

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How does the failure of brethren to give diligence to the exhortation of Peter affect them individually and collectively as a church?
2. What is the implication of the words, “for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”?
3. Peter felt the need to put the believers in remembrance of the teaching of the Lord. Why? Was it necessary? How can we stir up one another to good works?
4. What is the most difficult thing the Lord had asked you to do?

SUMMARY

This lesson should serve not only as a guide to the believer but also as encouragement. We are given exceeding great and precious promises, but unless we know them and apply them, they are of no value. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence!

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

March 2, 2003

First Quarter

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

LESSON TEXT: *2 Peter 1:1-14*

LESSON SETTING: Written by Peter possibly from Rome as an old man full of wisdom and experience.

TIME: Approximately 65-70 AD

I. THE BELIEVER'S NEW NATURE. 2 Peter 1:1-4

- A. The New Life (vs. 3) John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- B. Godliness (vs. 3) 1 Timothy 4:7-8; 2 Peter 3:11
- C. Christ-likeness (vs. 4) Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18;
1 John 3:2

II. THE BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH. 2 Peter 1:5-8

- A. Spiritual Growth (vs. 5-7) Ephesians 4:15; 2 Peter 3:18
- B. Spiritual Abundance (vs. 8) Psalm 36:8; John 10:10
- C. Spiritual Fruit (vs. 8) John 15:16; Colossians 1:10

III. THE BELIEVER'S GREAT OBJECTIVE. 2 Peter 1:9-14

- A. Be Diligent (vs. 10) 2 Peter 3:14
- B. Be Established (vs. 12) Colossians 2:7; Hebrews 13:9
- C. Be Zealous (vs. 13) 1 Corinthians 14:12; 2 Timothy 1:6
- D. Salvation (vs. 10, 11) Matthew 10:22; Titus 2:11, 12

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Acts 15:1-35; James 3:13-18

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Proverbs 11:12-23

QUARTERLY THEME: The First Church Officers

TOPIC: THE COUNCIL IN JERUSALEM

INTRODUCTION:

It seems very difficult if not impossible for carnal men to accept the simplicity of the work that God accomplished through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. In the times of the council in Jerusalem as well as now, men find it very inviting to add to the wisdom of God. This can only cause dissensions and disagreements and such was the case described in our text. Even the apostles and elders failed to agree on whether to accept the simple message. Then, the Holy Spirit spoke through Paul and Barnabas and bore witness in the hearts of the rest of the truths that they spoke.

The council also recognized that such additions to the plan of God could serve only to hinder the work of carrying the gospel to the entire world. For this reason, they having found the will of God, sent men with that message to encourage the believers in other cities to lay no other restriction before the new believers than those laid by God.

We should be just as watchful today. We should just as jealously guard the message that—in turn—has been entrusted to us through the great commission. In so doing, we can also see the conversions of the Gentiles and share the great joy.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The gospel of Christ must not be limited by the prejudices and traditions of men.

GOLDEN TEXT: *A MAN IS NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW, BUT BY THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST.* Galatians 2:16

God is interested in the heart of man, and not solely in his actions. We can only judge from outward signs, but He can see the inner thoughts of the heart. If the heart is right, the actions will be right also. If the actions are right, nothing of certainty can be deduced.

The moral law of God has been in existence since the beginning of time and will continue to be. It is this law that was fulfilled by Christ. It is this moral law on which Christ said “hangs the law and the prophets.”

The law, which was given the children of Israel through Moses, served to only show man his shortcomings. Adherence to this law, were it possible, would still not insure the rightness of the heart.

It was so man could not follow a preset set of actions, that Christ spoke in parables as prophesied in the book of Isaiah.

It is therefore important that we not try to set up a set of laws but rather look to the author and finisher of the moral law to make our hearts right and to write His laws in our hearts.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 3 - 9

M. *Purpose of the Council. Acts 15:1-6

T. *Report to the Council. Acts 15:7-12

W. *James' Decision. Acts 15:13-21

T. *Report from the Council. Acts 15:22-35

F. The Perfect Man. James 3:1-6

S. A Call For Consistency. James 3:7-12

S. *The True Wisdom. James 3:13-18