

## Sermon Notes

Sunday, January 4, 2009

**day 1:** (2 Peter 1: 1-11, Ephesians 2: 8-9) So simply, yet so eloquently, Peter describes our salvation in verse one. Through Christ, we have received a precious faith. It is one thing to be an observer, another altogether to be a participant. Think about your life. Are you an observer of the faith or are you a participant? Have you accepted Christ and involved yourself in his plans?

**day 2:** (2 Peter 1: 1-11, Luke 2: 8-14) Peter offers grace and peace, much as the angels promised in Luke 2. Yet as we look at our culture, so often we see no peace, but rather turmoil and “un-peace”. Did the angels lie? Is Peter offering only wishful thinking? No. Read closely, “...peace be yours...through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” There is a way to peace. Do you see it?

**day 3:** (2 Peter 1: 1-11, 2 Timothy 3: 14-17) Following our acceptance of God's offer of salvation through Jesus, we have one supreme task—to grow in our knowledge and likeness of Christ. Both of these passages remind us that when we seek to know Christ more and more, we find that we have everything that we need for life and godliness. Looking for an initiative this New Year? There's a good one. How can we know Christ more and more?

**day 4:** (2 Peter 1: 1-11, especially verses 5-7) Peter challenges us. In the midst of all the resolutions this season, hear this one: “...make every effort.” Yes, salvation is a gift, free for all who wish to receive it, but after that...effort, work, a challenge to grow into the likeness of Christ. What things do you work at more than your life in Christ? Can any of them change to allow you to grow in Christ?

**day 5:** (2 Peter 1: 1-11, especially verse 8, 2 Timothy 2: 1-7) We have a mission in Christ Jesus. We are not “saved to sit”, but rather saved from sin so that we can join in the mission of reaching the world for Jesus. Have you thought of yourself as a world changer? You are or you can be. Your testimony, your witness, your influence can change the world, one person at a time. Are you available to the Lord for such a task? Where could you begin?

**day 6:** (2 Peter 1: 1-11) How embarrassing when we forget a gift that has been given to us. Especially embarrassing if the one who gave it reminds us. How rude if we should so ignore our spiritual growth that we live month after month without any growth in grace. Peter says that to fail to grow in our relationship with Christ illustrates that we have forgotten our salvation. How is your growth? Has your neglect offended the Savior who died to offer you the gift of salvation? Forgiveness and a fresh start await.