

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What does “attitude” mean?
2. How important is attitude?
3. Can attitudes be masked? Can they be masked well?
4. How are attitudes, good or bad, developed? Can they be changed once they are engraved within?
6. What is fervent charity and how does it manifest itself among believers?
7. What were some of Christ’s attitudes?

SUMMARY:

Our attitudes determine how we react to the situations around us. Christ was determined that God would receive the glory for everything He did. As we follow His life here on earth, we find how—with this attitude—He turned incident after incident to a lesson, which served to teach the way of God. It has been said that if we expect to lose, we shall, and the man who wins is the man who believed that he could. Should this also not apply to our victory in Christ?

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #8

February 23, 2003

First Quarter

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES

LESSON TEXT: *1 Peter 4:1-19*

LESSON SETTING: Written by Peter from Rome to the dispersed Christians.

TIME: About 60 - 65 AD

I. OUR FORMER CONDITION. 1 Peter 4:2-6

- A. Impurity (vs. 3) Romans 1:24; 6:19
- B. Excess (vs. 3) Luke 15:13; Galatians 5:21; Ephesians 5:18
- C. Idolatry (vs. 3) Deuteronomy 11:16; Galatians 4:8
- D. Sinful Walk (vs. 4) Ephesians 2:2; 2 Peter 3:3

II. OUR PRESENT CONDUCT. 1 Peter 4:1, 7-11

- A. Disciplined Mind (vs. 1) 1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5-8
- B. Sober (vs. 7) 1 Thessalonians 5:6
- C. Watchful (vs. 7) Matthew 26:41; 1 Corinthians 16:13
- D. Intense love (vs. 8) 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 Peter 1:22

III. OUR FUTURE CONCERN. 1 Peter 4:12-19

- A. Reproach for Christ (vs. 14, 16) Hebrews 10:33; 1 Peter 2:20
- B. Our life tested (vs. 17-18) Psalm 17:3; Luke 6:48; 1 Corinthians 3:13
- C. Trust God (vs. 19) 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 Peter 2:23

GOLDEN TEXT: *ABOVE ALL THINGS HAVE FERVENT CHARITY AMONG YOURSELVES.*

1 Peter 4:8

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 2 Peter 1:1-14

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Ephesians 4:7-16; Colossians 3:5-17

QUARTERLY THEME: The First Church Officers

TOPIC: CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION:

In this particular text, the Apostle Peter describes what has happened, what can happen and what ought to happen in the life of a believer.

The believer has escaped corruption through the saving blood of Jesus Christ. Having sinned—and the Bible teaches that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God—the sinner alienated himself from God making it impossible for the righteous God to have fellowship with the unrighteous sinner. However, through the sacrifice of His life on the cross, Christ made it possible for everyone to be again reconciled to God.

Having escaped, the believer can either take advantage of the provisions that God has made for a continuing walk or he can choose to be “shortsighted” or “nearsighted”, again falling into the corruption of the world. This is what can happen through a refusal to “see”. It does not, however, have to happen as evidenced by the remaining verses.

The believer can have “normal” vision and add to the faith that first allowed him to come in repentance to the Father. In so doing, the believer has the promise of God’s Word that he will be fruitful and that his election will be sure.

It is necessary that we know these things and that we continue to operate in this knowledge. In the last four verses, Peter mentions the word remembrance three times. Not wearied or afraid that the words would bore, he continued to remind. We need also to remember.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God’s desire and purpose for believers is that they mature spiritually.

GOLDEN TEXT: *WHEREBY ARE GIVEN UNTO US EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES: THAT BY THESE YE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, HAVING ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION THAT IS IN THE WORLD THROUGH LUST.*

2 Peter 1:4

As members of the human race, we are inclined to be somewhat arbitrary at times. That is to say, we take actions for which we cannot explain a reason. For no apparent reason we respond in certain ways. This is not so with God. He has a reason and a good one for everything that He does or says. The promises, of which God’s Word is full, were and are given for a definite reason. Here we are given the reason that we might be partakers of the divine nature of Christ. We are also told in Isaiah 55 that God’s Word will not return to Him void or without accomplishing His purposes. This, when applied to the promises which we are given, would indicate that they will either make us partakers of the divine nature or they will charge us with the responsibility of ignoring them. Coming in contact with the righteous God through His Word will never leave us the same as we were before the contact. It is up to us whether we profit or lose from it. Whether or not we can account for all our actions now, we will account for them in eternity.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Feb. 24 - March 2

- M. Temptation to Intemperance. Daniel 1:1-7
- T. The Triumph of Self Discipline. Daniel 1:8-15
- W. An Example of Intemperance. Daniel 5:1-12
- T. The Results of Intemperance. Daniel 5:17-31
- F. The Need of Discipline. Hebrews 12:1-7
- S. *Elements in Development. 2 Peter 1:1-7
- S. *Results of Development. 2 Peter 1:8-14