Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #34: The Importance Of Legacy

2 Peter 1:12-18 NKJV

***12****For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.****13****Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent (body), to stir you up by reminding you,****14****knowing that shortly I must put off my tent (leave this body), just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.****15****Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease (departure).*

***16****For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.****17****For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”****18****And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

I have been waiting for us to get to verse 12 ever since we started our study of chapter 1.

Life is all about motivation and we are learning some of the motivation behind Peter's passion.

He knows that his time is limited. He knows he is going to die. He has known because Jesus revealed it to him.

John 21:18-19 NLT

***18****“I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and otherswill dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.”****19Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God.*** *Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”*

Consider the sober reality of what Peter knew was going to happen to him because Jesus revealed it to him personally.

Tim McGraw's song "Live Like You Were Dying" has always had special meaning to me because I think it is a great reminder of not taking each day for granted.

Facing death is a great motivator for most of us.

Facing death also helps us evaluate our lives and consider what is really important.

I asked our study team to consider the importance of legacy or heritage in our lives as human beings but especially as followers of Jesus Christ.

We have been discussing what would we want our family and others to remember or cling to because of our lives.

* **Todd Steffens sharing**
* **Read what Logan penned and shared**
* **Chris Cowan sharing**
* **Jacquelyn's video sharing**

Powerful evaluation process.

I would ask you to consider the importance of your legacy............with Christ.

**Peter knows that this group of people are established in the truth but he is challenging them to "next level" spiritual life and living.**

He has learned from personal experience that it is possible to participate or partake in the divine nature of God. We don't have to live in the bondage of the corruption of lust. We can live in freedom and fruitfulness.

**The words that we have used to explain this diligence the last couple of weeks are relentless and tenacious.**

Peter is saying that these ideals and realities are so important that his goal is to constantly remind them until he dies.

He is so relentless and tenacious to these "next level" truths that he is making arrangements for them to have reminders after he is gone.

After he is deceased, he wants to ensure that they always have a reminder of these things.

**How does his commitment validate the importance of what he has shared in verses 1-11?**

The apostle Paul says something similar to the church at Corinth. He shows how godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation that creates new qualities and characteristics.

2 Corinthians 7:9-11 NKJV

***9****Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.****10****For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.****11****For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*

**Zeal, tenacity, diligent, and relentless are powerful words.**

Evaluation should help us focus on the most important things.

Peter was so committed to these incredible "next level living" truths that he was going to be relentless and tenacious while he was alive and even after he was gone to constantly remind people to pursue God in this manner.

Peter truly was living like he was dying. He was focused because he had learned through his failures, pride, mistakes, sins, and blunders of the divine nature of God.

Psalm 105:1-4 NIV

***1****Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;  
    make known among the nations what he has done.****2****Sing to him, sing praise to him;  
    tell of all his wonderful acts.****3****Glory in his holy name;  
    let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.****4****Look to the Lord and his strength;  
    seek his face always*