

Sermon Notes for 2 Peter 1:8-11 (Making a Faith Assessment) March 1

- One of the helpful tools people and organizations use to assess the value or benefit of something is a **Cost-Benefit-Analysis (CBA)**. This is most helpful when you consider embracing and experiencing the most essential and eternal investment of your life. This kind of cost-benefit is easy and obvious to assess.
 - **Live however you want** and you will receive the irreversible cost of eternal condemnation in hell
 - **Live for the Lord Jesus Christ** and you will receive the incomparable benefit of forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life.
- Peter teaches us that the greatest blessing anyone can experience is knowing Jesus Christ by faith and this faith is:
 - **Christ-generated** (1:1: “*receive a faith of the same kind as ours*” and its “*by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ*”)
 - **Comprehensively supplied** (1:2-4: we are given “everything” needed to live for Christ and to experience His supernatural life)
 - **Conscientiously developed** (1:5-7: we all called to apply our full effort to grow in seven faith-building virtues)
- Peter gives us **three practical assessments** to make as we seek to experience the fullness of our unshakable faith.
 1. **Assess the genuineness of your faith** (1:8a: “*if these qualities are yours...*”; v. 10a: “*be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you*”)
 - The Lord has called us to examine our faith to see if it is genuine (2 Cor. 13:5; Matt. 7:21-23; Jms. 2:14, 17-26)
 - **How** can believers make a genuineness appraisal of professed faith in Christ?
 - **Examine your doubts** which can be due to personal sins, Satanic attacks, lack of spiritual growth or a false faith. The worst kind of deception is self-deception (Matt. 7:22-23)
 - **Examine your demonstrations**
 - **Check your heart longings** (love for the Lord-1 Cor. 16:22; trusting in and relying upon Christ-1 Jn. 5:13; affectionate love for brothers and sisters in Christ-1 Jn. 4:20; 2:9-11; 4:7-8)
 - **Check your lifestyle** (practice of righteousness-1 Jn. 2:29; perseverance-1 Jn 2:19; Matt. 10:22; resistance to worldliness-1 Jn 2:15-17; practical love to others-1 Jn. 3:16-19; decreasing sin patterns-1 Jn. 3:6-9; growth in righteousness-1 Jn 2:29; fruit of the Spirit-1 Jn. 3:24; Gal. 5:22-23)

- **Check the testimony of your lips** (am I confessing sin or in denial-1 Jn. 1:8-10; confessing Christ-1 Jn. 4:1-6; communicating grace and truth-Jms 1:26)
 - **Examine your diligence** (v. 10a: “*be all the more diligent*”): Are you making every effort to grow (v. 5) and making “*certain about His calling and choosing you*” (v. 10)?
2. **Assess the growth of your faith** (1:8b-9: “*for if these qualities are yours and increasing*”)
- The word “**increasing**” means to bring forth in abundance and is in the present tense which means our faith should be continually growing.
 - **Growth** will help you **avoid the wrong outcomes** (v. 8-9)
 - Avoid becoming **useless** (v. 8) when God wants us “*useful to the Master*” (2 Tim. 2:20-21)
 - Avoid becoming **unproductive** (v. 8) when God wants you to “*learn what is pleasing to*” Him (Eph. 5:8-11)
 - Avoid becoming **uncertain** (v. 9). This lack of assurance about the reality of your faith can be driven by drifting that is exacerbated by being “*blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification of former sins*”
 - **Growth** will help you **apply the right knowledge** (v. 8b: “*in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*”). Whether this is referring to conversion knowledge or cultivating knowledge, both are personal and content-driven (knowing Christ as He has revealed Himself to be)
3. **Assess the gratuities of your faith** (1:10b-11)
- Peter presents **two gratuities** (benefits): one is negative and in the present and the other is positive and in the future.
 - The **negative** benefit is an **unmitigated protection** (v. 10b: “*you will never stumble*”). You won’t become an apostates like the false teachers. Growing in your faith is a safeguard from stumbling into apostacy and this is what God provides (Jude 24)
 - The **positive** benefit is an **unmatched provision** (v. 11: “*the entrance into the eternal kingdom...will be abundantly supplied to you*”). Our homegoing will be a grand entrance into eternal and indescribable blessedness (Rev. 21:1-5; Eph. 1:7; 1 Cor. 2:9)