

## Tested Genuineness; 1 Peter 1:6-9

### I. Importance

- a. What do we consider important?
- b. It won't take long, for people who are watching, to see what is important to you
- c. We take (make) time to do things that are important to us
- d. We expend effort and resources on the things that are important to us
- e. The question is not what we consider important, but what God considers important

### II. Born Again

- a. 1 Peter 1:3–5 (ESV); <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- b. Nicodemus' understanding is so important for us
  - i. John 3:4 (ESV); Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"
  - ii. Nicodemus understood that it was starting over again from the very beginning
  - iii. And it is! – Our lives, up to this point, are headed for eternal destruction, but we start completely over, we are born again
  - iv. John 3:5 (ESV); Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
  - v. Romans 6:3–7 (ESV); <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin.
  - vi. Acts 2:38 (ESV); And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - vii. Unless you "are born of water and the Spirit" you "cannot enter the Kingdom of God"
- c. No wonder this is such an essential part of our conversion to Christ – we must lay down our old life and start over with Christ

### III. Various Trials

- a. 1 Peter 1:6–7 (ESV); <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- b. The phrase, ‘various trials’ just doesn’t seem to carry the gravity of meaning behind it when we are talking about our ‘various trials’
  - i. Our trials can be grievous
  - ii. Talk to someone who has lost a loved one, a job, a home, and you can add anything else in there that you like
  - iii. When it is happening to us (to me) then it is a major issue – we really need to see other’s tragedies the same way
- c. These trials have a purpose
  - i. James 1:2–4 (ESV); <sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
  - ii. Matthew 5:10–12 (ESV); <sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- d. We grow and mature through the trials we are put through – remember the phrase in our text, ‘tested genuineness’
- e. While God already knows the outcome of the test, we don’t – these tests are for us, not for God
- f. “More precious than gold that perishes” – is that how we view our faith?
  - i. Is our faith the most important thing to us?
  - ii. If it is, how does it affect our love for one another, our giving, our actions, our words?

#### IV. The Outcome

- a. 1 Peter 1:8–9 (ESV); <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- b. This is how we remain steadfast through our trials – we keep our eyes on Jesus, our face resolutely set towards heaven
- c. Yes, sometimes we do not pass the test, we stumble and fall down – but we get back up and press on
  - i. 1 John 5:13 (ESV); I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

- ii. There is no guess work here – we should answer, “I don’t know” to the question, “are you saved”
- iii. Even when we fall down (only kick yourself hard enough to get back up off the ground)
- iv. Salvation is a sure thing for those who walk according to the Spirit – for those who walk in the light
- v. 1 John 1:6–10 (ESV); <sup>6</sup> If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
- vi. Romans 8:1 (ESV); There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

d. Remain steadfast, walk in the light, walk according to the Spirit

#### V. Tested Genuineness

- a. We all suffer through ‘various trials’
- b. We must keep our eyes on Jesus through these trials – remain steadfast
- c. We must remember what God says is important – “the tested genuineness of our faith”
- d. The outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls