

DILIGENCE 4

“Something more sure”

The Situation:

False Teachers

- One of the occasions for the letter was the threat being posed by false teachers
- The letter was Peter’s means of fighting back against this attack

False teachers promote the pursuit of sin

False teachers attack the Truth/truth

- Romans 1:18 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
- v. 16 – “cleverly devised myths”
- Assailing the Truth – the first target was Son of God himself; they questioned Jesus Christ’s very personhood and they undermined what he had accomplished on the cross
- Assailing the truth – the second target was the Word of God; they maligned the Scriptures and called them into question

The Solution:

Peter preaches the pursuit of Christlikeness

- The last three sermons, that considered verses 1-15, make it clear that Peter was very much concerned with not sinning, with living a Christlike life

Peter affirms the Truth/truth

- 2 Peter 1:16-18 (ESV)
- Mark 9:2-7 (ESV)
- Peter’s first solution to the false teaching is to affirm the person and work of the Truth - Jesus
- Peter’s second solution is to affirm the truth - Scriptures
- 2 Peter 1:19-21 (ESV)

The Strategy:

Diligently pursue a thorough understanding and experience of Christ

- In Robert A. Peterson's thorough work called *Salvation Accomplished by the Son: The Work of Christ*, the author lists the events that comprise the works of Christ:
 - Incarnation
 - Sinless Life
 - Death
 - Resurrection
 - Ascension
 - Session
 - Pentecost
 - Intercession
 - Second Coming

Diligently pursue a high view of Scripture

- "When we speak of a high view of scripture it is this – that God has unveiled Himself through the pages of scripture and culminated His revelation of truth in His Son. This revelation is enscripturated in the 66 books that portrays God's story as a unified whole. Having a high view of scripture means that we assign scripture as the final authority of faith and practice. It is recognizing that God has already spoken through His word. Thus, we read it with the intent of understanding what each author is striving to convey and how each piece fits within the unified whole."
- Peter contends, and I couldn't agree more, that one of the strategies for combating sin is a high view of Scripture. I think at the bottom of much of our allying ourselves with sin comes, ultimately, from an undermining of God's Word. I offer a suggestion as a place to start in your cultivating of a high view of Scripture: *Taking God at His Word* by Kevin DeYoung

Digging Deeper

Peter's second letter indicates that one of the ways in which sin makes inroads in our lives is through detractions and denials of the person and work of Jesus. For instance, false teachers tried to promote sinful living by denying Jesus was God's king who was coming to judge and rule the world. We can resist sin by affirming the person and work of Jesus.

An excellent read on the person and work of Jesus is Jonathan Edward's sermon *The Excellency of Christ*. Considers these "diverse excellencies" that Edwards finds in Christ and meditate on the corresponding Scriptures:

There meet in Jesus Christ:

- infinite justice and infinite grace – 1 John 1:9
- infinite glory and lowest humility – Philippians 2:5-6
- infinite majesty and transcendent meekness – 2 Peter 2:16, Matthew 11:29
- deepest reverence towards God and equality with God – Philippians 2:8-9
- infinite worthiness of good, and patience under evil – 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 12:2
- exceeding obedience, with supreme dominion – John 14:31, Ephesians 1:20-22
- absolute sovereignty and perfect resignation – Colossians 1:16, Matthew 26:39
- self-sufficiency, and an entire trust and reliance on God – Revelation 1:8, 1 Peter 2:23

Consider reading the full sermon here: <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/edwards/sermons.excellency.html>