

THEME: Be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only!

TEXT: 2 Peter 1:8-9

For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

I. OBEDIENT FRUITFULNESS - (vs.8)

- A. "For if these qualities"
 - 1. The issue is "if" - (requires inspection and discernment)
 - 2. "qualities" are the seven virtues in verses 5-7
- B. "are yours and are increasing"
 - 1. There should be Growth in Grace!
- C. "they render you neither"
 - 1. i.e. —> empower; result in
- D. "useless" - i.e. —> impotent; inactive; empty; of no value; worthless
 - 1. c.f. Matthew 5:13-16
- E. "nor unfruitful"
 - 1. You are to be FRUITY (productive) and not merely LEAFY.
 - 2. c.f. Mark 4:18-19
 - 3. Three of these seven virtues are also Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23 - (self-control; brotherly kindness; love)
 - 4. c.f. Hebrews 5:12-14
- F. "in the true knowledge of"
 - 1. Means a "legitimate knowledge"
- G. "our Lord Jesus Christ"
 - 1. "Lord" = Master
 - 2. "Jesus" = His name
 - 3. "Christ" = Messiah; Anointed One

II. DISOBEDIENT FORGETFULNESS - (vs.9)

- A. "For he who lacks these qualities"
 - 1. QUESTION: Are these 7 qualities apparent in your life?
- B. "is blind"
 - 1. Can't see; unable to discern true spiritual condition.
 - 2. Has reason to lack an Assurance of Salvation.
- C. "or short-sighted"
 - 1. i.e. —> near-sighted (can only see what's right in front of your face)

2. LITERALLY → Greek ('myopia') - near-sightedness
- D. "having forgotten his purification"
 1. Forgot what it was like to get saved (conversion)
 2. c.f. Revelation 2:4-5
 3. i.e. → living like an unbeliever
- E. "from his former sins"
 1. The old man - (old self)
 2. Don't sin so freely in the things that Jesus suffered the Father's wrath for on your behalf!
 3. Instead ... bear fruit!

POINTS OF APPLICATION

1. Perform a "spiritual check-up" on yourself.
2. When it comes to your ministry toward others and service for the Lord, are you useless and unfruitful or are you useful and fruitful? In other words, is your lifestyle one of Obedient Fruitfulness or one of Disobedient Forgetfulness?
3. How is your theology regarding "the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ? In other words, are you consistently learning about Jesus or just living off the fumes of distant past Bible study?
4. To be sure you aren't spiritually blind or short-sighted, pray to God and ask Him to open your eyes so that you could clearly understand your spiritual strengths and weaknesses.
5. As a believer, you've been purified of your former sins. Meditate on how God has made you wonderfully pure and live in such a way so as not to defile yourself.
6. Be sure you are truly saved! - c.f. 2 Peter 1:10-11
7. Read your Bible and obey what you read! - (THEME: *Be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only!*)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever struggled with lacking an Assurance of Salvation? Please discuss.
2. Discuss a time in your life when you struggled spiritually. What happened and how did it impact your life? How did you overcome this negative season of life?
3. Discuss a time in your life when you grew spiritually. What happened and how did it impact your life? Did God use someone else to influence you? Please discuss.
4. Discuss what does verse nine mean regarding someone who isn't growing in their faith and is—therefore—described as blind or short-sighted (near-sighted).
5. Share the story of how God saved you.