

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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The Apostle Peter

Peter's Character and Actions are found in all True Christians

When Peter was first introduced to Jesus, the Lord looked into his heart and said to him, “*Thou art Simon the son of John: thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)*” (Jn. 1:42). The name “Peter” meant rock in the Greek and seems to indicate the kind of disciple Peter would be. Peter proved to be a ‘rock’ in several key incidents in the New Testament. Peter confessed the founding principle of the church by saying to Jesus, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (Matt. 16:16). On another occasion, when the multitudes had forsaken Jesus, the Lord turns to His immediate disciples and said, “*Would ye also go away?*” It was Peter that immediately states, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life*” (Jn. 6:67-68). While participating in the discussion in the upper room with Jesus, Peter proclaimed, “*I will lay down my life for thee*” (Jn. 13:38). When Jesus faced the angry mob, it was Peter that defended the Lord by cutting off the ear of Malchus (the high priest servant) (Jn. 18:10).

Jesus knew that Peter loved Him. Jesus took special interest in Peter, James, and John. The three were together at the Lord's transfiguration (Mk. 9:2) and at the garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36ff). Although Jesus thought very highly of Peter, he was not always an ideal apostle. Peter denied the Lord at a critical time in Jesus' life and thereby sinned (Jn. 18:25-27; Mk. 14:42; Matt. 26:75). Jesus dealt with Peter's sin when appearing to the disciples for a third time on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. The three times were in accordance with the number of times Peter had denied Him. Peter responded all three times in shame, “yes.” This is

Local News:

Rosemary Garrison had triple bypass surgery this past Friday (Jan. 7th) in Lawton Ok. She was released from the hospital Thursday (Jan. 13th). Rosemary is now resting in the home of John Duvall (her son-in-law) in Lawton Ok. If you would like to send a card you may do so to the Duvall residence:

6525 NW Columbia Ave.
Lawton, Ok. 73505
580-510-9154

Thomas Gresham will be leaving for Fort Campbell Kentucky this coming Tuesday. Keep Thomas in your prayers.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Jewell Hickerson:

691-8181
(Merrill Gardens C125)

Maxine McAllister:

592-9851 (Home).

Verlon Powell

Rolling Meadows Health
Care Room 31

Calvin York:

692-0489 (Home).

why I believe there is a part of Peter in all true disciples of Jesus. We all have our moments of great faith yet we also have those moments of great failure.

One of the hardest lessons in life for us all to learn is that while we may easily see the faults of others we too have faults. We are all part of a human race filled with the problem of sin (Rom. 6:23). The sin I deal with may be different than the sin others face yet when all is said and done, we all have disappointed the Lord and thereby come to the realization that we are but lowly sinners, in desperate need the Lord's redemption. It is for this cause that the apostle Paul could say, "*Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me out of the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (Rom. 7:24). Again, Paul said, "*Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief: howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy that in me as chief might Jesus Christ show forth all his longsuffering, for an ensample of them that should thereafter believe on him unto eternal life*" (I Tim. 1:15-16). Though we all sin (I Jn. 1:9-10), we must not continue in sin (I Jn. 3:1-3, 8ff). We all must be moved to humility, shame, and embarrassment by the fear of Jehovah God and beg the Lord for our forgiveness (cf. II Cor. 7:8-11).

Sin is the great equalizer in life. The greatest and most successful man in society is brought on an equal plain with the lowly homeless man, (in relationship to God's fellowship), through a single act of sin. Peter was no better than any other disciple and neither are you and I. Clearly, Peter's character and actions are found in the true Christian. At times we are rocks and at times we are the dirt. May the Lord grant unto us all a spirit of humility that we may ask His forgiveness when acting and speaking as the filth of the world. Peter did!

John C. Robertson

Class on Islam:

There will be a class starting mid February to discuss the religion of Islam. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer with a desired day and time section to check.

The Bible; God's Inspired Word

Introduction:

The external evidences of the inspiration of God's Word help us to understand the validity of the Bible. Thousands of manuscripts have been discovered throughout the ages that uniformly agree in consistency bringing factual evidence to the reality of God's Word. Today we shall examine some internal evidences of the validity of God's Word. The Bible itself lays claims to being the inspired Word of God. Let us study and let us believe.

I. The Origin of Divine Revelation:

- A. *"Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work"* (II Tim. 3:16-17).
- B. The creative breath of God was not limited to the scriptures. We find too that God created the world with his breath. The Psalmist said, *"By the word of Jehovah were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth"* (Ps. 33:6).

II. No Man could have ever dreamed up the Scriptures:

- A. The apostle Peter said, *"And we have the word of prophecy made more sure; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the daystar arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of scriptures is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit"* (II Pet. 1:19-21).
- B. That which is not of divine origin (inspiration) is termed *"fleshly wisdom"* (II Cor. 1:11-12), the *"will of man"* (II Pet. 1:19), and the *"imagination"* of man (II Cor. 10:3-5). Paul denied having preached such a message (II Cor. 10:2, 12, 17-18).

III. God has revealed Himself to Man:

- A. Since the scriptures are a product of God's divine breathing it stands to reason that if we prove that God is then the scriptures are real.
- B. God has revealed Himself to man in two ways:
 - 1. Through creation man can see the reality of Jehovah God (Isa. 45:18-22; Psalms 19:1; Rom. 1:18-23).
 - 2. Through revelation man may be instructed by Jehovah God (Isa. 46:9-10; I Cor. 2:6-13; Gal. 1:11-12).

Conclusion:

The scriptures have as their origin the breath of God, that is, they are inspired of God. God spoke and the scriptures came into being bit by bit. God delivered these teachings to the apostles and prophets by means of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:25; 16:13; Eph. 3:3ff). The scriptures are so far removed from the imagination of man that we know it could have in now way came by the imagination of man (II Cor. 10:3-5). The creation proves the reality of God and thereby of necessity the reality of the scriptures (Isa. 45, 46; Rom. 1:18ff; I Cor. 2:6ff). Do you believe in the reality of the scriptures? Why not hear and obey today before its everlasting too late.