

Men's Ministry at Rome Church

January 23, 2011

II Peter

Pastor's notes

How sure are you that you have been called by God to be in his family and are one of the elect of God? Peter's very serious about US being serious: *Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure.* 1:10 If you have doubts (and all of us have probably wrestled with these over the years), Peter gives us one way we can do a self-check. V8 *For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.* I see two important qualifiers: (1) the character qualities mentioned in verses 5-7 are present in your life. They are planted in seed form when you were saved and the Holy Spirit entered your life. (2) These qualities are increasing – they are becoming more and more apparent, a guiding force within that allows a new man to emerge from the ashes of the old man. The old nature will always still be there vying for rulership, but God's power is the ever-increasing victor.

As a pastor, I am thrilled to see goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love increasingly becoming the standard for living among the men of Rome. Remember, there is no maximum amount you can have of any of these qualities. So let's keep growing together. By the way, when you see such a quality in a brother, tell him. That just feeds the desire to stay the course.

Eager and Sure,

Pastor Scott

[Come and be a part of Men's Monday Night Fraternity – Jan. 30th.](#)

Come join us on Monday nights as we look into the practical use of the word in our family and marriages. Our next lesson on 1/30/12 is entitled: Dad's Game Plan for Raising Sons and Daughters. If your family life is good, this will make it better. If your family life isn't so good, it's essential that you be here. Don't hold back, your family needs you to be as spiritually strong as possible. Come join us as we learn, help, and pray for one another.

[February Men's breakfast:](#)

Come join us on Saturday Feb 4 at 8:00am. Call Rick Maricle if you can help with breakfast. Let us know if you want to bring a short message. Come join the fun as we share a meal and look in to God's word.

[Small Groups are Up and Running!](#)

Time to join up with a small home group. If you are new to the church or just want to grow in the Lord and make new friends, this is the way to go. Don't be timid and don't let fear stop you. It's roughly two hours one night per week. Next to Sunday church, it's one of the best things you can do.

["Practical Application of God's Word"](#)

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment"

II Peter 2:4

When I look at this from a lifetime of church experience, I think that many of them in the world are going to be very surprised at the return of Christ. I perceive that a lot of people still look at Christ as a babe in the manger. Many forget that he grew up. He will not be returning as a baby. He will be Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Big difference...many half truths out there, even in the church. Some are even taught that we will all go to heaven because God doesn't want anyone to go to hell. Half true. He doesn't send anyone to hell and hell wasn't made for you and me -you go there by default; meaning that if you miss the memo about salvation thru Christ, you go to hell. A prerequisite for heaven is to acknowledge Christ as your savior. It is perplexing for most of us how the angels who stood in the face of God could choose to go bad. But choose they did. And God dealt with it as only he could. He did not spare them. He will not spare unbelievers. If you are reading this and you haven't received Christ as your personal Savior, let today be the day. Let not another day go by. You are not promised tomorrow. Talk to the Pastor or one of the elders. Get right with God. Do it today.

What's in a concept?

These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

II Peter 2:17

This week's concept in II Peter 2:17-22 has to do with Christians who should know better, wandering in and out of truth. It is said that the ministers of the gospel ought to be as wells, a depth of knowledge and for purity of doctrine. They should always be full of the water of Life and ready to share this with others. Some ministers are the opposite of this. They are more like seducers of men. Remember that a real well has water in it to satisfy your thirst. These men are like wells without water, like false teachers they make a show of true wisdom and saving knowledge. A person will die of thirst waiting for them to lead them down the right path. This conversation has always been important, even in Peter's day. In our day the computer and TV magnifies the problem of false ministers. Unless you take the time to read, study, and pray, you will not be able to discern the difference between man's Gospel and God's Gospel.

Pastor's Bible Question:

But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit" and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire".

II Peter 2:22

The set up... What does II Peter 2:22 mean to you? Some commentators have this to apply to backsliding Christians; others say it means men who really never became saved. We have the teaching at Rome Church that we don't or can't lose our salvation. How does this scripture apply to our beliefs?

Pastor's Reply:

Obviously, the context must determine the meaning of this unusual verse. Peter quoted from Proverbs 26:11 and a Syrian proverb, using these dirty animals' practices as a picture of men who have a professed relationship with Jesus, but their lifestyles prove they are disingenuous. The "them" refers back to the very people

Peter has been warning the true Christians about. They were non-believers with an experiential knowledge of Jesus, but no obedience. Rocky referred above (What's in a Concept?) to "Christians who wander in and out of truth." It's one thing to be sincerely seeking truth, discover it, and then permanently change your position because you now understand Scripture. It's another thing entirely to have known truth, then reject it. Peter remembered Jesus teaching about such people in Mt. 26:24 - men who did a little "house cleaning" to please God and then had 7 more demons take up residence in them. The people who know the truth and then turn so far away from it that they actually encourage others to disobey are in double jeopardy with God - they would have been better off not to have known God's way at all than to abuse it so destructively.

Reader replies: Ed Tyas

I'm still trying to figure out the "waiting on the Lord" part... Sometimes I get the idea it means waiting for the Lord to do something you're hoping He will do, like answer a particular prayer, or demonstrate how he keeps His promises; other times I think it means we're waiting to see what God is doing today in our lives, or someone else's. Either way, I guess it means our eyes should be on Him. - Ed

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever". Amen

II Peter 3:18

For this Sunday: Read Jude