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# Sermon Notes

February 11, 2024

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## Practical Protection

2 Peter 1:8-11

### A Brief Recap

- ❖ Peter seeks to share his testimony with anyone who reads what he writes in order to
  - encourage them with his personal knowledge of Jesus
  - motivate them to take hold of all Christ offers
- ❖ In vv. 5-7, Peter gives us a diagnostic tool with which to examine ourselves and evaluate how **GOD** is working in us and how **WE** are working with God
  - how are we growing and showing these character qualities?
  - "Check in, so you don't miss out!"
- ❖ Peter shows us how we can always be on the way forward toward the goal of modeling and manifesting Christlike character

### Being Ineffective

- ❖ In general, most normal people do not set out to be ineffective
- ❖ Ineffective = being unproductive or without fruit

- Jesus describes the soil in which the seed is choked out by weeds and thorns as ineffective
- Jesus curses the fig tree because it is ineffective
- those in Matthew 20 who are standing around idle in the market place are ineffective
- ❖ Too many Christians are content with living ineffective Christian lives
  - happy and self-satisfied that they are "saved"
  - lackadaisical attitudes toward godliness and presumption on the grace of God
  - "being saved" is the starting point of the Christian life rather than the endpoint
- ❖ In v. 8, Peter speaks of *the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*
  - an intimate knowledge that sparks an unquenchable desire to know Jesus better and better
  - our relationship with Christ is **not** meant to be ineffective or unfruitful

### Nearsighted and Blind

- ❖ Peter regards false teachers as *nearsighted and blind* not because they don't **KNOW** the truth but because they willfully shut their eyes **TO** the truth
  - they have forgotten that they were cleansed from their former sins
  - a forgetting that fails to take into account the true meaning and significance of what it means to be cleansed
  - failing to be fruitful & effective in developing lives of loving obedience

- ❖ The voices of false teachers today insist that submission to God's Word and God's revealed will is not necessary
  - Moo: "Fake Christians are people who at least claim to have had their sins forgiven by Christ but who are not now living as if that makes any difference to them."
  - there is no "standing still" in the Christian life

### Take Action

- ❖ ***Be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election***
  - head knowledge is not Peter's point
  - Peter wants you to take action and ask yourself
    - "Am I the real deal?"
    - "What can I point to that backs up my claim?"
    - "What evidence do I have that convinces me God has drawn me to Himself in Christ?"
- ❖ Two reasons why doing what Peter advises is important
  - so that ***you will never fall*** (stumble)
    - self-examination will be of immense value to you in keeping you on track and helping you to avoid crashing and burning in your Christian pilgrimage
    - example of Pilgrim in *Pilgrim's Progress*
    - you will be protected from building on the foundation Christ gives you with wood, hay or stubble (1 Corinthians 3:14-15)
  - so you will be richly welcomed ***into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***
    - you **WILL** be effective, fruitful and bring glory and honor to Christ in this life and the next

- ❖ ***Practice these qualities*** (v. 10)
  - no matter the discipline, practice is essential
  - ***pursue godliness***
    - keep chipping away at the virtues Peter lists in vv. 5-7
- ❖ You have personal responsibility to make the most of what the Lord puts at your disposal
  - a balance between God's provision and human responsibility
  - spiritual growth, the pursuit of holiness and maturing in the Christian faith are dependent both on God's contribution and our own diligent effort
- ❖ The vital role the Holy Spirit plays in the process
  - we **MUST NOT** become lax about growing in grace and pursuing holiness
  - if we are not diligent, if we do not make every effort, we are nearsighted, blind and in danger of missing the boat on the very purpose for which God calls and elects us to salvation

### Personal Reflection

1. In what ways is your knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ causing you to be fruitful and effective for Him?
2. Based on the description given in this sermon, are there any ways in which you are being nearsighted and blind when it comes to living out the implications of what God has previously done in your life? What will you do about this?
3. In what ways are you practicing (and improving your performance in!) the qualities Peter lists in vv. 5-7? What confidence does seeing your progress in these areas give you about your calling and election?