

WHEN CHRISTIANITY GETS TWISTED

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting THEME: Original Christian faith

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read II Peter, the whole letter once or a couple of times.

20.00 – 20.10 Start Today we start to study II Peter. In Peter's first letter, his concern was how the church would face trouble and suffering. In his second letter, his concern is that Christianity will get twisted, as the Lord Jesus foretold. How do you see that this takes place now?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and build you up when you listen to God's Word

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage: Read II Peter 1:1-4

In today's passage, Peter begins to remind us of what original Christianity was all about.

Look again at 1 : 1-2

- Which questions do you have concerning these verses? Is there anything that strikes you in these verses?

Look again at 1 : 3a: 'His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness'

- If Peter had an error in mind that would come to the church - when he wrote this – what could that error have been?

Look again at 1 : 3b: 'through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence'

- NB: the word 'excellence' here, is the same word as 'virtue' in verse 5. Read verse 5. What do you learn?

Look again at 1 : 4

- What strikes you in these phrases?
- Why does sinful desire cause corruption?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Peter foresaw that there would come a Christianity that would see the Bible as 'an inspiring mythological book with the interpretations of people from long ago about God and Jesus'. He foresaw that preachers would see themselves as the sources who, with inspiration of the Bible, could make it relevant and could bring new knowledge to the people. He foresaw that these teachers would not pay much attention to the necessity of coming to true faith and repentance, nor to the upcoming day of judgement. They would confuse biblical grace with lawlessness. What Peter foresaw was not new. Jesus already told it – based on what the Old Testament prophets had already predicted. Take some moments to think about and meditate upon the questions below. And then share your thoughts.

- Think of the current situation of Christianity in the country you originally come from. How are Peter's words relevant there?
- What could and should we do, when we read this all?

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together.