

Useful and Fruitful

II Peter 1:8-11

February 21, 2010

Oh, to know the creator, to worship the creator of Heaven and Earth! It is so good to know Him, and that is Peter's theme in II Peter. He wants us to enjoy that He is knowable and that we can grow in our knowledge of Him. Amazingly, as we grow in our knowledge of Him, we can become useful to Him and fruitful for Him. We can contribute to the highest purpose.

1. A. Everyone knows he is here for a purpose. We talk of it when we say "He found his niche in life" or we see the frustration of those who never seem to find their what they were made for. Peter deals with this, as does the whole Bible. So far, we have seen we are exhorted to "apply all diligence." Read II Peter 1:2-11 and then recap where we have been by answering briefly this two-part question.
What are we to "apply all diligence" to and why?
Mark 12:29-31, John 13:34-35, I Corinthians 13:13

2. A. After this seven fold description of the Christian life in verses 5-7, verse 8 begins with an "if" statement. What is it?

B. What does verse 8 say about "these qualities?" What is there to be in the Christian life?
II Peter 3:18

C. We begin as babies in Christ, but there is to be growth. Lack of growth in the Christian life is not a pretty sight.
Ephesians 4:14-16, II Peter 3:18, I John 2:4-6, 4:15-17

3. A. He wants these characteristics to be ours and increasing, so that we are not useless, idle, pointless or wasting time! God wants us to be useful.
Matthew 5:16, 13:23, John 15:5, 16, Romans 7:4, Ephesians 2:10, Colossians 1:3-8, II Peter 1:8, James 2:20

B. Go back a focus on this famous parable in Matthew 13 and learn about this matter of being fruitless or unfruitful. What characterizes being unfruitful?
Matthew 13:22

- C. These two problems, “the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches” keep people from coming to Christ as Savior and Lord. But what about you, Christian? Do these rob your usefulness and fruitfulness for God?
4. A. What happens “for he who lacks these qualities?”
II Peter 1:9, James 2:20
- B. What is the condition of those who have not come to Christ as Savior, even those who may think they have come to Him? What is the solution?
II Corinthians 4:3-4, Psalm 146:8, Luke 24:31
- C. Christians can be “short-sighted.” How are they characterized here in II Peter? What is the solution?
II Peter 1:9, Colossians 3:1-2
5. Look at it again in II Peter 1:9. What is the great need in your life?
Galatians 6:14, Ephesians 2:11-13, II Timothy 2:8, Hebrews 1:1-3, 10:17, II Peter 1:3
6. We are exhorted to diligence in II Peter 1:10-11. We can observe three results of this diligence in the Christian life.
- There will be a growth in assurance; “Make certain about His calling and choosing you.”
Romans 9:16
- “You will never stumble.” Who does it say will “never stumble” in II Peter 1:10?
- We will have a heavenly welcome home!
II Peter 1:11, Revelation 21:27, Matthew 25:21