

Experience True Salvation

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Our new series, "REAL TALK, REAL WALK: Marks of a True Christian", is about real and authentic Christianity in a time where counterfeits proliferate our world. Many people may have religion, but not a personal relationship with God.

Knowing he was about to die, Peter gave reminders to the believers on how to be real Christians, how to experience true salvation (2 Peter 1:12-15). In 2 Peter 3:1-2 he wrote that he was "stirring up" people's minds by "way of reminder".

1) RICHES OF TRUE SALVATION

We are all bondservants to Christ, just like Peter, purchased by God through the blood of Christ (2 Peter 1:1-2). Our goal in life is to please the Master. We are living for His glory and pleasure alone. The faith Peter had is the same as ours today -- faith in Jesus Christ as God and Savior. Grace and peace can be multiplied in us through the true knowledge of God and Jesus our Savior. In John 17:3, eternal life is to know (experientially) the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

2 Peter 1:3 lists down the great riches of true salvation: experiencing "divine power" and granting "everything pertaining to life and godliness". We need to live in accordance to His will and design. Jesus is the fulfillment of "precious and magnificent promises" (v.4). This includes complete forgiveness, eternal life, and immortality – being with God forever! As we become "partakers of the divine nature", we are being transformed into a new nature. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us about the riches of salvation: we are a new creature, and the old things have passed away! The richness of salvation is this new direction in life. In Christ, we have been made complete!

2) RESPONSE TO TRUE SALVATION

2 Peter 1:5-6 gives seven traits we must apply diligently after having faith in Jesus: **moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.**

First is **MORAL EXCELLENCE**, which is Christlikeness. We must rid ourselves of obvious and hidden sins.

KNOWLEDGE; to not fail and falter, we need to keep growing (2 Peter 3:18). Salvation is by grace through faith, which is a gift of God. This is not a result of works so that no one will boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Real faith and real grace will compel us to "deny ungodliness and worldly desires", in order to "live sensibly, righteously,

and godly" (Titus 2:11-12). Additionally, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 tells us to take full responsibility of our thought life – "to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ". We must be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2).

SELF-CONTROL, we discipline our body and make it our slave (1 Corinthians 9:27).

PERSEVERANCE – we must endure like how Christ endured (Hebrews 12:1-2).

GODLINESS – live a life centered on God as 1 Timothy 4:7-8 emphasizes.

BROTHERLY KINDNESS – is to show preference and respect for everyone (Romans 12:10).

LOVE – God is the supernatural source of love that enables us to love others as He has loved us (1 John 4:7-8 and 19).

We must show evidence of true salvation; the Holy Spirit allows us to produce evidence of true salvation and makes these traits possible for us (Galatians 5:22-23).

3) RESULTS OF TRUE SALVATION

CHRISTLIKENESS (spiritual maturity) = God's Word + God's Spirit + Problems + Prayer + Worship + God's People + Time. With these, we will be able to live out the evidence of true salvation.

With these qualities, we become "neither useless nor unfruitful" (2 Peter 1:8-9). If we lack the qualities mentioned, we are warned of being blind or short-sighted. 2 Peter 2:20-22 is a sharp reminder of the contrast between someone who has experienced the grace of God versus someone who is "again entangled and are overcome," falling away from God; it would have been better if they did not know of the gospel! They are likened to a dog that returns to its vomit or a pig that returns to the mud.

True salvation results in TRANSFORMATION and 2 Peter 1:10-11 reminds us to practice living out these truths about our salvation in all diligence so that we will not stumble.

May we all keep growing so that we will be welcomed by our King and Savior Jesus Christ in glory, saying "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

last week's memory verse

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹ for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

2 PETER 1:10-11

discuss this message

- What does God grant us when we commit our lives to Him (2 Pe 1:3-4)? Why is it important to know these precious things?
- How will knowing these things impact the way we live?
- What does it mean to grow in the qualities in 2 Peter 1:5-7? Which ones will you work on this year?
- What does it mean that our entrance into heaven "will be abundantly supplied" (v11)?

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God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9*

God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. – 1 John 5:11-13

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