

PRECIOUSNESS OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO PETER

Notes of an address

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Introduction

We have read two incidents in Peter's life, and, also two passages in which Peter speaks of the preciousness of Christ. Thought not so much service, and not his failures, but what he learned of the Lord.

The Holy Spirit used Peter to write two Epistles.

While Peter wrote as moved by the Spirit (as did the OT writers – 2 Peter 1:21), his time spent with the Lord surely was used by the Spirit to cause him to write in a particular way as a result of his experiences. The same is true for all the NT writers who had companied with Jesus.

Mark tells us that the Lord appointed “twelve that they might be with Him and that He might send them to preach...” (Mark 3:14). Apostles, or you and I today, it is essential to spend time with Him if we are to be effectual in His service.

Matthew 14:22-33 Lord, if it be thou...

The setting

Rejected by the nation, the Lord spoke of His kingdom in ch13 ,no longer Israel, but the result of “good seed” being shown.He was still going about “healing their sick” (14:14) and feeding the five thousand.

But the rejection and killing of John the Baptist no doubt made His thoughts turn to His own death at the hands of the Jews (after this He speaks of it a number of times: 16:4 Jonah, 16:21, 17:9, 20:17-19).

Therefore, He sends the multitude away at this point (v22), tells His disciples to go before Him by boat, and goes away into a high mountain.

A picture of where He is now in heaven but His own are still here – on the sea, typical of the restless nations of this world

In a moment, we will see if there is a message for us in the passage, but first we must remember THE DISCIPLES REPRESENT THE FATHFUL JEWS, THE REMNANT, whether then or in the future prior to His return

Conditions for the Jews – faithful or not – have been unfailingly difficult, from the time that Jerusalem was destroyed, 70AD, and on down through the centuries.

After the Holy Spirit and the church have left this world, 2 Thessalonians 2, the remnant will go through the time of Jacob's trouble – a time of unparalleled suffering (Jeremiah 30:7), before the Lord comes to save them, and destroy the wicked one with the brightness of His coming.

Until then, they are in the boat – Judaism, at the mercy of the elements.

But Peter takes a step forward "Lord, if it be Thou..."

He leaves the boat to go to Jesus and he walks on the water

Every one who trusts in Jesus is in the same case – as is the church

There is nothing in the world to sustain, there is only faith in Christ

But Peter's faith was answered – he walked over the water to go to Jesus

Until he looked away! There were winds and there were waves. It was the WINDS he saw.

Perhaps as a fisherman, he knew exactly what winds like that could mean on Galilee.

For us, perhaps individual waves (mishaps) we can surmount, but if we look at the winds (the way things seem to be going, and what it all might mean)is when we take our eyes off the Saviour.

Help was at hand!

Matthew 16:13-20 (&21-23)

Who is it, the Son of MAN?

All important question. Many today say a prophet (eg Moslems) 17:5 gave the answer to the three removing all doubt

But here we get Peter's beautiful confession "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God (Christ = the anointed One)

The Father had revealed it to Peter, but Peter had made it his own – no doubts!

On this rock I will build my church

what rock? Petra a mass of rock

not Petros a piece of rock, or Peter

The gates of hades shall not prevail against it they might try – Satan desired to sift all the apostles like wheat

Why? to put an end to their testimony, and so prevent the building of the church

The keys of the kingdom link with Acts 2:14-36, 3:6, 4:11-12 Acts 10

Binding and loosing

1 Peter 1:18-20 Christ's blood is most precious – to God, and to us

For two reasons: Who He is, and What it has done

1) Blood is precious

Genesis 4:10 Abel's blood cried from the ground . 9:14 not to eat blood

BUT "the blood of His own" Acts 20:28

2) It is what makes "atonement for the soul" Leviticus 17:11

Without shedding it there is no remission Hebrews 9:22

By it we are purged from dead works to serve... Hebrews 9:14

We have redemption, and forgiveness of offences Ephesians 1:7, peace, Colossians 1:20, justification Romans 5:9

We have boldness to enter the Holiest Hebrews 10:19

It is a token of both love and cleansing Revelation 1:6

It will be the theme of the praise of heaven Revelation 5:9

1 Peter 2:4-7

v4. Precious to God – a living stone lithos = a stone

disallowed Psalm 118:22 – by men in time

chosen of God- in eternity past (1:20) (Proverbs 8:22-30)

v5. You are living stones – how? lithos = a stone

Born of God, by His word (1.23)

redeemed (1:18-19) - as living stones, are built up to be a spiritual house (the church – see "My church, I will build")

a holy priesthood – holy or dedicated to God.

The service of the priests and Levites began and ended with the tabernacle – each had their place (for them, and for us, service as royal priests is another matter)

The object is still to glorify God, see v9) our purpose as holy priests is to offer spiritual sacrifice

(NB still "sacrifices", implies cost) (acceptable to God by Jesus Christ)

We can approach God, and speak to Him, but it is by Christ, therefore, we must give Him his place (Luke 14:9)

v6-7. Precious in Himself and Precious to those who believe

But, how precious is He to me, or to you?

Exodus 21:1-6 speaks of the Lord as the willing servant, but is there not a moral lesson there for us?

Can we take up the language of the Jewish bride in the Song of Songs?

v8 one day, He will judge the disobedient, and overthrow the refuge of lies (isaiah 28:16-17)

But, “he that believeth on him shall not be confounded”

v9 we serve as royal priests – ambassadors

to show forth ... by our conduct

1 Kings 10, Titus 2:10 “adorn the doctrine”

These words an encouragement to people who were strangers ... and scattered but nevertheless elect 1 Peter 1:1-2

Notes for reference – not part of discourse

1 Peter 1:7 Precious faith – under trial

2 Peter 1:1 Precious faith – like, or common

-do- 1:4 Precious promises

Mathew 17 – Peter saw Christ's kingdom glory

2 Peter 1:16-17 Eye-witness of his majesty, and of his companions in glory (Moses and Elijah)

Matthew 26:69-75 I know not the man

John 20:3-7 John outran Peter, but Peter went into the sepulchre (defilement to a Jew) and so saw how it was

John 21:15 Peter's commission "Follow Me”

(1259)

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