

Lesson 10- “Tough-Minded About Heaven”

2 Peter 3:10-18

“Don’t be sloppy in your thinking. Don’t get casual. We’re in a battle and have to prepare ourselves for victory. If we as Christians don’t gird up our minds, we will absorb the thinking of this world. We’ll start believing that the world system is all there is—that there is no future, no heaven, no rewards, no eternal worship of God, and no service God in the new heaven and new earth. If we don’t stay focused on heaven, allowing that hope to pull us purposefully through this world, we will get bogged down spiritually and lose our edge.”¹

1. TOUGH-MINDED ABOUT PURITY² (2 PET. 3:11)

- “Pursuing godliness and denying ungodliness are not theoretical ideas, they are actionable ideas—hands on goals to pursue. In the world we live in, anyone who is not “pursuing” and “denying” is going to get caught up in the things of the world.”³
- “...when I’ve meditated on heaven, sin is terribly unattractive. It’s when my mind drifts from heaven that sin seems attractive. Thinking of heaven then leads, inevitably, to pursuing holiness. ***Our high tolerance for sin testifies of our failure to prepare for heaven.***”⁴

2. TOUGH-MINDED ABOUT HIS PROMISES (2 PET. 3:12)

- C.S. Lewis wrote, “I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country which I shall not find until after my death. I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside. I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and help as many as I can, do the same.”⁵

3. TOUGH-MINDED ABOUT OUR PURPOSE (2 PET. 3:14)

- Cast off every weight and sin; stay in your lane; run your race with perseverance; don’t get disqualified.

4. TOUGH-MINDED ABOUT OUR PROFESSION (2 PET. 3:17)

- “...be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.”

5. TOUGH-MINDED ABOUT OUR PROGRESS (2 PET. 3:18)

A. Growth Comes Through The Will of God

- Spiritually...eat right, exercise and get rest.

B. Growth Comes Through The Watchfulness of Prayer

- As in physical exercise, we must exercise ourselves unto godliness, and that requires discipline. Prayer is a spiritual discipline, just like working out at the gym. We don’t get fit “when we feel like it”. No, we MAKE ourselves go workout when we DON’T feel like it. Spiritual fitness is not a “one and done” deal. It comes through the cumulative effect of showing up the many times you didn’t “feel like it”.

C. Growth Comes Through The Word of God

- “...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,” (1 Pet. 2:2 NASB)

D. Growth Comes Through The Work of The Church

- “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Heb. 10:24-25)

“If you have read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for this present world, were just those who thought the most of the next.”⁶ - C. S. Lewis

¹ David Jeremiah; *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven- Study Guide; Turning Point; 2009; p.134*

² David Jeremiah; *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven- Study Guide; Turning Point; 2009; Outline p.133*

³ *Ibid.* p. 135

⁴ Randy Alcorn; *Heaven; Tyndale House; 2004*

⁵ C.S. Lewis; *Mere Christianity; Macmillan; 1960*

⁶ *Ibid.*