

INTRODUCTION

1. 2Pt 1:1-3 a certain *kind* or quality of faith. We have the same kind of faith as the apostles!
2. Faith is determined by what is believed: death & resurrection of Jesus. Faith has the quality of the gospel. Tonite: cross-quality.

1st: The Cross Quality of Discipleship

1. Summons to repent & believe = call to discipleship. Mt 16:24-25
 - i. At the core of discipleship is cross-like living.
 - ii. Our focus: death to self of this age - pick up cross & follow Jesus.
2. Jn 12:24-26 Jesus is hours from the cross. Yet see hope & relevance to life in this age: service to Christ in denial of *life in this world* - godless.
3. Disciples expect wealth, power in Jesus' kingdom [Mat 20:20-23] but must *drink cup*. The starting point for discipleship: self-denial, die w/ Christ.

2nd: The Cross Quality of Union with Christ

1. Rom 6 Baptism: union w/ Christ in His death & resurrection.
 - i. Function of 'sacrament' - to bridge the redemptive event to faith
 - 0a. Passover - so too, Lord's Table.
 - b. Redemptive event defines the identity & experience of worshiper.
 - c. We are *in Christ*: defined by His death & resurrection: Rom 6:8, 11, 13
 - ii. 1st command in Roms: 6:11 - *consider yourselves to be dead*
 - a. *consider* = think according to certain rules; take all into account & come to a definitive deduction.
 - 1) a financial term
 - 2) a legal term - imputation; crediting our account

3) that process: determination b/c union w/ Jesus' death & res

b. We are united to Jesus' death & res so we now live according to His resurrection *as those alive from the dead*.

2. Imitate Christ - Phil 2:3-8 *the attitude of Christ* [v2 way of thinking]
 - i. self-denying & other directed [v3-4]
 - ii. Jesus, the Son, was first humbly obedient then exalted - v 9-11 [Jn 13]

Applic #1: Learn to Recognize the Way of the Cross & Then, by Faith - Go the Way of the Cross

1. We live in a fallen world & suffer evil & death.
2. A peculiar suffering unique to the Xn - suffering the world's hatred
 - i. spectrum tension being in this world while not of the world wh/ can fluctuate in different times & places.
 - ii. The cross always stands tw/ us & life lived in this age - Gal 6:14
3. The challenge of self-denial for Jesus' sake.
 - i. way of cross in personal sanctification - Col 3:1-5
 - ii. way of the cross in personal relationships: Col 3:8-9
 - iii. Where does the way of the cross lead?
 - a. In this age? - v12-16
 - b. Ultimately? v4
4. Ask Jesus to teach you His humility; to give you discernment to see & go the way of the cross in the expectation that the Spirit will display resurrection life in & thru you.