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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

July 24, 2011

2 Peter 1:1-11 (The Message)

I, Simon Peter, am a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. I write this to you whose experience with God is as life-changing as ours, all due to our God's straight dealing and the intervention of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to you many times over as you deepen in your experience with God and Jesus, our Master.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hidden in the opening greeting to Peter's second letter is a truth that even in 2011 we too often ignore to our peril. Having received the promises and truth of salvation that God has made available through Jesus; having made a profession of our belief and faith in these promises; we then sadly go on to live day to day as if these made little or no real difference in our day to day life on planet earth. Our inattention to the need for prayer, bible reading, worship, and fellowship with other Christians can soon lead to our lives being undistinguishable from the lives of others who have never heard these truths or have never made a profession of faith in Christ. As Peter expresses it, our faith experience ought to be "life changing" but too often it has no effect at all. This is only confirmed in his prayer that we receive, "***Grace and peace (to you) many times over as (you) we deepen in experience with God and Jesus, our Master.***"

The question to be answered is, 'How different are our lives because of our faith?' 'Does anyone around us notice this difference?' 'Does anyone ask why we make different choices than those around us?' Or do we simply fit right in?

How real and impactful is our faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord? Peter's letter continues:

"Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God."

Many days can easily slip right by without our being at all concerned about doing what is necessary to build our relationship with God. Even clergy can find their days filled with work that has to be completed so that the intimate prayer and devotions get crowded out. Bill Hybels reminds us of this danger in the title of one of his most powerful books, **TOO BUSY NOT TO PRAY.**

God, who is love, is waiting to be invited back into our lives. "Behold I stand at the door and knock" said Jesus. He is calling to you and I to become our best and closest friend. How shall we answer him today, tomorrow, later this week? The very quality of our lives depends on it.

Lord Jesus, open our ears that we may hear and our hearts that we may respond. Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin