



The gospel is worth fighting for.

I. Salvation in three words. (1)

- A. Called
- B. Beloved
- C. Kept

II. Contend for the faith (3-23)

- A. The Unchanging Gospel (3)
- B. The danger of a me-centered, hedonistic version. (4-19)
- C. Unnoticed Intruders (4-16)

- D. But you! (20-23)

III. Worship the One who keeps you. (24-25)

How does this apply to me?



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INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

WHERE ELECTION AND DILIGENT EFFORT MEET

HISTORICAL TIMELINE:

Peter writes this letter shortly before his death (1:13-14). This places the letter around 64-67AD. Since Peter states that this is his second letter, it is probable that he wrote it to the believers in Asia Minor who were the recipients of his first letter.

Peter's concern is to help these Christians recognize that the grace through which they have been saved is the foundation and the hope to which they must hold. False teachers had already infiltrated the church, but true Christians must steadfastly adhere to the truth of the scriptures, living holy lives in light of God's future coming.

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

In verses 3-4 Peter points believers to the complete sufficiency of God's provision for them. They have been called by Him. They have His promises and His power. Nothing is lacking that is necessary for them as they grow in godliness. Growing in their knowledge of Him and trusting in His promises to them, they will increasingly grow in holiness.

The next verses present a necessary counterpoint to the dependent trust described in 3-4. For while it is true that we are wholly dependent on God for our salvation and sanctification, we can never passively sit back, doing nothing to grow. Dependence and effort work side by side.

We are active participants in our development as Christians. True believers strive to grow in godliness. In fact, if we don't evidence sincere desire and real effort to grow as believers, we give little evidence of real salvation and are in danger of falling.

God alone saves and sanctifies. But it is precisely because He does this that we long to grow in our faith and make every effort possible to become mature believers.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK:

2 Peter 1:1-15

