



# FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

*WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## Are you sure?

[2 Peter 1:10–11](#) says, “Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”. The clear command is to “make your calling and election sure.”

God wants us to have assurance of our salvation, and the best way to do that is to be pursuing godly virtues and actively growing in the Christian life.

[2 Peter 1:5–7](#) lists godly qualities that believers should add to their faith—goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. In doing “these things,” one will never stumble and is promised “a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom” (verse 11).

On the surface [2 Peter 1](#) seems to affirm that one’s salvation depends on having the qualities listed in verses 5–7. On closer inspection, however, it becomes apparent that Peter is addressing those who already have “faith,” which he lists as the foundational quality. Also, Peter presumes that some of those who did *not* demonstrate these qualities had in fact been saved, for “*whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins*” ([2 Peter 1:9](#)). So, being cleansed from past sin does not automatically mean a person will grow in goodness, knowledge, etc., but, if he doesn’t “possess these qualities in increasing measure” he is spiritually myopic and forgetful of God’s grace.

It is clear that Peter presumes that his readers have already exercised faith and that these qualities are to be *added* to their faith. These same virtues allow believers to participate in the divine nature and thus distinguish themselves as a holy people. A fruitful “knowledge” of Christ comes through maintaining a close relationship with Christ—Jesus called it “[abiding](#)” in Him ([John 15](#)).

When the qualities listed in verses 5–7 are not present in a believer, it betrays the fact that he’s forgotten his true identity in Christ. In light of all that comes before, we should see the exhortation to “make your calling and election sure” as a call to “shore up” our righteous character as a holy people.

Those who successfully display the qualities in verses 5–7 are the ones who are assured of their salvation and can go through this world confident that they will “*receive a rich welcome*” as friends of God and co-heirs with Christ. They will *know* they have eternal life ([1 John 5:13](#)); they will be living testimonies of the power of God to change lives.

## Missionary Update PNG

I am not complaining, but we have some prayer requests:

The city water has been off for weeks. Still none in the jail. We take water bottles when we go, but that is not anywhere close to meeting the need. We have 2 tanks for this house, but we need rain. The school kids across the street were sent home early due to no water. There is no water where Neal works so he is carrying water to work to drink.

At the prison, I spoke with a new policeman about his own situation. He has been stationed there for his own safety. Two of his brothers have been killed. His wife wants to divorce him. He has two kids. His name is Timothy. Prayer can change things. You know, if I had been born a boy, I would have been named Timothy. That will help me remember his name and remember to pray for him. His faith is very weak just now.

Six year old Tiger was playing with a cigarette lighter and his shirt caught on fire. He has a big burn on his chest. His grandmother took him to the hospital twice, but they have no medicine. Fortunately Dr. Nimi, who is on board with MAF, has been able to help him out.

I had a bout with vertigo, but fortunately Neal and I looked up the Epley method online to refresh us on how to do it as it had helped during a previous episode. And it helped this time as well. Thank you Ginnie Clark from back during my days at Salvation Army for telling me about this method. Only God knew we would need to know this way ahead in our future.

They are working on a 4 lane highway from the airport to town. This has meant widening the road which has resulted in many properties being reduced in size. The government own 30 meters to each side, but this has made some people hopping mad. At some point police and special forces have been out.

There is a polio epidemic on part of the island. It was discovered in April and they are just now starting to immunize. We will be getting immunized through MAF. There is also measles and whooping cough on parts of the island. Many children have not been immunized. Remember this is the second largest island in the world and many parts are only accessible by plane, if there is a landing spot.

God knows and I am trusting Him to turn what seems impossible into good. Only He can do that. Lois

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*The Philadelphia Access Center* is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at [www.philaccess.org](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://www.facebook.com/philaccess).

**WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS**

	Meets at FCA	Meets at PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study – Phila -location</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila Location Worship Service &amp; Children’s Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Discipleship class (Fellowship hall)</i>	
Wednesday		1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Free Indeed</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men’s Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Free Indeed*; Is a Spirit led Men’s Fellowship that emphasizes godly counsel, leading to spiritual growth, healing and deliverance.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one’s addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

**Youth Group meets tonight – See Jason or Jennifer Kohn for details**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Ministries at First Christian (Phila.& NJ) and the Philadelphia Access Center
- Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith
- Our supported missionaries
- For our Pastor and his family
- Paula Grazulis

**The amount of time we spend with Jesus - meditating on His Word and His majesty, seeking His face - establishes our fruitfulness in the kingdom. Charles Stanley**