

Week of May 12, 2013

This Week's Focus: How the gospel can transform our hearts and help us to grow in grace.

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

"Those who have almost forgotten about their own spirituality because their focus is so exclusively on their union with Jesus Christ, and what He accomplished, are those who are growing and exhibiting fruitfulness." Sinclair Ferguson

"A daily appropriation of the gospel in which we see that our sins are forgiven and we stand before God in the spotless righteousness of Christ is the key to the diligent pursuit of holiness." Jerry Bridges

Related Texts: Romans 5:1-2; Corinthians 4:6, 5:21; 1 Peter 2:9

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- What does godliness mean? What is it not?
- According to Peter, what are the great promises we have been granted?
- What does it mean to partake in the divine nature?
- How are the gifts and promises made in this passage manifested in your life?
- For what reason do we make every effort to supplement our faith?
 - \circ Talk through the supplements to our faith (verses 5-7).
 - What are some practical examples of each?
 - What does Peter say will be the result of these qualities?
 - Which is more important, having these qualities or the motive behind these qualities?
 - What is the motive?
- How are you seeking growth in your relationship with Jesus?
 - How are we seeking growth in our faith in community?

- What does Peter say is the cause for lacking the qualities listed in verses 5-7?
- How do we grow organically as opposed to mechanically?
- Give some example how applying the gospel to your heart can keep you from sin.

Gospel Celebration:

- We do not need to anything for our sin debt to be taken away; Jesus paid it on the cross! Pursue the gospel and allow that to shape your actions.
- "What you'll discover is that once the gospel frees you from having to do anything for Jesus, you'll want to do everything for Jesus so that "whether you eat or drink or whatever you do," you'll do it all to the glory of God." **Tullian Tchividjian**

Our Response:

- Pray for Spirit to drive us toward Jesus and deeper and greater understanding of the gospel.
- Repent of our selfish, prideful motives.
- Rejoice in the gospel.

Next Week's Text: 2 Peter 1:10-15