

Peter Old & New

Intro: In our continuing search for “What is a Christian suppose to be doing?”, we look at the life of Peter before and after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Especially from the vantage point of what he communicated in 1 Peter, which he wrote not long before his death. I believe if we listen, there is a lot we can learn.

1. We see what Peter valued in his first recorded letter written near the end of his life.
 - A. In persecution, put your faith and hope in the resurrected Christ. 1:3-9
 - B. “Gird your loins”...and be holy. 1:13-21
 - C. We are a chosen people. We should act that way. 2:1-12
 - D. Be a person of submission. 2:13-3:7
 - E. Bad people should not control your person. 3:8-3:22
 - F. Be faithful to Christ as you treat other people, whether allies or enemies 4:1-19
 - G. Live a life of submission and humility. 5:5-7
 - H. Resist the temptation to do evil and be “steadfast in the faith”. 5:5-12

2. How Peter lived before the death and resurrection of Christ: I think something changed. See if you agree.
 - A. What was the fundamental wrong seen in Old Testament figures Saul, Uzzah and David? There is terrible price to pay for willfulness.
 - B. Peter, when acknowledging the true identity of Jesus in Matthew 16:18ff
 - C. Peter, at the Mount of Transfiguration when Moses & Elijah appear. Matthew 17
 - D. Peter, in Gethsemane when Jesus was being arrested. John 18:1-10
 - E. In each case, Peter was behaving in a “big way” with a grand demonstration of his faith.
 - F. Matthew 17:5 expresses the lesson that each disciple “wannabe” should note.

3. What Peter and We Often Forget about Jesus’ Life
 - A. In the wilderness (Matthew 4), Jesus turned down “something big” from Satan.
 - B. When people wanted to make Jesus king, he ran from them. John 6:15
 - C. When Pilate facetiously accused Jesus of being his competition, Jesus said his kingdom was not “of this world”. John 18:36

Conclusion: God is not interested in me or you doing something big. The reason is clear to me: What do we do after we’ve done our big thing? Ephesians 4:1-2 & 1 Peter 3:15-18 describe what “big stuff” God wants to see from us. Waiting for that big spiritual explosion only prevents us from doing what God truly values and wants to see from us today.