

The Economy of Grace

Problem:

suffering and failure leaves us feeling hopeless, unable to change and grow in Christ.

Text:

Peter, an apostle

1Pet. 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

who is this apostle? - Matt 14:28-32; 16:15-23; 17:1-8; 26:30-46, 69-75;

"don't Peter out" - this is what he was known for yet, here he is an apostle speaking about the sure promises of God

->Peter is the apostle of second, third and fourth chances. Here he begins his letter with an intro about the sure work of God to bring about His purposes i His people - Peter should know.

to those chosen by the Father (in eternity past)

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

1Pet. 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,

- "the Dispersion" - James 1:1; John 7:35 - Jewish dispersion linked with this Christian one

- "exiles" - (John 17:14 (not of the world); 1 Pet 1:17, 2:11; Phil 3:18-21

- "elect exiles" - Matt 24:22, 24, 31; Rom 8:33; 2 Tim 2:10; Titus 1:1

-example - Acts 13:48

know - (yada) (Gen 4:1, 17, 25; 19:5, 8; 24:16 (sexually))

Gen 29:5 (personally)

Jer 1:5; Amos 3:2 (personally)

same in NT- Acts 19:15; Matt 7:21-23 (personally)

what about "foreknowledge"? -Romans 11:2 - to know before hand - fore-love is opposite of reject so what about us - Romans 8:29 those whom he foreknew - it was people

same as Christ - 1 Peter 1:20; Eph 1:3-11

-> God the Father chose us in Eternity past, He personally fore-loved His elect. In light of Peter we can see that based on this...

Set apart by the Spirit (in the present)

in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ

not only does God personally chose the elect, He sanctifies them by His Spirit

"sanctification" - God's will is not only the justification but the sanctification of the elect

the present tense reality of salvation - 2 th 2:13

set apart in Christ - 1 Cor 1:2

"for obedience" -> Eph 2:8-10 - in the present

a big theme here - 1 Peter 1:14, 22

->God not only chose us in eternity past He saves us in the present, setting us more and more apart in Christ for the good works He prepared for us to walk in.

Cleansed by the Son (completed in history with future results)

and for sprinkling with his blood:

"sprinkling with His blood"

-Heb 12:22-24; 9:18-26 (the finished work and future result of the cross)

->We were not only saved in eternity past by the Father, not only in the present by the Spirit, we were saved in space time history by the Son with results that are guaranteed into the future. If God is for us like this, who can be against us? how can we fail our way away from this- God did the saving, does the saving and will do the saving.

The Economy of Grace

In the economy of grace

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

same greeting - 2 Peter 1:2 - grace was multiplied to Peter

->Peter more than anybody, understood the economy of grace.

implication:

Jn 18:10-11; 13:1-10 (the most fickle character in the NT);

Jn 1:40-42 (called a rock)

Mark 16:7 (because God made him one; God was faithful - Phil 1:6 - main idea...)

->Peter, the most unstable figure in the NT, is called a rock because God made Him one.

Application: Don't Peter out

Jn 21:1-23

In God's economy of grace, past failure says nothing about future success. Do you ever think God cant use you because you are too stubborn or selfish or lazy, too uneducated, too worldly or too anything? Look at the messenger God chose to relay His promises to us and doubt no longer.

Main Idea:

Peter is proof that God finishes what He starts - God chose you, set you apart for His work and cleansed you by the precious blood of His Son- In God's economy of grace, you may fall, but it will always be up.

Action:

How would you behave if you knew the future? if you could go back in time and meet walt disney who was fired by his newspaper editor because "he lacked imagination." after watching him go bankrupt again, as he came to you discouraged what would you say

Einstein didn't talk until he was 4 , did not read until he was seven - he was expelled from school and refused admittance to the Zurich Polytechnic school. knowing what you know - how would you treat him even if he was down because of his failure.

the examples are endless.

no matter how far it looks, how bad it seems, no matter how frustrated you get
no matter how many times you fail
stay in the game - because you know the outcome

How does Peter demonstrate God's good purposes - how can we relate?

<http://godisjustlikejesus.blogspot.com/2012/10/what-peters-failures-sin-reveal-about.html>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/life-Peter.html>

<http://www.budbilanich.com/50-famous-people-who-failed-at-their-first-attempt-at-career-success/>

the subject of monergism vs synergism is all over the sermon- here is a great article to read and discuss:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/monergism-vs-synergism.html>

The Economy of Grace