

The St. Peter Option: To Everyone an Answer

Living as Exiles in a Foreign Land

1 Peter, 2 Peter, Christian Vocation, and the Table of Duties

16 Peter's Christology of Vocation and Earthly Pilgrimage: An Introduction to the Table of Duties

Understanding Christian Vocation: Peter's Pilgrimage as an Apostle of the Gospel

The gift of forgiveness in Christ is the basis for the fervor of Peter's confession, even when he may not have realized the extent to which the gift of forgiveness in Christ for him as an unworthy sinner was central to his calling as a Christian and an Apostle.

Peter's Confession: Matthew 16:13-28

1. He believed and confessed the truth: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God..." (verse 16)
2. The death and resurrection of Christ was at the heart of this confession and is the foundation of the Church and her ministry to the lost.
3. Peter believed and confessed, yet he denied the centrality of the cross for the very salvation he believed in
4. Jesus catechizes them to understand that dying to self (taking up the cross) and suffering for the salvation of others is central to our vocation as Christians in our lives and in the ministry.

Peter's Fervent Vow in the Upper Room: Luke 22:31-34

1. Satan's desire is to destroy faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins.
2. Peter made a sincere vow to remain faithful to his Lord and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from Jesus.
3. Peter did not have the strength to be faithful to the vow he had made.
4. That Peter received the Lord's forgiving grace in the context of suffering with his own sin and spiritual weakness taught him total dependence upon Christ and the meaning of his vocation: to give Christ's forgiving grace to others.
5. "When you have returned to Me; strengthen your brethren..." (verse 32)

The Lord Catechized Peter in the Grace of God for Jew and Gentile Alike: Acts 10:1-43

1. Even though Peter had been with the Lord for three years, and witnessed His forgiving grace to Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles, he was still slow to understand his calling to proclaim the forgiving grace of Christ to the Gentiles.
2. "God shows no partiality" – verse 34
3. "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." – verse 43 ends his sermon

Peter's Understanding of Vocation Rests upon the Forgiving Grace of Christ for all: 1 Peter 2:11-25

1. The forgiving grace of Christ is what called us to be His people.
2. "To proclaim the praises of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light" is what we are called to by the Gospel for our salvation and what we are called to in the lives we are given to live as Christians.
3. A subtle, yet powerful distinction within the word "vocation" (One's station and the unique call of the Gospel of Christ's forgiving grace)

4. Luther's axiom in "The Freedom of a Christian" and its implications for the Christological understanding of Christian Vocation:
 - a. A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none;
 - b. A Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to all.
5. Peter's theology of vocation rests upon Christ's joyful and faithful suffering under Pontius Pilate.
6. The unbeliever, especially the persecutor, observes our conduct ("good works") and glorifies God in the day of visitation. (verse 11-12). "Visitation" is itself a reference to Christ coming with His forgiving grace in both word and deed to unworthy sinners, persecutors, and those who hate Him.
7. Citizens, Servants, Persecuted Christians, Wives and Husbands find their identity in Christ.
8. Luther's theology of Vocation and the collection of passages in the Table of Duties rests upon the calling of Christ's forgiving grace.