

2 Peter 1:1-11

“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

The Great God Entertainment.

As Bass season approaches, we die-hard fishermen take time to review the condition of our equipment to ensure that reels are oiled, lines are free of nicks and tangles, and hooks are sharpened to a fine point. For every Christian who takes the Lord's marching orders seriously, there is a similar responsibility.

To the disciples, and through them to the church, Jesus said: "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19 NIV). The mandate of each Christian is to share the good news about forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Peter said it this way: "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15 NIV). The church is weak in fulfilling this commission due to a failure to keep personal lives sharp and untangled.

One of the Christians greatest hindrances is what A. W. Tozer calls 'The Great God Entertainment': "... the present inordinate attachment to every form of entertainment is evidence that the inner life of modern man is in serious decline... For there are millions who cannot live without amusement; life without some form of entertainment for them is simply intolerable... No one with common human feeling will object to the simple pleasures of life ... as may help to relax the nerves and refresh the mind exhausted by toil. Such things if used with discretion may be a blessing along the way. That is one thing. The all-out devotion to entertainment as a major activity for which and by which men live is definitely something else again.

The abuse of harmless things is the essence of sin. The growth of the amusement phase of human life... has been built into a multimillion dollar racket with greater power over human minds and human character than any other educational influence on earth... She (the church) appears to have decided that if she cannot conquer the great god Entertainment she may as well join forces... Religious entertainment is in many places crowding out the serious things of God. Many churches these days have become little more than theatres... It is a strange thing and a wonder that the professed followers of Christ should be giving themselves up to religious amusements? That at an hour when mature saints are so deeply needed vast numbers of believers should revert to spiritual childhood and clamour for religious toys."

Christians who clamour for entertainment allow their lives to become entangles and dull, and their witness to become ineffective. In order to become the die-hard fishers of men God intended, there is need to hear again God's words: "As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do" (1 Peter 1:13-14 NIV).

What is my response:
