

COME, JOIN THE CONVERSATION
ON
PETER AND THE FIRST EPISTLE THAT BEARS HIS NAME

CONVERSATION PLAN for Thursday – November 13, 2014
Session #5 – *“A Challenge for God’s People to be Different”*
1 Peter 1:13 – 2:12

FELLOWSHIP INTRODUCTIONS: - briefly - who are we who have gathered today in Ogram Hall?

SCRIPTURE PROVIDES TODAY’S INITIAL FOCUS: *“Once you have your minds ready for action and you are thinking clearly, place your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Don’t be conformed to your former desires, those that shaped you when you were ignorant. But, as obedient children, you must be holy in every aspect of your lives, just as the one who called you is holy. It is written, ‘You will be holy, because I am holy.’”* 1 Peter 1:13-16 (CEB)

OPENING PASTORAL PRAYER:

THE MUTUAL SHARING OF PEACE BY GOD’S PEOPLE:

A LOOK AT OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SESSION:

- To complete unfinished portions of **Session Plan #4 (please bring last week’s plan with you!)**
- To fully explore the *“new way of life”* which believers have been given.
- To first understand, and, then to contemporize the reality that believers are a chosen priesthood

A Helpful Outline for systematically understanding Peter’s thoughts:

- ***First step*** -

Think of the main body of 1st Peter as being divided into **two** major parts:

- A) The **Indicatives** of the Christian Faith (1 Peter 1:3 - 2:10)
- B) The **Imperatives** of the Christian Faith (1 Peter 2:11 – 5:11)

- ***next step*** -

A) The **Indicatives** of the Christian Faith – (TEXTS AND COMMENTS FOR “A-1” INCLUDED ON SESSION PLAN #4)

1. ***Believers have a precious Salvation*** (1:3-12)
 - i) giving them hope (1:3-5)
 - ii) giving them joy (1:6-9)
 - iii) witnessed by OT prophets (1:10-11)
 - iv) really, the desire of angels! (1:12)

2. **Believers have been given a new way of life** (1:13-25)

- i) a way of life that requires the holiness of “*obedient children*” (1:13-16)

¹³ ***So brace up your minds; be sober*** (CIRCUMSPECT, MORALLY ALERT); ***set your hope wholly and unchangeably on the grace*** (DIVINE FAVOR) ***that is coming to you when Jesus Christ*** (THE MESSIAH) ***is revealed.*** ¹⁴ [LIVE] ***as children of obedience*** [TO GOD]; ***do not conform yourselves to the evil desires*** [THAT GOVERNED YOU] ***in your former ignorance*** [WHEN YOU DID NOT KNOW THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GOSPEL]. ¹⁵ ***But as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living.*** ¹⁶ ***For it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.***

SOME QUESTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER:

1. ***What does the term “holy” mean?***
2. ***How does our place as children of God require us to be holy?***
3. ***What Old Testament passage(s) are quoted here?***

- ii) a way of life that requires *reverence* to the heavenly Father (1:17-21)

¹⁷ ***And if you call upon Him as*** [YOUR] ***Father Who judges each one impartially according to what he does,*** [THEN] ***you should conduct yourselves with true reverence throughout the time of your temporary residence*** [ON THE EARTH, WHETHER LONG OR SHORT]. ¹⁸ ***You must know*** (RECOGNIZE) ***that you were redeemed*** (RANSOMED) ***from the useless*** (FRUITLESS) ***way of living inherited by tradition from*** [YOUR] ***forefathers, not with corruptible things*** [SUCH AS] ***silver and gold,*** ¹⁹ ***But*** [YOU WERE PURCHASED] ***with the precious blood of Christ*** (THE MESSIAH), ***like that of a*** [SACRIFICIAL] ***lamb without blemish or spot.*** ²⁰ ***It is true that He was chosen and foreordained*** (DESTINED AND FOREKNOWN FOR IT) ***before the foundation of the world, but He was brought out to public view*** (MADE MANIFEST) ***in these last days*** (AT THE END OF THE TIMES) ***for the sake of you.*** ²¹ ***Through Him you believe in*** (ADHERE TO, RELY ON) ***God, Who raised Him up from the dead and gave Him honor and glory, so that your faith and hope are*** [CENTERED AND REST] ***in God.***

FURTHER QUESTIONS:

1. ***Define “redeem.”***
2. ***From what do we need to be redeemed?***
3. ***By what are we redeemed, and by what are we not redeemed?***
4. ***Explain the similarities between Jesus and a lamb?***
5. ***How was Christ “foreordained before the foundation of the world?”***
6. ***What is the consequence of this “foreordination” for those who believe/teach that Jesus’ death was unexpected by God?***

iii) a way of life that requires *genuine love* toward genuine brothers (1:22-25)

²² *Since by your obedience to the Truth through the [HOLY] Spirit you have purified your hearts for the sincere affection of the brethren, [SEE THAT YOU] love one another fervently from a pure heart.* ²³ *You have been regenerated (BORN AGAIN), not from a mortal origin (SEED, SPERM), but from one that is immortal by the ever living and lasting Word of God.* ²⁴ *For all flesh (MANKIND) is like grass, and all its glory (HONOR) like [THE] flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower drops off,* ²⁵ *But the Word of the Lord (DIVINE INSTRUCTION, THE GOSPEL) endures forever. And this Word is the good news which was preached to you.*

STILL MORE QUESTIONS:

1. *How are we “purified?”*
2. *Can you think of other passages that teach similarly?*
3. *Explain the illustration of “seed/sperm” and the new birth?*
4. *Can you think of other passages that discuss the new birth?*
5. *Why is the longevity of God’s Word important to our salvation?*

3. **Believers are a chosen Priesthood (2:1-12)**

i) who crave the Word (2:1-3)

¹*So be done with every trace of wickedness (DEPRAVITY, MALIGNITY) and all deceit and insincerity (PRETENSE, HYPOCRISY) and grudges (ENVY, JEALOUSY) and slander and evil speaking of every kind.* ² *Like newborn babies you should crave (THIRST FOR, EARNESTLY DESIRE) the pure (UNADULTERATED) spiritual milk, that by it you may be nurtured and grow unto [COMPLETED] salvation,* ³ *Since you have [ALREADY] tasted the goodness and kindness of the Lord.*

QUESTIONS INSTIGATED BY A STUDY of 1 Peter 2:1-3

1. *What modern applications should we make from words like: “wickedness, depravity, insincerity, grudges, slander, evil speaking?”*
2. *Can you explain Peter’s illustration of the baby and the milk?*

ii) who come to Christ in worship & offer spiritual sacrifices (2:4-5)

⁴ *Come to Him [THEN, TO THAT] Living Stone which men tried and threw away, but which is chosen [AND] precious in God’s sight.* ⁵ *[COME] and, like living stones, be yourselves built [INTO] a spiritual house, for a holy (DEDICATED, CONSECRATED) priesthood, to offer up [THOSE] spiritual sacrifices [THAT ARE] acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ.*

FURTHER QUESTIONS:

1. *Who is the living stone of vs. 4; how does a human’s view of that Living Stone differ from God’s view?*
2. *Who are the living stones of vs. 5; what is the house that they make up?*

iii) a spiritual house based on precious stone previously rejected (2:6-8)

⁶ ***For thus it stands in Scripture: Behold, I am laying in Zion a chosen (HONORED), precious chief Cornerstone, and he who believes in Him [WHO ADHERES TO, TRUSTS IN, AND RELIES ON HIM] shall never be disappointed or put to shame. ⁷ To you then who believe (WHO ADHERE TO, TRUST IN, AND RELY ON HIM) is the preciousness; but for those who disbelieve [IT IS TRUE], The [VERY] Stone which the builders rejected has become the main Cornerstone, ⁸ And, A Stone that will cause stumbling and a Rock that will give [MEN] offense; they stumble because they disobey and disbelieve [GOD'S] Word, as those [WHO REJECT HIM] were destined (APPOINTED) to do.***

“CORNERSTONE” QUESTIONS:

1. ***What passage is quoted in vs. 6?***
2. ***In what sense is Jesus like a “corner stone?”***
3. ***What passage is quoted in vs. 7; where else does it appear in the New Testament?***
4. ***Who were the builders that rejected Jesus; how did He still become cornerstone?***
5. ***What does this illustrate about God's power?***
6. ***In what sense is this cornerstone also a stumbling block?***
7. ***Is it always wrong to be a stumbling block?***

iv) they are God's own possession (2:9)

⁹ ***But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [GOD'S] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.***

STILL, A FEW MORE THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

1. ***Who is the chosen generation today?***
2. ***How is that “choice” made?***

v) to the praise of God's Glory (2:10)

¹⁰ ***Once you were not a people [AT ALL], but now you are God's people; once you were unpitied, but now you are pitied and have received mercy.***

How and why were we “once not a people?”

vi) Summary: negatively stated (2:11)

¹¹ ***Beloved, I implore you as aliens and strangers and exiles [IN THIS WORLD] to abstain from the sensual urges (THE EVIL DESIRES, THE PASSIONS OF THE FLESH, YOUR LOWER NATURE) that wage war against the soul.***

A FINAL QUESTION:

1. ***From what should we abstain in 2014?***

vii) Summary: positively stated (2:12)

¹² ***Conduct yourselves properly*** (HONORABLY, RIGHTEOUSLY) ***among the Gentiles, so that, although they may slander you as evildoers, [YET] they may by witnessing your good deeds [COME TO] glorify God in the day of inspection*** [WHEN GOD SHALL LOOK UPON YOU WANDERERS AS A PASTOR OR SHEPHERD LOOKS OVER HIS FLOCK]

A CLOSING PASTORAL PRAYER:

DISMISSAL:

GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD:

THANKS, BE TO GOD!

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK'S SESSION – NOVEMBER 20, 2014 – Read – 1st Peter 2:13–25)

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