

“A Faith of Equal Standing” (2 Peter 1:1–2)
10/20/19, GCC Morning Worship Service

- I. Overview of 2 Peter
 - A. 2 Peter is “dark corner of the New Testament”
 - B. Three Theologically Rich and Relevant Themes Addressed in 2 Peter
 - 1. Sanctification: A Push-Back Against Antinomianism (2 Peter 1:1–15)
 - 2. A Warning and Guard Against False Teaching and moral corruption in the church (2 Peter 2)
 - 3. Eschatology: Addressing Naysayers and Grounding Our Ethic in the Second Coming (3:1–14)

- II. The Author and the Date (1:1a)
 - A. The authorship of 2 Peter is more disputed than any other book in the New Testament
 - B. Reasons against Petrine authorship and a response
 - C. There is no convincing reason to deny Petrine authorship sometime between 64 and 68 AD

- II. A Faith of Equal Standing (1:1b)
 - A. How is “faith” being used here?
 - B. Have “obtained”
 - C. What is meant by “equal standing?”

- III. Through what Means is this faith of equal standing received? (1:1c)
 - A. By righteousness obtained
 - 1. “By” speaks of the means by which this faith of equal standing was obtained
 - 2. Righteousness is the perfect obedience obtained by Jesus Christ through his submission to the law of God
 - 3. The term “righteousness” refers to the **“quality or state of juridical correctness with focus on redemptive action.”**
 - B. The Demands and Curses of the Law Fulfilled
 - 1. The opposite of righteousness is sin (1 Jn 3:4). The opposite of lawlessness is lawfulness (i.e., righteousness)
 - 2. What does the law tell us in broad strokes?
 - a. Sins must be paid for (Deut 27:26; Lev 4:26; Gal 3:10)
 - b. If life is to be obtained, the law must be kept perfectly (Lev 18:5; cf. Rom 10:5; Gal 3:12).
 - 3. God doesn’t change the requirement just because we are now unable to keep it
 - 4. Jesus says “Do this and Live!” (Luke 10:25–28)
 - 5. Paul looks for a righteousness from the law that is not of himself (Phil 3:8–9)
 - 6. Christ’s Obedience in Life and Death on a Cross are both Necessary for our Salvation
 - 7. Forgiveness alone does not merit eternal life
 - C. Only the Sinless God-Man Could Accomplish this Redemption (1:1c)

- IV. The Ongoing Benefits of God's Sovereign Work of Salvation in our Lives (1:2)
 - A. Our performance and standing with God must always be viewed through the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ (Isa 61:10)
 - B. Where is your boast this morning?

Questions for Application and Discussion:

1. What does Peter mean by a "faith of equal standing?"
2. If salvation were based on individual merit, would a "faith of equal standing" be possible?
3. How does Peter's use of "obtained" in 1:1 highlight the sovereign election of God in our salvation?
4. Why does Peter say that our faith of equal standing was obtained by the righteousness of Jesus Christ in 1:1?
5. What does Peter mean by "righteousness" in 1:1?
6. What two things does the law say about "living" before God (i.e., "being accepted before God")?
7. Read Luke 10:25–28.
 - a. How does Jesus answer the question: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
 - b. When the lawyer answers with the law, how does Jesus respond?
 - c. Is Jesus saying that a sinful man, such as this lawyer, could keep the law perfectly in order to be saved?
 - d. What was Jesus trying to get this man (and us) to realize?
8. God requires perfect, perpetual, and personal obedience in order to be saved. If man disobeys, the law calls down a curse upon those who disobey it. But man is incapable of keeping the law perfectly. Does God change the requirements of the law in order to make it possible for man to achieve this perfection?
9. If God does not change the requirements, what does He do in order to save man?
10. Would Christ's sacrifice on the cross have offered forgiveness to sinners if he had not been perfectly obedient?
11. How does the cross of Christ answer both demands of the law?
12. What is meant by "double imputation?"
13. How does a faith of equal standing through the righteousness of Jesus Christ continue to multiply grace and peace to us throughout our lives?