says that God says, "He will render to each one according to his works". Verse 7 says salvation is already granted; eternal life is granted. And verse 10 says, "But glory and honor, and peace for everyone who does good." Proverbs 22:4 adds this, "The reward for humility and fear of Yahweh is riches and honor, and life", and prosperity preachers sing, amen, that's what we're all going to get here and now. We say, no, this couldn't possibly be referring to this life. Otherwise, God is a liar. Not every Christian attains to this level of status of blessing in this life. This must then be a promise about the life to come, the life eternal and to riches, and honor, and glory granted, like Paul, to all as a reward for those who do good when they stand before Jesus in judgment.

Jesus himself taught in Matthew 6:20, "Store up for yourself treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not decay." And he said, you do that by living a life like I've already described in the sermon on the amount of salt and light, and righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:10, Paul says, "That we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." And this is not a judgment of righteousness or unrighteousness. If you are before Christ in the Bema seat, you have been saved, you have been justified. But he says, this is for reward. He concludes, so that each one may receive what is due. That's that same idea of what you're owed for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. And this is expounded on in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, where Paul says, now, if anyone builds on the foundation, that is the justification of your salvation. That is God's work. Builds on that with gold and silver, and precious stones or wood, hay, and straw, each one's work will become manifest for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. And if that work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. He's already in heaven. What are these rewards? If anyone's work is burned up, by the way, verse 15, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. So what does that mean for you? What does that mean for us who are in Christ? Well, it doesn't refer to salvation or damnation under judgment. That's already been

decided by God in Christ. So this Bema seat, this is, again, it's like an athlete standing before the podium and they're deciding what medal this person should get, what reward they should get for how they ran the race. And then this analogy, it compares our good righteous works, the practice of these supplements to gold and silver, and precious stones, and our selfish and fleshly works to wood, hay and straw.

Now, you put those things to the test by fire and what survives? What survives? Gold and silver, and precious stones. And so according to the analogy, these righteous deeds survive and on the basis of those, rich reward is granted in heaven forever. And I want you to see, just so it's clear in verse 15, this little phrase, "If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer, loss though he himself will be saved." You see, this is not a test for salvation, but a reward in heaven, a test for reward. And Peter, gracious and bold hearted apostle Peter is telling you, he's saying, Christian, I want you to know this so that you do not spend your life wasting that one precious and irrecoverable, irretrievable resource that you'll never get anymore of, which is time. It's the only thing that God has said you will never get one second longer in your life. I have declared your life from the end from the beginning. And so, Peter exhorts us here to use our time with wisdom and with knowledge, knowing that we only get so much time and once it's gone, it's gone. It's why you're going to store up treasures in heaven and use it for eternity. My friend, how are you going to use your time? You can be a Christian and stumble across the finish line. You can be a Christian and ruin your witness. The practice of these virtues does not mean, the lack of these does not mean that you are not, but the evidence certainly points to the fact that you might not be. But the practice of these, the putting on of these by the power of the spirit is proof that you are. And so you could live that life and stand before Jesus one day and suffer loss. But Peter asked the question why. Why would you want to do that? Why would you choose such a road when the glorious riches and grace, and kindness of God are laid out in front of you and how to store up for yourself treasures in heaven and live a life that honors him, and brings him glory, brings you good and joy, and happiness, and ultimately reward in heaven forever?

Well, this has been a rewarding study for me. It's been deep and rich. I hope that's been true for you. And you want to know, Christian, how to have sure footing in your faith? You want to know why the practice of these supplements is a good thing? Read the text again, read 2 Peter one again. Study it, memorize it. Listen to this message again. I talk fast. You can get all the cross references. Treasure these precious truths from God's word in your heart and put them to practice. And I believe you will find, in fact, I know you will find that God is faithful and he will fulfill every word to you, every last truth, far more abundantly than you could possibly ask or think. As Paul said, for I'm confident, I'm sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it, the day of Christ Jesus. And that work is promised to all who are in Christ, to all who faithfully strive to know him and live a life of humble obedience and worship of him. And my friends, if that isn't you, if you're sitting in this room going, what is he talking about? This is weird. Who is this guy? Or if you know, you know the truth and you have yet to humble yourself before God, humble yourself before Christ. Today is the day of salvation. Tomorrow is never promised. It's not a scare tactic. It's true. We all think we're going to live forever until the day we die. And then we die and we don't live forever. When's that going to happen? If I ask you, do you know? No, we don't know. It could be 50 years; it could be in the parking lot as you leave. Tomorrow is never promised. But right now, the word of God is open to you. Salvation is being offered to you through the preaching of God's word, repent and trust Christ. Don't leave here without talking to me or one of our pastors, or our elders, or our team, or a Christian sitting near you. By the way, none of us deserve to be here. None of us are here



because we've attained to some level of righteousness before God. We're all wretched sinners. 1 Corinthians 1 says, God chose the base things, the worst people in the world to be representatives of the gospel. We are bad news bears and we're going to go and win the league because that demonstrates God's power, not our power.

So, if you don't believe you deserve to be here, guess what, we don't either. So humble yourself before Christ, repent and trust him for salvation, and begin to use your life this very day for his glory and for your joy. Amen.

Let's pray. Father, God we are just amazed and humbled sitting under the teaching of your word. Hebrews 4:12 says the word is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword and able to pierce through the division of bone and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And father, I pray that would be what would happen right now. That the truth of your word would penetrate every heart and help every owner of that heart discern whether or not they're living in Christ or living in the flesh, whether they have submitted to Christ in repentance and faith or whether they still must. Father, please be gracious to every heart in the room. Teach us the truth that we need to know and glorify yourself through it. We ask in Jesus name, Amen.