

LEAD SHEET

1 & 2 Peter Saved & Steady April 30, 2017

FAITH SKILL: NAVIGATE THE BIBLE

If you want to know God better, read His Word!

GETTING STARTED

Perseverance is a major theme in the books of 1 & 2 Peter; the books we're going to start studying today. But perseverance doesn't come out of nowhere - it is motivated by our salvation.

DIGGING IN

We've got a lot to talk about today. We're going to start by looking at a passage that is great to memorize.

Read 1 Peter 1:14-15

This really sets up what we want to talk about well. In it there are two truths:

1. We're not supposed to act like everyone else. This is the "do not conform" language in the verse.
2. We're not supposed to act like everyone else because we've been called by God, and He's not like everyone else.

Read 1 Peter 1:1-12

Discussion Questions:

1. What is Peter praising God for? (*See verses 3-5. For mercy, new life, salvation, etc.*)
2. Peter seems to be reminding them of this because they are suffering. What does Peter say these sufferings can produce in verses 6-7? (*Refinement, greater faith, reward upon Jesus' return.*)

3. Verse 9 includes the statement “the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” How is salvation a reward of faith? (*Allow for discussion.*)

It is life-altering to us because it should change the way we live. That’s what Peter talks about next.

Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

Discussion Questions:

1. Peter says that in response to what he’s just said we should do what in verse 13?(*Prepare our minds for action.*)

2. How should we live in this world, according to verse 17? (*As strangers in the world, in reverent fear.*)

3. We should live this way because we’ve been bought not with something perishable, but with what? (*The precious blood of Jesus.*)

4. What purifies us, according to verse 22? (*Obeying the truth.*)

5. Chapter 2, verses 1-3 re-state a command that is prominent in this passage. What is it? (*To be different from the way that we were, to grow, to change, etc.*)

You see, we didn’t get saved to sit around and relish our salvation. We weren’t called of God to do nothing - we were called to do something. We should be different from the way we were. We shouldn’t fit in with our world. We should be different, we should be good. Our salvation motivates us and inspires us to this.

Read 2 Peter 1:1-11

This is the second letter that Peter writes. He wrote it later in life, probably to the same audience as his first. Perhaps this is what motivates him to write about perseverance and ongoing faith. But he starts again by reminding the reader (that’s us, too!) from what we’ve been saved.

Discussion Questions:

1. God's power has caused us to be able to escape what, according to verses 3-4? (*The corruption in the world.*)
2. According to those same verses, what causes those corrupt deeds? (*Evil desires.*)
3. Why do you think Peter has to remind these people of this stuff a second time?
4. What awaits someone who perseveres in verses 11-12? (A rich welcome into the Eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.)

So, part of verifying our calling and justifying our salvation is that we live out our faith long-term, for good.

MAKING IT REAL

Tucked away in this passage we just read is a list. It's not a check-list, as if you do all these things your salvation will be sure. But in 1 Peter 1 the author encourages us to have faith, born from our salvation. In 2 Peter 1:5-7 he urges us towards endurance, and he says to add to our faith these things. They are:

- Goodness
- Knowledge
- Self-Control
- Perseverance
- Godliness
- Brotherly Kindness
- Love

In each of these, Peter says to "add to." It makes it sound like they are building blocks—qualities that can build or add to the one before it. It should not be missed that before all this is faith. That's the starting point.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think faith is listed before all these other qualities? Why is it foundational for everything else?
2. Do you think there is some significance to the order of these additions? What do you see as significant?

3. How do you believe someone gets to the point where all these things are in place in his or her life?
4. How much do you feel like each of these qualities are present in your life?

It's great that we recognize that salvation should produce a difference in our lives, but how different are you, really? This is the same author who urges us to be a "peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9 KJV). We're supposed to be different. Are you?

5. Have you added to your faith, goodness? How can you do that in a practical way?
6. Have you added to your goodness, knowledge? How can you add knowledge to your faith?
7. Have you added to your knowledge, self-control? How can you become a more self-controlled person?
8. Have you added to your self-control, perseverance? What is something that is going on right now that you need to persevere through?
9. What do you think it means to be "godly"? Have you added to your perseverance, godliness?
10. Brotherly kindness is not a word we use a lot in our world today, but it means to treat other people well. Have you added that to your godliness? How could you do so?
11. Have you added love to all this? How does love affect all of these qualities?

Perseverance is, by its very definition, difficult. It's not easy. Are you willing to do the hard work to verify your calling and election? Remember this: God has never asked anything of you that He didn't require of Himself. Yes, He's asking you to lay down your life. But are you doing so because He laid down His life for you?

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for your students to fully embrace their salvation, and allow it to affect the way they live.