

SERMON STUDY NOTES

28th June 2020

Speaker: Martin Armstrong

"Checklist for a Godly life" 2 Peter 1:5-9

1. *'The Entry point to the Christian life is faith in Jesus Christ.'* What does that mean?
2. There were very few books around in Peter's time. People became very good at memorising things. Can anyone recall the 8 qualities listed in v 5. What other lists like this are there in the NT.
3. Goodness means excellence - doing well what we're meant to do. This means that we don't need to be in the worship team if we can't sing or play an instrument. Give other examples of situations where we try to perform in areas which are outside our area of gifting.
4. **Knowledge** means knowing the difference between right and wrong. There is no point in being a good writer if you write about the wrong things. Give some other examples where a lack of knowledge ruins our effectiveness.
5. **Self-control** means keeping our passions focused. When passions get out of control they become, selfish and destructive. Give some examples.

6. Many people want a gospel that promises physical and material blessings and comfort in this life and then heaven in the next. Have you ever considered that some of the blessings God sends us come in the form of hardship? Discuss (Heb 12:7 James 1:3-4)
7. Every **test of endurance** is also a test of **self-control** - it will expose areas of weakness in our personality, emotions, attitudes, desires and our thought life. Things like fear, discouragement, depression, lust, addictions, anger, jealousy, and pride may surface in our lives and need to be dealt with. Discuss
8. **Godliness** describes a person whose life is centred in God. A person who is full of the Spirit and whose presence creates an atmosphere permeated by a spiritual fragrance. Do you know people like that?
9. **Brotherly kindness** is the way believers should relate to each other. 2000 yrs of Church history show that it isn't easy for Christians to love each other. Rival groups of Christians, all claim to be "the true Church". Why is this the case?
10. Our continual jostling against each other in personal relationships enables our rough edges to be gradually worn down, until they become smooth. We can be quick to see faults in others but fail to see them in ourselves. Discuss

11. **'Agape love'** means always doing our best for others whether we feel like it or not. It is the love that causes us to "*bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us.*" God will test us in these areas to grow us. Discuss
12. If we do not desire to grow in these areas and persevere against the tide, then we will be *ineffective and unproductive* v 8-9. A person who is not pressing forward in these qualities is described as *nearsighted and blind* because a blur of worldly desires have swallowed up the promises of God. How do you rate in these things?