

The Kingdom In The Everyday

Introduction and Review

- Last week, we talked about the gospel as our remedy and the root of our time was that we don't need behavior modification, but a new heart--that is, as the Holy Spirit takes residence in our heart our desires change;
- Simply put, God does want your behavior to change, but He doesn't begin with your actions He begins with your identity; having a new heart and mind does not mean that you are still the "old" you trying harder, but that you are made new and living by the power of the Holy Spirit;
- Peter tells us that we are to supplement our faith--another way of saying this is that we are to grow in our spiritual disciplines as Christians;
- What is discipline? And what are supplements?
- Discipline is often referenced to punishment, but that's not entirely true; rather, it refers to the removal of things and obstacles that hold you back from accomplishing your goal or growing in your craft;
- Supplements are help to enhance our health; they are not the source, but definitely an aid;
- For the Christian, growing in our spiritual disciplines means that we are getting out of our own way so that we would stop being self-focused and start being gospel-focuses;
- Further, it means that we are to take our supplements so that we would not only be spiritually alive, but spiritually healthy;
- Supplements and discipline is meant to help you become effective;

2 Peter 1:5-7 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

- Peter provides 7 supplements (or disciplines) to enhance our faith; to get out of our own way—
 1. Virtue: The Greek definition of virtue is "moral excellence"; something working as it should. This does not imply that you only have an understanding of right and wrong, but that you have conviction; a new heart produces conviction that is grounded in the word of God;
 2. Knowledge: This is growing in the knowledge of the person and work of Christ, but doesn't end with absorbing information, but growth in application;
 3. Self-Controlled: As Christians, we are to be controlled internally by the Holy Spirit not eternally through addiction; this means running toward God and not our sin;

4. Steadfastness: It's not about winning or losing, but finishing; it doesn't mean that it will always go well but the question is about obedience;
5. Godliness ("*Coram Deo*"; *living in the face of God*): Living a life of integrity which means that our life is not compartmentalized, rather our life is marked by consistency in our worship of Jesus; a life of compartmentalization is often marked by inconsistency, confusion, and contradiction;
6. Brotherly Affection: This means that as a church family, we persevere with one another;
7. Love: Love is ONE of the attributes of God and He demonstrates His love by sending His son to die on a cross for sinners and indwelling us with the Holy Spirit; this encompasses our life and relationship with God, one another, and those who don't know Jesus;

2 Peter 1:8-10 For if these qualities are yours and increasing, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

- The key word of verse 8 is "increasing"--are you increasing in these qualities? This is not a checklist but a measure of character and a matter of the heart;
- The result of not increasing in these qualities is being ineffective and unfruitful; unproductive;
- Unproductivity is a sign that the gospel has become old news and you have forgotten who you are and what God has done;
- To be passionate about God is not to be reactionary; being fruitful and productive are results of an identity rooted in who Jesus says you are--DO NOT FORGET WHO YOU ARE;
- Assurance of your calling and election means that you're enjoying Jesus; practicing these qualities doesn't mean you will be perfect or sinless, but it does mean that you abide;
- How can you be fruitful?
 - (1) Evaluate Often;
 - (2) Prioritize

2 Peter 1:11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- Our reward is not in this life, but heaven. Where we enter the kingdom and in the presence of God; where as best as we could, we have honored God;
- This verse is not an issue of salvation, but fruitfulness
- We grow in these disciplines and take our supplements so that we might be effective for Christ not to earn His love; a fullness of God's Kingdom coming down ("on earth as it is in heaven") begins with us---