

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 5, 2013

This Week's Focus: Introduction to 2 Peter. Peter was alarmed that false teachers were beginning to infiltrate the churches. He wrote this letter for the purpose of strengthening his fellow Christians in their faith so that they could perceive and fight the spread of heresy by stressing the true knowledge of God and the sure return of the Lord Jesus.

This Week's Text: 2 Peter 1:1-3

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. **Galatians 1:6-9***

*“When God justifies sinners he is not declaring bad people to be good, or saying that they are not sinners after all; he is pronouncing them legally righteous, free from any liability to the broken law, because he himself in his Son has borne the penalty of their law-breaking.” **John Stott***

Related Texts: Hebrews 1:1-2, Romans 3:20-26, 4:1-4, 5:1, 5:18-19, Philippians 2:12

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- How has the situation changed from the book of 1 Peter?
- How does the author identify himself and what is the significance?
- Who is Peter writing to and why?
- Peter writes to those who have “obtained a faith of equal standing with ours,” i.e., the apostles.
 - What important truth is expressed in this statement?

- How does the righteousness of Jesus secure an equal standing before God for **all** believers?
- We often think of the gospel exclusively in terms of Jesus' atoning for our sins. As glorious and true as that is, it is not complete. Not only does Jesus forgive our sins, but we also receive Jesus' righteousness and obedience. Jesus obeyed perfectly and righteously, as we are unable to do. Therefore, His obedience and righteousness are credited to us by God as our own. Reference Romans 3:20-26, 4:1-4, and 5:18-19.
 - Discuss the implication and the application of that truth.
- What does Peter mean by "our God and Savior Jesus Christ," and why is this so important?
- In verse 2, Peter prays for grace and peace to be multiplied to his hearers "in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."
 - How can we come to know God?
 - What's the difference between an intellectual knowledge of God and an experiential knowledge of God?
 - How might the two intersect?
- In verse 3 Peter tells us that we have been given everything we need that pertains to life and godliness.
 - In what ways have we looked elsewhere to find interpretations for living this life?
 - What is the medium through which we receive what we need for life and godliness?
 - Read Philippians 2: 12. Discuss the balance between God's power and our participation in growing in godliness.

Gospel Celebration:

- "Jesus lived the life we should have lived, and died the death we should have died!" Dr. Tim Keller
- "Now someone asks, "How has Christ abolished sin, banished the separation between us and God, and acquired righteousness to render God favorable and kindly toward us?" To this we can in general reply that he has achieved this for us by the whole course of his obedience. This is proved by Paul's testimony: "As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience we are made righteous." [Romans 5:19] John Calvin

Our Response:

- Trust and rejoice in the finished work of Christ.
- Read and have confidence in the Word of God.
- Walk in obedience, relying upon the Holy Spirit's power.

Next Week's Text: 2 Peter 1:3-9