Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #38: God Responds To Our Choices

I want to share an illustration this morning before we unpack our study of 2 Peter 2.

The psalmist in 119:105 says that God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

Later on in the chapter, vs 130, he states that "the entrance of Your Words gives light".

Our goal, my goal, in studying and presenting is to give illumination to our paths. The remainder of vs 130 states that "God's Words gives understanding to the simple." I consider myself an ordinary, simple man. I cling to God's Word, I cherish what the Scripture says, and the Bible has illuminated my path since I was 17 years of age.

We study the scriptures together to have our paths illuminated for learning, growth, and progressive sanctification/cleansing.

2 Peter 2:4-11 NKJV

***4****For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;****5****and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;****6****and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;****7****and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked****8****(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—****9****then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,****10****and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries (glorious ones, angelic majesties),****11****whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.*

Peter is talking plainly to a group of people who are facing incredible challenges.

**He is challenging them to grow in their understanding of the faith that they have placed in the Jesus as the Son of the Living God. Grow in the grace by faith. Press in and guard your heart as you learn to experience this glorious, excellent, divine character of God for yourself.**

Some reference Genesis 6 in conjunction with these verses. Some refer to the book of Enoch in conjunction with Peter's word description of the angels that sinned. (Ezekiel 28:12-18,

Isaiah 14:12-14, Revelation 12:4

Genesis 5-9 refer to the Noah as well as Isaiah 54:9, Hebrews 11:7, & 1 Peter 3:20.

Luke 17:26-32 references both Noah and Lot

Lot is mentioned in Genesis 13, 14, & 19, Deuteronomy 2:9, and Psalm 83:8

There is a ton that we could unpack this morning. I want you to see this visual to hopefully encourage you as you learn the depth of the Word of God as we move forward together.

Open piece of luggage packed with clothing, etc.

We are going to unpack some truth this morning but we don't have time to unpack everything. This is how we approach our verse by verse study of the scriptures each and every week.

We are only unpacking a little bit of the truth for instruction and application.

We are hoping that you will want to unpack more truth on your own.

Three words to help us this morning from our passage.

1. **Relationship**

 Relationships are founded on faith, pursuit, and embrace

 Relationships are destroyed by self centeredness, lack of trust, and rejection

1. **Rejection:**

 We have the freedom (free will) to reject God

 God rejects based on our rejection. God responds to our choices, depravity, and decisions.

1. **Rescue:**

 God provides rescue for those who trust in Him

Romans 4:7-8 NIV *“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”* (Psalm 32:1-2)

Rescue!

Hebrews 10:11-18 NLT ***11****Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins.****12****But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand.****13****There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet.****14****For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.****15****And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says,****16****“This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”* ***17****Then he says,“I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds.”* ***18****And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices.* (Jeremiah 33:33-34)

Rescue!

Romans 6:14 NASB 1995 *For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace*. By grace through faith we experience Rescue!

Hebrews 8:12 KJV A discussion of the new covenant...... *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

Titus 2:11-15 Living Bible ***11****For the free gift of eternal salvation is now being offered to everyone;****12****and along with this gift comes the realization that God wants us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures and to live good, God-fearing lives day after day,****13****looking forward to that wonderful time we’ve been expecting, when his glory shall be seen—the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.****14He died under God’s judgment against our sins so that he could rescue us from constant falling into sin and make us his very own people, with cleansed hearts and real enthusiasm for doing kind things for others.******15****You must teach these things and encourage your people to do them, correcting them when necessary as one who has every right to do so. Don’t let anyone think that what you say is not important.*

One last word to make a forth word this morning...............

**Repentance**: We have the privilege of changing our minds and changing direction

I believe one of the greatest gifts that God offers to us as human beings is the gift of repentance.

The word repentance in the Bible literally means “the act of changing one’s mind.” True biblical repentance goes beyond remorse, regret, or feeling bad about one’s sin. It involves more than merely turning away from sin. Eerdmans Bible Dictionary includes this definition of repentance: “In its fullest sense it is a term for a complete change of orientation involving a judgment upon the past and a deliberate redirection for the future.” (Got Questions)

Rejection can be altered with God by repentance.

Repent of our rejection........

Repent of our unbelief............

Repent of our sinfulness............

And here we are today still proclaiming the words of our Savior & Lord, Jesus of Nazareth as recorded in Matthew 4:17 ESV

*From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*