

## What Are You Waiting For?

### II Peter 1:10-11

Turn to our text in II Peter 1:3-11. We will be dealing specifically with verses 10-11 this morning. Stand, if you would, to honor the reading of God's Holy Word.

How can we know if a person is truly saved or not? The preceding verses give us evidence of our salvation.

This morning I would like to point out three things.

Past things – our salvation

Present things – our sanctification

Future things – our glorification

Let's tackle first, past things.

#### I. PAST THINGS – OUR SALVATION - v. 10a

“Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure.”

Let's consider God's choosing.

##### A. God's Choosing

As you know the “therefore” is there for a reason pointing us back to the previous verses about Christian conduct. We also see once again that Peter is writing to believers, to those who are his “brothers” in the faith. They have a common or shared relationship with Christ as we see back in verse 1 – “To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours.”

This is also a personal appeal to brothers in Christ.

Peter didn't hold himself up on a pedestal because he was an Apostle or because he was one of the guys selected by Jesus to follow Him during His earthly ministry. He didn't put himself in some

lofty position, but claimed that his righteousness or salvation was the same as everyone else's. They received it by faith in Christ.

Therefore, be all the more eager to make your salvation sure. Does he mean that in some way these believers were uncertain of their salvation or that perhaps they had lost their salvation? To answer that let's go back to verses 8-9. “For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.”

Since Peter is talking to believers he is not referring to a loss of salvation or even to those who were never saved. Peter is exhorting believers to eagerly make sure of their calling and election.

The word “eager” comes from the same root word that we see back in verse 5 when Peter wrote “For this very reason make every effort to add to your faith...”

It speaks to the zeal with which we are to pursue godly character, which is a testimony to the transformation in a person who becomes a new creation through faith in Christ. This is to be an ongoing pursuit, going back to the idea in verse 5 that we are add to our faith and verse 8 where we are told to possess these godly qualities in increasing measure. Making sure of our calling and election is to give evidence of our salvation. This isn't for God's benefit. It's for us. He knows who are His.

The word “sure” means to be reliable or firm. It was used in classical Greek to refer to a warranty deed, much like we have on a house today.

Walvoord and Zuck write “One's godly behavior is a warranty deed for himself that Jesus Christ has

cleansed him from his past sins and therefore that he was in fact called and elected by God.”

Peter’s objective to this personal appeal is to make your calling and election sure. This does not mean that we earn our salvation through good works, but that we give evidence of our salvation. It speaks to the human responsibility of demonstrating the change that took place when we were saved and should continue to be seen in us in increasing measure.

Norman Geisler is helpful here in understanding what Peter is saying in regard to our calling and election as it relates to the manifestation of faith through godly character.

“A true believer in Christ cannot lose his/her salvation, but neither should one take it for granted that he is saved. There are many Scriptures exhorting us to examine ourselves to make sure we are true believers. True faith will manifest itself in some way.”

II Corinthians 13:5 “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith, test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test?” “True faith will leave evidence of itself.”

Peter, James, John, Zacchaeus, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Cornelius, and the Philippian jailer all gave evidence of faith.

James 2:19 says there are those who believe but don’t have a belief that saves and their lives give evidence that they didn’t have saving faith such as Judas Iscariot.

About our passage Geisler adds this: “From God’s standpoint our election is sure. It was ordained before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4-5, 11). Yet we are exhorted to make sure that we are one of the elect. This can be known in many ways, as the numerous verses on assurance of salvation indicate, such as the witness of the [Holy] Spirit (Romans 8:9, 16), the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23), and love for the brethren (I

John 4:7).”

Here is his conclusion: “‘No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God (I John 3:9).’ To illustrate, a pig and a lamb can fall in the same mud puddle. But when they do, the pig will stay there and the lamb wants to get out!”

We cannot deny the teaching of God’s sovereignty when it comes to the matter of election but neither can we deny the free will of man either in his decision to accept the free gift of God’s grace in salvation through faith in Christ.

God in divine wisdom and love and justice chooses. But we also see in this passage God’s calling.

## B. God’s Calling

Both His election and calling for these believers were in the past.

Both are reconciled in the mind of God.

When I think of calling, I think of an invitation.

This week among the various pieces of mail that came to the church and to my home were some invitations.

One letter read “EXCLUSIVE INVITATION.” It was from AT&T. I took that to mean it was just for me. But the rest of the address was telling. It really wasn’t exclusive. It was addressed to Hartland Neighbor. That’s not exclusive, but inclusive. Everyone in the Hartland neighborhood received the same invitation. I rather imagine that if you live in another neighborhood you received the same ‘exclusive invitation’.

An invitation to me means a choice. God’s call is a choice to receive or reject.

Theologians have two words that convey the idea of God’s calling. The first term is general calling. And the second term is effectual calling. A general call

goes out to all, but the effectual call is for those who when called will effectively result in their salvation because they cannot resist the call of God. Some hold that the later call, the effectual call, leaves no room for man's will, that he has no say in the matter.

I believe that a person does have a choice in the matter of his or her salvation. Let me see if I can use two examples from Scripture.

Genesis 4:1-7

There might be some who consider this passage and say that Abel was chosen to be righteous while Cain was not. I see it differently. Both had been taught by Mom and Dad, Eve and Adam to obey God and what God required as a sacrifice. Abel brought what pleased God and Cain did not. Cain got angry with God. God asked him why he was so angry and then clearly left the choice, giving Cain an invitation to do what was right, but we see that in verse 8 Cain followed through on his anger with his God and took it out on his brother by killing him. Cain was given a choice to follow God and he refused. If you do what is right.

Jonah gives us a second example. In chapter 1 Jonah was told to go to Nineveh and preach repentance. He refused and ran away in the opposite direction. God created a huge storm to make Jonah confront his disobedience and then created a great fish to take him back to where he was supposed to go. In chapter 3 we see Jonah went, Jonah preached and the people of Nineveh repented. Look at Jonah's conclusion.

Jonah 4:1-3, 11

It seems reasonable to conclude that had Jonah not gone and preached, the people would not have heard and would have died in their sin.

Romans 10:9-17

The general call has been made to all to receive this wonderful gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ

by faith. The effectual call is for those who actually take that step of faith by believing and receiving Christ as Savior. A number of verses speak to both. In John 3:16 we see the invitation is extended to all that "WHOSOEVER" believes.

In John 3:36 "whoever believes..."

In John 5:24 "whoever has My words and believes..."

Acts 2:21 (Romans 10:13) "Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The call of God is made to all and I believe Peter's point here is to make sure that in your hearing the call that a) you don't harden your hearts and b) that you make every effort to show you have accepted this call to salvation through your godly conduct. If you have been saved because God knew in the past before even the foundations of the world were formed and because there was a point in time when you heard the message of the gospel, believed it, and received it then prove it, don't be nearsighted or blind, remember that you have been cleansed from sin and remember the price that was paid for sin.

Let me sum it up with something John Phillips wrote: "Election is according to foreknowledge, which, in turn, is according to God's omniscience. The sovereign choices of God in foreordination, election and predestination are based on His omniscient knowledge of possible choices and events. Some choices are divinely caused, others are divinely permitted. God foreknew all men would act under the various circumstances of life. He permits them so to act as part of an eternal plan. At the same time, He leaves everyone room enough to be responsible for his own behavior... The Lord knows those that are His (II Timothy 2:19; John 10:3, 14). True, God elects, calls, predestinates, foreordains, and chooses. True, there is a given total number of the redeemed; and these make up the company of God's elect. True, too, it is God's grace that operates throughout. God calls. Some people respond; others refuse. God is sovereign in either case. But His sovereignty never rides

roughshod over others. The Holy Spirit sees to it that everyone has an opportunity and the ability to respond when God calls (John 1:9). Our duty is to respond. Peter is urging his readers to ensure that they have the real thing.”

Peter would say if you are saved make it sure by showing it. He would also say, if you're not sure, make it sure today.

If you are saved it is something that happened in the past.

Peter then speaks to present things.

## II. PRESENT THINGS – OUR SANCTIFICATION – v. 10b

“For if you do these things, you will never fail.”

Notice first our feat.

### A. Our Feat

God has done His part in saving us. He knows those who belong to Him. Now we have a responsibility to demonstrate faith. As James has said “Faith without works is dead.” Not that works save us, but that they prove a spiritual change has taken place as we add to our faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love making every effort to increase these qualities in ways that are measurable and visible.

Coming back to something Walvoord and Zuck wrote: “One’s godly behavior is a warranty deed for himself that Jesus Christ has cleansed him from his past sins and therefore that he was in fact called and elected by God.”

They add this “The person who claims to be a child of God but whose character and conduct give no evidence of spiritual growth is deceiving himself and heading for judgment.”

Peter is exhorting us to grow in Christ instead of remaining lazy or immature. Instead of being complacent we are to be diligent in pursuit of godly character development allowing the Holy Spirit to conform us to the image of Christ and willing to obey.

Listen to Paul’s prayer for the Colossian believers. Colossians 1:9-14

What’s Paul saying? I think it’s this: if you have been rescued from the domain of darkness, live lives worthy of Jesus Christ.

What are some evidences of genuine faith? What evidence should there be of someone who is truly saved.

#### 1. There will be fellowship with God

I John 1:6 “If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.”

A study on social media noted that on average we look at various forms every 4 minutes. What if we checked in with God every 4 minutes?

A person who isn’t saved won’t have a relationship with God. Instead they walk in darkness. It’s either one or the other. If a person is truly saved they won’t walk any longer in habitual sin and be indifferent to God. What kind of relationship do you have with God?

#### 2. There will be less sin in your life

I didn’t say there will be no sin, but that there will be less sin.

I John 3:6 “No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues in sin has either seen Him or known Him.”

The more we love God and walk in His light, the more we will hate sin as He does, and the less desire we will have to want to sin. Paul wrote in Galatians 5:16 that if we walk in the Spirit we won’t fulfill the

sinful cravings of the flesh. It doesn't mean won't sin, it does mean that we won't want to commit that sin again. It grieves us because it grieves God. It's a heart matter.

3. There will be fellowship with other Christians  
I John 1:7 "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."

If we say we belong to God then we should demonstrate that same love in our relationships with others. We will want to meet with other believers; we will want to meet in the spirit of unity because God's love is the core of our fellowship.

I'm surprised and concerned about the growing number of Christians who say they don't need church. Just read Acts 2:42-47 to realize how important fellowship is.

4. There will be genuine love for other Christians  
I John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death."

Time and again we are commanded to love others. It's not a feeling but an action that looks out for the best interest of others evidenced in I Corinthians 13 by being patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, not keeping a record of wrongs, not delighting in evil, rejoicing in the truth. It protects, it trusts, it hopes, it perseveres. This love, Paul says, never fails.

5. There will be a love for God's Word and obedience to it

I John 2:3-5 "We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. The man who says, 'I know Him,' but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in Him. But if anyone

obeys His Word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we are in Him."

John 14:21 "Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show Myself to him."

This is a call to be holy as God is holy (I Peter 1:15-16). If we love God's Word then we are to let His Word guide us in all our steps (Psalms 119:105), trust it in all our ways (Proverbs 3:5-6), and treasure it in our heart that we might not sin against God (Psalm 119:9, 11).

6. There will be rejection of the world's ways  
I John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

This isn't speaking of the material world as the false teachers claimed, but the conduct of evil desires. How close to the world am I in my conduct?

7. There will be opposition because of faith  
I John 3:13 "Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you."

Jesus said if the world hated Him, we could expect that the world will hate us. The world doesn't want their darkness, their sin exposed. The world will hate you for that.

8. There will be full reliance on Christ alone for salvation

I John 5:10-13 "Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in His heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made Him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has

given about His Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

If you don't believe in the sacrificial, atoning work of Christ, you cannot be saved. You won't have to guess about salvation – you will know.

9. There will be confirmation by the Holy Spirit Romans 8:9, 16-17 “You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God – and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.”

It is the Spirit who empowers and enables the believer to live a godly life, to mature in his character by becoming more like Christ.

What evidence are you giving of your calling and election?

A true believer will have evidence of his faith. He will make every effort to eagerly make sure of his salvation. When that happens we notice the believer's footing.

#### B. Our Footing

“you will never fall.”

“you will never stumble.”

Peter isn't talking about losing your salvation. If a person doesn't give evidence or proof of his salvation by displaying the character traits of verses 5-7 it's possible that he or she wasn't saved in the first place. A person truly saved will do all he or she

can to make certain their lives demonstrate they are a new creation because old things have passed away. He will have courage and confidence. We will be determined to live for God because we are determined that we belong to God.

Peter speaks of our past – our salvation.

He speaks of our present – our sanctification.

He speaks in verse 11 of our future – our glorification.

### III. FUTURE THINGS – OUR GLORIFICATION

– v. 11

This verse speaks of what awaits the faithful believer who diligently pursues godly living.

- A. We see our reception – we will receive a rich welcome.
- B. We see our reward – it's an eternal kingdom.
- C. We see our Redeemer – He's our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our ultimate reward is being welcomed by Christ. I believe that this passage is speaking about degrees of rewards that will be given out in heaven. Some who are saved will have eternal life as their reward, but this verse speaks of receiving a rich welcome. (I Corinthians 15:39-44)

It literally means that entrance will be supplied richly for you who pursue godly character, to make lavish provision. It's like getting a ticker tape parade with floats and bands. I think that's what is implied in Acts 7:56 when Stephen stated that he saw heaven opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God. It was a rich welcome for someone who had faithfully lived and given his life in testimony of his faith in Christ, a man who was described in Acts 6:3 as being full of the Spirit and wisdom. He was a man who gave evidence of his salvation.

Paul speaks of the crown of righteousness that Christ will give him for fighting the good fight, finishing the race and keeping the faith.  
(II Timothy 4:7-8)

What are you waiting for? Get up and get going.  
Your reward awaits you.

If we make lavish provision to add godly character, God will make lavish provision to welcome us home as we enter heaven.

Our passage infers that the grounds by which we enter heaven is made possible through Christ. Our position and potential in the kingdom is determined by the cultivation of those godly characteristics in this life. In essence, I believe Peter is saying to us not to be content with mere Christian existence, satisfied with heaven alone because of salvation, but press on to godly living. Give evidence of the genuineness of your salvation.

John Phillips puts it this way: “God wants us to invest in the world to come.”

Many of the Israelites who entered into the Promised Land were content with settling for less than what they could have had, but not Caleb. He wanted an abundant entrance into the land. He wanted the hill country. He claimed what God promised that wherever the soles of his feet walked would be his. But that meant work. It was difficult – there were mountains. It was dangerous – there were giants. It was tedious – the cities were great and guarded by walls. But that’s what Caleb wanted because it was promised by God. Most had forgotten, closed their eyes to all the promises of God, but not Caleb.

What kind of entrance do you want in the kingdom? Don’t settle for just being satisfied for getting in the door, work to receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.