



Sermon Questions

2 Peter 1:1-4

Gathering

- *Easy* – can you remember a great “last line” of a movie or novel?
- *Harder* – have you ever been with someone when they died, or spoken with someone who was very near death? What was that like and can you remember what they said?

Looking into the text

This is the mood of 2 Peter. This is his last testament before he dies. You can see this in verses 1:12-15. It was not uncommon in the ancient world to have a last testament from a famous person and it is hard to know if Peter wrote this, or dictated it, or shared thoughts which someone then made into the letter and shared with the church. But the message is from Peter and it is meant to tell us what is most important in life.

- Who is sharing this information? Look at the first verses. How does Peter describe himself? Why do you think he uses these words?
- Who is Peter writing to? How does it affect the understanding of the letter to know that he is writing to fellow believers?
- It is normal to begin a letter with the greeting “grace and peace.” Peter adds a few other things, what are they?
- Notice the word “knowledge.” There are two different words for knowledge. This one means relational knowledge, the way you learn about someone by hanging out with them and building a friendship or a marriage. This is the way we can know God if we have the faith that Peter mentions in his greeting.
- This knowledge also brings several other things according to verses 3-4. What are some of them?
- What does it mean to you to know that you already have everything you need for a godly life? Does it feel that way in your Christian life, why or why not?
- Peter uses a very strange phrase in verse 4. He says that we can “participate in the divine nature.” This is not a common way to talk about the spiritual life in the epistles (the Bible letters). What do you think it means?

- Paul says that through our knowing Jesus we have escaped the corruption caused by evil desires. What do you think of when you hear the word "corruption?" In what way do you think evil desires bring corruption into our lives?

Conclusion/ Application

Read verses 1:5-9.

Peter has told us that our faith is precious and leads to knowing God the way we know the closest people in our lives. Through our knowledge of him we can participate in God's nature and escape the deadening effects of evil desires. But we don't often feel this transformation. One reason is that we think it will happen automatically. Peter here is telling us that such a deep understanding of God can happen but we need to cooperate with what God is doing in us.

In the weeks ahead we will look at the words in this list, goodness, knowledge, self control, love, etc. And we will learn to notice what God is doing in us so that we can cooperate with it.

- How is God working in you to free you from evil and give you life? How are you being called to cooperate with God today?