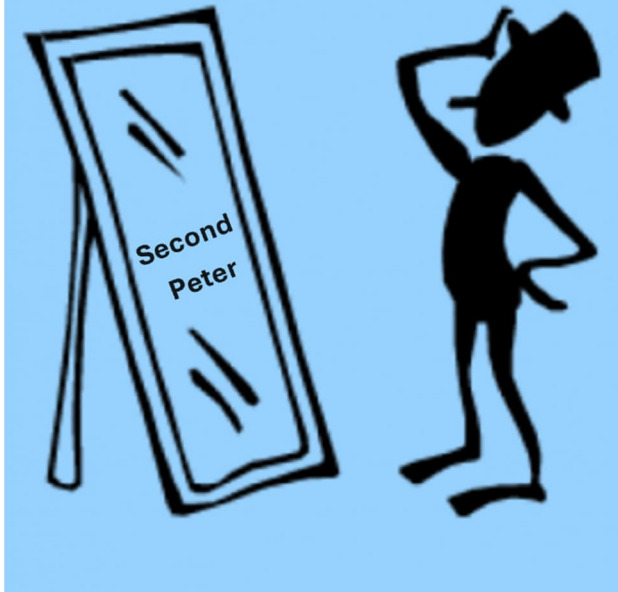


Daily Devotion



Reading, Reflecting & Praying
through

2 Peter

Monday 6 – Sunday 26 March 2023

Introduction

At the beginning of First Peter, we examined the context within which it was penned. Unlike Paul who wrote to specific churches and often to named individuals, Peter addressed the dispersed groups of Believers. They would perhaps have copied the letters and passed them on to other Believers. As Peter approached the end of his natural life (1:14), he wanted to build up the Believers to prosper.

The first letter was concerned with the enemies of Christ outside the Church, but the second letter addresses the enemies of Christ inside the groups of Believers.

I read somewhere, what we might call now a “sound bite” summary of 2 Peter, which emphasises the themes of this letter.

Beware, But Grow

In Chapter 1, Peter tells us that he is writing to stir up and remind the brethren.

If the key word in the First letter was “suffering” the key word in this second letter is “knowledge”, it is mentioned 16 times in the three chapters.

Whilst Peter urges the Believers to be on their guard against false teaching from inside the “Church” he offers a **solution we need to know what we believe**. This would also affect our own responses and desires.

Growth as a Christian is not an option it is an essential requirement. We look at our skin as a permanent, fixed feature, but the dermis cells die and are replaced by new cells, so you replace your outer skin every 2 months or so, growth of new cells is an integral part of how the body works. In the same way if we are not growing as Christians, our spiritual relationship with the Lord will be hindered.

How we grow could be the subject of a lengthy discussion in a small group, but one obvious way is to immerse ourselves in the inspired word of God. These devotions are a part of that process.

I have been a Christian for a very long time, and you may think that in all that time reading God's word daily there would be nothing new to learn. And yet I think of the word of God as a highly faceted diamond. Each time I read a passage, no matter how familiar that might be, he is capable of shining His light through the Holy Spirit onto a new facet. A glimpse of something fresh and relevant for now, and a building block that continues the path of growth for the future.

As Peter puts it in 2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Credit

The introduction and the days marked **PSA** were penned by Philip Ash of Elim Church Colchester.

The days marked **MAA** were written by Adewale Adefuye of Ipswich International Church.

Mon, 6th Mar

Faith of Equal Standing



2 Peter 1:1-2 **BSB**

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.



In his first epistle, Peter introduced himself simply as Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. Here he uses his other name, Simon, in addition to Peter and describes himself as a slave of Christ also.

a. Why is this important?

On this occasion, he writes to those who have **received a faith as precious as ours**

... a faith of equal standing with ours ESV

... the same kind as ours NASB

- b. How is this precious faith obtained?
- c. How is it **not** received?
- d. How does the faith you have received measure with that received by St Peter and the other apostles?

The multiplication formula for grace and faith remains the same.

- e. How is grace multiplied?
- f. How is peace multiplied?
- g. How are they **not** multiplied?

Application

- h. What are you doing to increase in grace and faith?

Tue, 7th Mar

Wonders of Divine Grace



2 Peter 1:3-4 BSB

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. **4** Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.



St Peter tells us what we have been given.

- a. What have we been given?
- b. How is it received?
- c. How do we become partakers of the divine nature?

He says we have escaped the corruption in the world.

- d. How do you understand this?
- e. What cause(s) the corruption in the world?

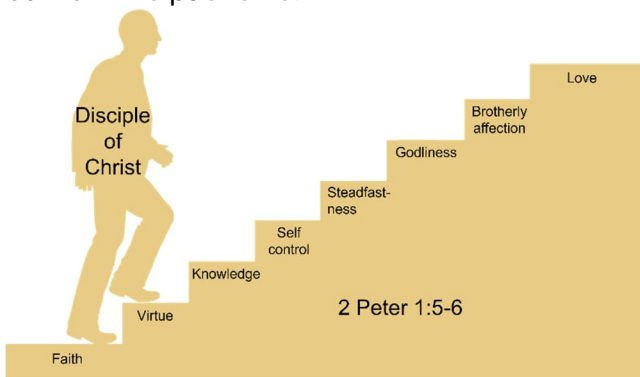
Wed, 8th Mar

Additions to Faith (Faith+)



2 Peter 2:5-9 BSB

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities and continue to grow in them, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever lacks these traits is near-sighted to the point of blindness, having forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.



keep you from being ineffective and unproductive...
...not lazy nor fruitless in [Aramaic Bible in Plain English]

Faith is like a foundation of a building on which a superstructure is raised.

- Of what use is a foundation on which nothing is built?
- Can you be lazy and fruitless in your experience of Christ?
- Are you effective and productive in your faith?
- How does Peter describe a lack of these qualities?

Thu, 9th Mar

The Practice of Righteousness



2 Peter 1:10-15 BSB

10 Therefore, brothers, strive to make your calling and election sure. For if you practice these things, you will never stumble, **11** and you will receive a lavish reception into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Therefore I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are established in the truth you now have. **13** I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of my body, **14** because I know that this tent will soon be laid aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. **15** And I will make every effort to ensure that after my departure, you will be able to recall these things at all times.



verse 10

*make every effort to confirm your ... [CSB]
[be sure that your behaviour reflects and confirms your
relationship with God] [Amplified]*

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.¹

With Christ in the heart of the Disciple and growing, the fruits of virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love should be evident.

- a. Why should the Called and the Elect make sure of their calling and election?
- b. How do the Called and the Elect make sure of their calling and election?

MAA

¹ Matthew 12:33

Fri, 10th Mar

No "Cleverly Devised Fables"



2 Peter 1:16-18 BSB

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. **17** For He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." **18** And we ourselves heard this voice from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.



Peter recalls and shares the basis of his conviction of the truth he had professed. He was an eyewitness when Jesus was transfigured before them.²

It is very important that our thoughts are right about the divinity of Christ. It is clear from Scripture that Christ is the Son of God, in such sense as to prove Him Divine; for St. Paul argues from His Sonship, His superiority to angels, "Unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?"

There are seasons when we all feel anxious to know on what ground we stand, just because we cannot go into eternity thinking and guessing. We must have assurance.

- a. What do you believe about Christ?
- b. Why do you believe what you believe?

² Matthew 17:1-13

Sat, 11th Mar

The Lamp in the Dark



2 Peter 1:19-21 BSB

19 We also have the word of the prophets as confirmed beyond doubt. And you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. **20** Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture comes from one's own interpretation. **21** For no such prophecy was ever brought forth by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



If personal, physical interaction was the only ground of certainty concerning Christ, Peter may well be certain; but what of those [of us] who have no such personal contact? The apostle deals with that in the passage before us.

We also have...

Certainty about Christ can be derived from giving heed to the Scriptures of the Old Testament which prophesied the coming of the Messiah. The exact number of prophecies that Jesus fulfilled varies depending on interpretation, it is commonly believed to be over 300 prophecies.

- a. Do you believe the prophets?³
- b. Can you recall some of the prophecies the coming of Jesus fulfilled?

³ The question St Paul posed to King Agrippa in Acts 26:27

Sun, 12th Mar

2 Peter 1:1-21

Pause & Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 2 Peter 1:1-21? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]



Elim Colchester

Thursday 10:00hrs

A warm place for people of all ages to meet. Free drink and biscuits with a place for children to play and adults to enjoy doing/sharing crafts or just chatting and socialising.

Thursday 11:30hrs

Prayer

Sunday 10:30hrs

Worship service

You are welcome!

Mon, 13th Mar

Beware of False Teachers



2 Peter 2:1-3 BSB

1 Now there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. **2** Many will follow in their depravity, and because of them the way of truth will be defamed. **3** In their greed, these false teachers will exploit you with deceptive words. The longstanding verdict against them remains in force, and their destruction does not sleep.



“There were... just as there will be...”

Peter draws inspiration from the Scriptures to form his expectation of the present. It was the same Peter who explained the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost saying “This is that which was spoken by

the prophet Joel. ⁴

In other words, what has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done.⁵

a. How do you recognise false teachers?

“Destructive heresies”, “depravity” are strong terms. These heresies destroy the soul; they bring ruin both to those who are led astray and to the false teachers themselves.

b. How do you recognise heresies of destruction?

c. How does one deny Christ?

⁴ Acts 2:26

⁵ Ecclesiastes 1:9

Tue 14th Mar

Just God



2 Peter 2:4-6 BSB

⁴ For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them deep into hell, placing them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; ⁵ if He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among the eight; ⁶ if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction, reducing them to ashes as an example of what is coming on the ungodly;



Peter cites three examples of divine judgment:

- a. What became of the wanton angels?
- b. How did God judge the ancient world?
- c. How were Sodom & Gomorrah judged?
- d. How should the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah be viewed?
- e. What do you say to God in response to these verses?

MAA

Wed, 15th Mar

Righteous Lot in Sodom



2 Peter 2:7-9 BSB

⁷ and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless ⁸ (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—⁹ if all this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.



The Spirit describes Lot as “a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless.”

tormented by the immoral conduct of unprincipled and ungodly men [Amplified Bible]

- a. Have you read the Genesis account of Lot?
- b. How does this view compare to the Genesis account?

Lot lived in Sodom before it was destroyed by divine judgement.

- c. How is your town/city/country of residence in relation to God?
- d. How does that affect you?
- e. How do you affect it for Christ?

verse 9

- f. What does the Lord know?

Thu, 16th Mar

Fate of the Warped



2 Peter 2:10-14 BSB

10 Such punishment is specially reserved for those who indulge the corrupt desires of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and self-willed, they are unafraid to slander glorious beings. **11** Yet not even angels, though greater in strength and power, dare to bring such slanderous charges against them before the Lord.

12 These men are like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be captured and destroyed. They blaspheme in matters they do not understand, and like such creatures, they too will be destroyed. **13** The harm they will suffer is the wages of their wickedness.

They consider it a pleasure to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, revelling in their deception as they feast with you. **14** Their eyes are full of adultery; their desire for sin is never satisfied; they seduce the unstable. They are accursed children with hearts trained in greed.



When we think of the sins of the wicked and twisted, we should as well think of their punishments. Sin, unrepented sin will not go unpunished. God is not mocked.⁶

A rose is a rose even in midst of thorns and thistles. Even when the world is full of toxic weeds and the Church is full of hypocrites, the man or woman of faith continues to grow and bear fruit.

- a. Who does St Peter describe in such strong terms as 'irrational animals', 'creatures of instinct' and 'born to be captured and destroyed'?

MAA

⁶ Galatians 6:7-8 BSB

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return. The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Fri 17th Mar

Lessons from Balaam's Donkey



2 Peter 2:15-16 BSB

15 They have left the straightway and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.

16 But he was rebuked for his transgression by a donkey, otherwise without speech, that spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.



Peter considers Balaam a prophet who loved the wages of wickedness. He turned the gifts of inspiration to low mercenary gain and made the things of the kingdom an affair of barter. His story is recorded in Numbers 22 where he was hired by Balak to curse the nation of Israel. He found out quickly that those who are blessed by God can't be cursed.⁷ He therefore advised Balak to lure them into fornication and idolatry.

a. What lessons can we learn from the prophet rebuked by a donkey?

MAA

⁷ Numbers 22:12

Sat, 18th Mar

A Dog Returns to its Vomit



2 Peter 2:17-22 BSB

17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. **18** With lofty but empty words, they appeal to the sensual passions of the flesh and entice those who are just escaping from others who live in error. **19** They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves to depravity. For a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. **20** If indeed they have escaped the corruption of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, only to be entangled and overcome by it again, their final condition is worse than it was at first. **21** It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than to have known it and then to turn away from the holy commandment passed on to them. **22** Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”



In today's world, many people love dogs and keep them as pets, but it was not so in the ancient world. Then they were hated; roamed in packs, foraged food from rotting flesh and garbage. The Old Testament considered dogs unclean, revolting, evil-doing scavengers.

Jesus used dogs and pigs as metaphors for unholy people. Paul also compared false prophets who had infiltrated the church to dogs. He warned Christians to “watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh” (Philippians 3:2).

- a. What do you think of the strong terms used in these verses?
- b. Why does Peter use such terms?

Sun, 19th Mar

2 Peter 2:1-22

Pause & Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 2 Peter 2:1-22? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]



Ipswich International Church

Online Daily 6am Prayer Meeting via Webex Platform

Log in: <https://iic.io/3g> (password: daily6am)

Began in January 2019 and has continued. An hour-long time of corporate devotion and usually concludes with breaking of bread. Or join by phone +44-20-7660-8149, Access code: 163 624 2254 We follow a daily devotional guide available to download from our website, <https://ipswichinternational.church>

Want to know more? Speak to St Tracey 01473 281 614

Monday 19:30hrs (during term time) via Teams Platform

Log in: <https://iic.io/3f>

eLifeClass is a conducive, interactive, stimulating, non-threatening environment to examine the canon of Scriptures with the intent to obey.

Want to know more? Speak/text St Wale 0744 804 6430

Mid-Week Relational Cells

Provide opportunity to meet others and do life together. We currently have hosts in IP1 and IP4 areas.

Please email info@iicelim.uk or call St Tracey 01473 281 614 for further information.

Sunday 11:00hrs

Celebration Service is an atmosphere of thanksgiving, celebration, and fellowship. Often ends with tea and coffee.

In-person and online at <https://iic.io/live>

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Mon, 20th Mar

The Coming Judgement



2 Peter 3:1-2 BSB

1 Beloved, this is now my second letter to you. Both of them are reminders to stir you to wholesome thinking **2** by recalling what was foretold by the holy prophets and commanded by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles.



At the beginning of this third chapter Peter is calling us to remember and fix our minds on the scriptures particularly those things predicted in the OT by the prophets and those things promised by Jesus in the NT. Specifically in the context of this chapter he is talking about the promise that there will come the “day of the Lord”. Or perhaps best described as the day of the coming of the Lord. Once again, we are being urged to fix our eyes upon Him and not to be distracted by other things.

1. How did Peter seek to stir up people’s minds?
2. What was foretold by the prophets and commanded by the Lord

Tue, 21st Mar

Keeping Focused on the Things that Matter



2 Peter 3:3-7 BSB

³ Most importantly, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

⁴ “Where is the promise of His coming?” they will ask. “Ever since our fathers fell asleep, everything continues as it has from the beginning of creation.”

⁵ But they deliberately overlook the fact that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water, ⁶ through which the world of that time perished in the flood. ⁷ And by that same word, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.



Peter along with those that accepted Christ as Saviour had been expecting the Lord to return (Mark 13). But 30 years or so had passed by and there were those who began to question if the promise was relevant anymore.

I remember as young Christian in the early 1970’s (yes I really am that old) buying a copy of Hal Lindsey’s book “The Late Great Planet Earth” which concerns itself with the end times. Since then there have been enough books to fill a library. The second coming is a biblical fact, we are to live as if today is our last, but we have to avoid trying to predict when the Lord is coming back. For example, Hal Lindsey’s books uses the conflicts and the geo-political events of the late 1960’s as evidence of the Lords imminent return. We must accept Jesus’ declaration we will not know the time, it will be unexpected, people will be doing the normal things, but in His time he will return.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [Mark 13: 32]

1. How would you do things differently if you knew for certain the Lord would return sometime during this year?
2. What would your priorities be?
3. How would it alter the way you think about:
 - a. Your Prayer Life?
 - b. Church life?
 - c. Evangelism?

PSA

Wed, 22nd Mar

The Day of the Lord



2 Peter 3:8-10 BSB

8 Beloved, do not let this one thing escape your notice: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **9** The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare.



There were those who were associated with the “church” who were teaching that OT prophecies no longer mattered, clearly since the Lord had not returned in the past 30 years He wasn’t going too. In these 3 verses Peter is urging the faithful not to forget the Lords promise.

He begins in verse 8 by quoting from Psalm 90:4. And during the rest of the chapter draws out 5 lessons from Psalm 90 in teaching the “Church”.

- a. God is an Eternal God.
- b. God is a Creator God.
- c. God is a Judging God
- d. God is a Saving God.
- e. God is a moral God.

1. What do you think about the “Day of the Lord”?
2. What other bible teachings do people in the wider church no longer think are important?

PSA

Thu, 23rd Mar

Who and What does God want us to be?



2 Peter 3:11-13 BSB

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to conduct yourselves in holiness and godliness **12** as you anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God, when the heavens will be destroyed by fire and the elements will melt in the heat. **13** But in keeping with God's promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.



Now we are challenged “What people out we to be?” Peter mentions conducting ourselves in Holy forms of behaviour and Godly deeds. These are both in the plural form in the original Greek. So, there are numerous ways in which we can demonstrate holiness and many acts of Godly deeds.

1. How confident are you that God has prepared something better than the here and now?
2. In what ways can we demonstrate holiness and Godly deeds?

PSA

Fri, 24th Mar

Final Exhortations



2 Peter 3:14-16 BSB

14 Therefore, beloved, as you anticipate these things, make every effort to be found at peace—spotless and blameless in His sight.

15 Consider also that our Lord’s patience brings salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom God gave him. **16** He writes this way in all his letters, speaking in them about such matters. Some parts of his letters are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.



In these final exhortations Peter reminds us once again that how we live and reflect Christ in our world matters. Also that God’s patience, hold off the time of his return is to give us an opportunity to evangelize and share the Gospel so many more can have the opportunity of coming to Christ. “Consider also that our Lord’s patience brings salvation”.

1. How are you going to use your time?
2. In what ways can you think of to share the gospel to those you meet?

Sat, 25th Mar

Beware, But Grow



2 Peter 3:17-18 BSB

17 Therefore, beloved, since you already know these things, be on your guard so that you will not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure standing. **18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

Amen.



Once again, we are urged to be on our guard against false teaching. Measuring up what we are told against the ultimate standard, the divinely inspired word of God. And we are to grow as Christians both in grace and knowledge.

As Paul writes in 2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

1. In what ways are you going to grow in Grace and Knowledge.
2. Instead of being led astray what challenge or alternative does Peter say we should do.

PSA

Sun, 26th Mar

2 Peter 3:1-18

Pause & Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

How would you title 2 Peter 3:1-18? _____

What have you learnt of Jesus this week?

What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt of Jesus?

What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. [James 1:22, MOFF]

Our Priorities

