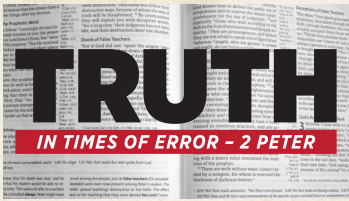


Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Stable in Christ

Speaker:

Steve Heitland

Date:

December 4, 2022

Scriptures:

2 Peter 3:14-18

Theme: Fight for stability by knowing Christ.

Introduction: What makes a Christian strong? We know that genuine strength and stability come through testing—they are proven through adversity. Weak people often think that they have it harder than everyone else, not recognizing that everyone faces trials and that those who are strong grew through trusting Christ in trials (Ps 34:8). That strength and stability are Peter's concerns in these verses, too.

Here are 2 categories he provides for us to grow in stability and strength:

1. Work as you wait (14-16)

Peter appeals again to the truth of final judgment and the eternal state to give us a command: "be diligent to be found by him."

We are to trust in Christ diligently, and so to grow in holiness. Who we think God is and what accountability we owe him will very much shape how we live now. This is why he condemns the false teachers so strongly. They were blaspheming God and jeopardizing the souls of those who listened to them.

We should recognize that the Lord is patient toward us, and in that he is offering us salvation. We need only trust him and repent.

Peter also teaches that Paul's letters are Scripture, and that "ignorant and unstable" people twist them for their own sinful purposes. We must be diligent in studying God's word so that we can identify and combat lies and grow by truth.

2. Watch as you grow (17-18)

Peter returns to the theme of Christian stability, and calls the church to take care to not be carried away by the lawlessness of the false teachers.

False teaching is lawless because it rejects God's law and seeks to substitute man's ever-shifting standards in its place. Inevitably it is more and oppressive laws that are the result.

The antidote is to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." All growth and stability are only through him.

If we are not looking to and growing in Jesus, we will turn to weak, imitation saviors. We will look to creatures to bear the weight that only the Creator and Savior can bear."

Ultimately, we must put our hope in the fulness to come when Jesus returns. He is our great hope "both now and to the day of eternity."

Questions:

1. Are you strong and stable, or easily undone?
2. Are you growing in stability? If so, how? If not, how do you want to grow?
3. Are you growing in your knowledge of God through his word?