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CALL2DISCIPLE



Hastening The Day

A Discipleship Intensive

STUDY GUIDE



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Lesson 6

“Christian, Keep Growing”

INTRO: The Apostle has been telling us of the coming Day of the Lord and in light of this how we as Christians are to live our lives. As Peter ends his message to us, he calls us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” What does it mean to grow in grace...and grow in the knowledge of Jesus?

TEACHING: scriptures taken from NASB

- **Why Grow?**
 - ⇒ Growth is necessary
 - Never ‘mechanical’
 - Always ‘organic’, ‘vital’
 - ⇒ NT Scriptures speak of the progression
 - ‘born again’
 - ‘babes in Christ’
 - ‘putting away childish things’
- **...in Grace??**
 - ⇒ It is not..... ‘graciousness’ alone possession of Christian ‘graces’ alone
 - ⇒ **BUT...Grace is God’s favor given in Jesus**
 - Living (standing) in a ‘state of grace’
 - Saved from sin and self
 - Method: Obedience
- **...in knowledge**
 - ⇒ growing in understanding of the truth in Jesus Christ
 - the whole plan and purpose of God’s salvation
 - the whole of God’s plan for the world and cosmos
 - the nature of spiritual conflict
 - ⇒ grounded in
 - doctrinal truth through the Scriptures
 - the knowledge of Him

Mark 4:26-32

John 3:3-6

1 Cor 3:1

1 Cor 13.11

John 1:16

Rom 5:2

Rom 5:9-10

Rom 6:14

Phil 3:10

In these upcoming sessions what we will be studying is the Biblical view of the course of the world’s history and future, especially as presented by the Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:10-18. This is certainly a central theme in the New Testament standing out prominently in every epistle. You can find reference to it in every Book somewhere and in the Gospels our Lord Jesus Christ was constantly speaking of it.

This is a subject which receives a good deal of attention today. Because of world wars, continuing areas of harsh military conflict, the uncertainty of life between the wars, “9/11” and the present War on Terror, it isn’t at all surprising that people who think at all are asking such questions as:

- *Is there any purpose in any of it?*
- *Is there any object to it all?*
- *What is it all leading to?*
- *What really lies ahead of us?*

All of us desire to know if there is any real “purpose” to life because that will, in turn, affect the way in which we live our life. This is exactly the point with which Peter deals so clearly in the passage we will be looking at in the coming months.

Current world philosophies include a kind of “progressive inevitability” by which all things continue and progress along (even God); a theory of “cycles” (which the ancient Greeks also believed) in which proponents say that history is nothing but a turning round in cycles; the scientific view of today which compares the world as we know it to a clock which has been wound up but which is gradually unwinding itself and running down – there will be an end of time and history will end; and, then, the current view of today’s historians which simply states that history is a meaningless, lawless and shapeless sequence of events.

Taking all these theories and putting them over against the biblical view shows us that the view of the bible is altogether different from everything else. History, says the bible, first and foremost is definitely under the control of God. It is not blind, unintelligible or unintelligent. The Bible tells us that God began the process, invented time, brought time into the scheme of things and that He is sovereign over it. The Bible tells us that it is GOD’S REVELATION and if you look at history in the light of it you will see how it is being worked out.

The Christian is one who really lives in the light of the Biblical view of history and believes that this world, because of sin, must ultimately be destroyed. The Biblical prediction is ‘wars and rumors of wars’ and ‘troubles’. We are not to be depressed by it. The hope of the Christian is the new heaven and the new earth, the glory which is awaiting us with God in Christ.

Whatever we have to endure in life, whatever circumstances may do to us, if we are children of God in Jesus Christ, we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. And, as certainly as we are alive today, there is a new heaven and a new earth coming, and if you and I belong to Christ we are going to live in that world. That is the doctrine that was preached to the first Christians. That is the doctrine that enabled them to die gladly for that faith and which has sustained God’s people throughout all of history. It is the only true optimism today.

Let us listen to the words of the Apostle Peter and others in the Bible who teach us to wait for that blessed hope. That we may even long for and look for the glory that is yet to be revealed, which is God’s promise to His own children in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

Erilynn

