



2 Peter

Steady on Course

Rock-Solid Faith

2 Peter 1:5-11

Message #2 of 7 – S697

Sermon given on JULY 24, 2016



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Rock-Solid Faith

2 Peter 1:5-11

Opening Comments

- Turn to **2 Peter 1**
- Today, we continue our series through the second letter from Peter – **Steady on Course**
- On December 5, 1981 Kelly and I did something that has kept us connected for almost 35 years
- During our wedding ceremony we did something very symbolic – we exchanged rings
- As I held her ring in my hand she reached out her hand and let me put the ring on her finger
- And then she did the same to me
- As much as I loved her then, I love her even more today
- Do you think that is because I am still wearing the ring?
- No, for over three decades we have added things to our relationship that have deepened in and made it ever more beautiful
- If you are a Christian here today, something similar happened in your life with Jesus
- Except it wasn't an exchange, like when Kelly and I exchanged rings
- If you are a Christian today it is because Jesus offered you something and you reached out and took it
- You had nothing to offer in exchange – you didn't need anything – Jesus did it all **Galatians 1:3-5**

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Jesus offered us His life as a sacrifice for our sins
- And God in His amazing grace gave us the faith to believe and accept Jesus' offer of salvation
- In a sense Jesus, didn't put a ring on my finger, but on my heart
- And because of that, I, and anyone who believes and receives Christ, have the hope of heaven

- When Kelly and I exchanged rings all those years ago, it was symbolic of something new in our lives
- It marked the beginning of our relationship as husband and wife
- Just as when I received Christ's forgiveness, I began a relationship with Him
- Relationships are living things – they are either growing or they are decaying
- Kelly and I have been able to, by God's grace, keep our marriage on course because we worked to grow it
- Our individual relationships with Christ also need work if we want to stay on course through the storms, distractions, and the false doctrines that come into our lives
- Peter is going to help us that very thing in this text
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **2 Peter 1:5-11**
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Rock-Solid Faith**
- The best possible life that we can possibly live is lived by faith
- As this letter goes on Peter is going to tell us that there is a real threat to our faith – false teaching – false doctrine
- That is any teaching that deviates from the pure Word of God
- God is telling us through Peter that we can faith a rock-solid faith
- But in today's text we are going to learn that we have a role to play in that
- **2 Peter 1:5-7**
- 'for this very reason' – What reason?
- **2 Peter 1:3-4**
- God has given us everything we need to live the abundant life that Jesus died to give us
- Peter is saying in our text today that faith is not enough to live that life
- You need to add some things to your faith – in fact, Peter says there are 7 things we need to add

- Notice that Peter says ‘add to your faith’
- He is assuming that they have faith in Jesus for salvation
- If not, then the rest of verses 5 to 7, while good virtuous things to do. Will not keep you steady on course
- For the sake of time, we will need to move quickly through these 7
- ‘add virtue’ – not sexual purity, though that is implied = goodness, excellence, valor, honorable
- By faith we ought to be striving toward moral excellence
- To achieve that: add to virtue – knowledge = of God, of the truth, of God’s Word
- Add to knowledge ‘self-control’ = to have one’s passions under control – develop the ability to say no to your flesh
- Add to self-control ‘perseverance’ = putting up with and bearing up under the burdens, difficulties, and temptations of this life
- Add to perseverance ‘godliness’ = reverence and piety
- For us as Christians, this means letting Christ’s life be lived out of us
- To godliness add ‘brotherly kindness’ = ‘philadelphia’ – focuses on our relationships with other believers
- We are to be kind to anyone who calls on the name of Jesus as we do
- Regardless of the things society might do or say to divide us
- And the last thing is add to brotherly kindness ‘love’ – ‘agape’
- This is the love that knows no limits or boundaries
- This is the love that desires the highest good for others
- It is these seven things added to faith that give us rock-solid faith
- Here is the illustration I have for this
- Imagine each of these things as a link in a chain
- By faith that chain is attached to my heart and by love it is attached to God’s heart
- It is this chain that binds us together in our relationship with God
- It is not a chain of bondage, but the bonds of love **Colossians 3:14**
But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
- It is by this chain that God is able to keep us steady
- But any chain is only as strong as its weakest link
- Let me illustrate – I need a volunteer

- Child's toy chain – if volunteer is getting off course, God will use the chain of relationship to pull him back
- But if God pulls too hard, He will break the chain
- God won't do that – will pull only as hard as He can without breaking the chain
- And that means He will let you go where your will leads you
- This is why a rock-solid faith is so important
- Metal chain – if volunteer's faith is rock solid, God is able to exert much more force to keep them from going off course
- Not only that, God can draw them close, save them from danger, and lead him toward His goodness and grace
- No matter what external forces come to bear upon their life, God can keep them steady on course, if they have rock-solid faith
- Thank you to the volunteer
- Saving faith is enough to get us into heaven, but it takes a growing rock-solid faith to stay on course no matter what this life throws at us
- Peter then gives us three evidences of a growing faith
- First evidence of growing faith – **Usefulness and Fruit**
- **2 Peter 1:8**
- 'these things' = faith and the 7 things to add to faith
- 'are yours and abound' It is not enough just to have faith and these seven things, they need to be growing in your life **1 Thessalonians 4:1**

Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more...

- If they are abounding, will not be barren – idle, useless
 - You were created to be useful to God **2 Timothy 2:21**
- Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.**
- You will also not be unfruitful
 - One of the ways I know my faith is growing is by the fruit of my life
 - Are the things coming out of my life better than they were
 - Do the actions, words, behaviors of my life look more like Jesus than they did yesterday, or last week, or last month

- If you are growing in your faith, there should be evidence: usefulness to God and Christ-like fruit
- The second evidence of a growing faith – **Vision**
- **2 Peter 1:9**
- Peter is talking about spiritual vision
- Non-Christians are blind to the things of God **1 Corinthians 2:14**
But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.
- But Peter is talking to Christians
- A weak faith makes it almost impossible to see the things of God
- The stronger our faith is the more clearly we can see what God is doing in us and around us
- It is that kind of faith that allows us to trust God even when we don't understand what is happening
- A weak faith might even become blind to what Jesus has done for them and find themselves enslaved to the same sins He set them free from
- The third evidence of growing faith – **Security**
- **2 Peter 1:10a**
- 'call' = God calls us into a relationship with Him
- 'election' = God chose us to be in a relationship with Him
- 'make...sure' = be certain or be confident
- The stronger your faith becomes, the more certain you are that God chose you to be saved
- You can be absolutely certain that you are going to heaven – How?
- It's simple – Believe in Jesus – Believe what?
- Jesus is God, came in the flesh, lived a sinless life, died for the sins of the whole world, died for your sins, raised on the third day, ascended to heaven and is coming back someday for His church
- Turn to **John 10**
- Believe that and you are saved
- But just how secure are we in are salvation
- Jesus was talking to some guys who didn't believe Him
- **John 10:25-30**

- How secure are you if Jesus has a grip on your life and so does God the Father? Totally!
- Turn back to **2 Peter 1**
- If your faith is growing, then your life is useful to God and is producing good fruit, you have a spiritual sense of God's presence in your life, and you are confident in your salvation
- Peter finishes this section with two blessings that come with a growing, rock-solid faith
- First blessing – **Never Stumble**
- **2 Peter 1:10b**
- Not saying that you will never sin – wouldn't that be nice
- It means sin is not going to catch you unaware
- Because you are watching where you are walking
- You know where to step and you sense God pulling on the chain of your relationship
- You won't be sinless, but you should sin less
- The second blessing of a growing faith – **Abundant Entrance to Heaven**
- **2 Peter 1:11**
- This one is cool – one of the reasons I want a rock-solid faith
- All true Christians will go to heaven – no doubts at all
- But some will get a different reception than others
- The Bible teaches that God does not value one person higher than any other
- But it also teaches that God rewards people based on faith, obedience, and faithfulness
- If you are a Christian, you are going to heaven
- But what kind of a reception will you be getting when you get there
- Will you be sneaking in the back door of heaven because your faith is small and weak
- Or will you go in to a heroes' welcome because of a rock-solid faith
- If you want to be steady on course, get to know Jesus better and better, and let Him help you to grow a rock-solid faith
- Amen–**Pray**