

# Second Peter Lesson #4

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 2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. NIV

 Understand this – <u>our salvation is not attained</u> by doing the list of (8) things Peter mentions – rather doing the list of (8) <u>proves that our salvation is real.</u>

• The list of (8) is what gives us assurance when we see them being developed in our lives.

 Assurance of salvation is a big, big, deal – without assurance we spend our lives too nervous and uptight to be productive. (my opinion)

 Having a <u>changed and changing life</u> is one of the most tangible things we can point to as proof that we believe.

Saved by grace alone, <u>but saving grace is never alone</u>;
it is always accompanied by works.

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder. NIV

 Peter tells us we can <u>look at our lives</u> and gain assurance of our salvation.

James tells us <u>our works will give us away.</u>

 The Apostle John gives us a different set of criteria to evaluate.

# Assurance from 1st John

Your homework was to read 1<sup>st</sup> John and look for the things John says are salvation indicators.

#### Assurance from 1<sup>st</sup> John

• 1 John 2:3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. NIV (a strong desire to obey)

- 1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. NIV (we do not practice sin)
- 1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. NIV (a manifest love for other Christians)

#### Assurance from 1st John

- 1 John 3:21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. NIV (answers to specific prayers)
- 1 John 4:13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. NIV (the inner sense of God's voice and presence)

 2 Peter 1:12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. NIV

If you knew your time on Earth was short and you were writing a letter to your friends and family, what would you include?

There is a theme in these verses; remembrance.

 Remembering the past brings perspective and context to our natural lives and to our spiritual lives.

 Peter knew the power of remembering the past and wanted that same advantage for his readers.

 He also notes that even though <u>his readers already</u> <u>knew most or all of what he was writing</u> they still needed to be reminded.

 He went on to say he thought it was the 'right' and reasonable thing to do – why? – because we forget and are distracted with incredible ease.

One of the best remedies for forgetfulness is reminders.

 Peter knew from the Lord his time was short so he is going to focus his writing on some of their most basic needs and remind them of the same.

 His readers were probably a lot like us; we do not need more facts, we need more fervor from what we already know.

 One way to keep reminding others of important truth is to write down what you think and send it to your intended audience. (a letter)

# **Questions / Comments**