

AUGUST

2020

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

1 Peter – The Call to Faith as God’s People

Sermon Series

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| 02 Aug 2020 | 1 Peter 1:1-12 The Saving Hope of God’s People |
| 09 Aug 2020 | 1 Peter 1:13-21 The Holy Conduct of God’s People |
| 16 Aug 2020 | 1 Peter 1:22-2:10 The High Calling of God’s People |
| 23 Aug 2020 | 1 Peter 2:11-25 Live as Servants of God |
| 30 Aug 2020 | 1 Peter 3:1-12 The Right Relationships of God’s People |

Outline of 1 Peter

1 PETER: THE CALL TO FAITH AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

I. THE SAVING HOPE OF GOD'S PEOPLE *1:1-12*

A. GREETINGS *1:1-2*

B. THE HOPE THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US BY GOD *1:3-12*

PRAISE GOD:

HE HAS GIVEN US HOPE

II. THE HOLY CONDUCT OF GOD'S PEOPLE *1:13-21*

A. FOLLOWING CHRIST MEANS HOLINESS IN CONDUCT *1:13-16*

B. FOLLOWING CHRIST MEANS TREASURING HIS BLOOD *1:17-21*

WE HAVE A NEW

IDENTITY:

WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE

III. THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD'S PEOPLE *1:22-2:10*

A. LOVE EACH OTHER *1:22-2:3*

B. LIVING STONES WHO ARE GOD'S PEOPLE *2:4-10*

IV. LIVE AS SERVANTS OF GOD *2:11-25*

A. BE SERVANTS OF GOD *2:11-17*

B. BE SERVANTS FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE *2:18-25*

V. THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS OF GOD'S PEOPLE *3:1-12*

A. WHAT FOLLOWING GOD LOOKS LIKE FOR WOMEN *3:1-6*

B. WHAT FOLLOWING GOD LOOKS LIKE FOR MEN *3:7*

C. WHAT FOLLOWING GOD LOOKS LIKE FOR ALL *3:8-12*

VI. THE DEVOTION OF GOD'S PEOPLE *3:13-22*

A. BE ZEALOUS FOR WHAT IS GOOD *3:13-17*

B. CHRIST AS THE EXAMPLE *3:18-22*

VII. THE VIGILANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE *4:1-11*

A. FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST *4:1-6*

B. LIVE WITH THE END IN MIND *4:7-11*

AUGUST

BEING GOD'S PEOPLE

MEANS:

SUFFERING AS A

WITNESS TO JESUS

VIII. THE FAITH OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN SUFFERING *4:12-19*

A. THERE WILL BE SUFFERING *4:12-14*

B. RIGHT AND WRONG REASONS FOR SUFFERING *4:15-19*

IX. THE COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE *5:1-14*

A. LEADERS: BE GOOD SHEPHERDS *5:1-4*

B. OTHERS: SUBMIT AND BE HUMBLE *5:5-7*

C. STAY ON GUARD *5:8-9*

D. GOD WILL RESTORE YOU *5:10-11*

E. ENDNOTES *5:12-14*

PERSEVERE

IN THE FACE OF

SUFFERING

02 Aug 2020

1 Peter 1:1-12

The Saving Hope of God's People

What are your thoughts when you feel like everything in your life is against you? What do you do? How do you respond?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2.
 - a. Who is Peter writing to?

 - b. What identifies these people as one community? Why is this significant?

2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. Peter gives two reasons for us to praise God. What are they? Why are these reasons for us to praise God?

3. Read 1 Peter 1:6-12. What is it that the believers should rejoice in? Why should they rejoice in it?

APPLICATION

4. What identifies us as one community? Is this significant to us? What difference does it make in how we live?

5. What does it look like for us to suffer *on account of our salvation* today? How do we respond when we are in such situations?

6. How is our faith a reason for us to praise God and to rejoice *today*? What will you do on a regular basis to remind yourself of this reason for praise and joy?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

Our identity as God's people, "chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood" is the foundation of our daily praise and joy.

09 Aug 2020

1 Peter 1:13-21

The Holy Conduct of God's People

Think about your life before you trusted in Christ, and also after. What difference has your faith made in your daily life?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 1 Peter 1:13. What does Peter say that the believers should do? Why should they do this? (Hint: look *before* v.13 – consider what the “therefore” is there for.)

2. Read 1 Peter 1:14-16. Peter tells the believers to be holy – what reasons does he give for this?

3. Read Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2 and 20:7. Consider the context around these verses which are echoed in 1 Peter 1:16 “be holy, because I am holy.” What were the Israelites asked to do in these verses? What implications would that have had in their everyday life?

4. Read 1 Peter 1:17-21. Peter gives two reasons for believers to live in reverent fear of God. What are they? Why would these be convincing reasons for believers to obey?

5. Peter tells the believers that they have been ransomed from “the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,” and, earlier, in v.14, he tells them “do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.” What is it about the believers’ previous lives that was so incompatible to holiness and living in reverent fear of God?

6. How is the blood of Christ valued? Why is it valued this way?

APPLICATION

7. Consider the reasons given by Peter for believers to live in holiness and reverent fear of God. Are they convincing to you on a personal level? Do our lives reflect the expected response?

8. What does holiness and living in reverent fear of God look like today? Consider a typical day in your life and describe what it would mean for you in that day – what challenges would you face while living this way? How will you overcome these challenges?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- We believe in a holy God – our lives should reflect this.
- Living in response to salvation requires whole-hearted commitment: “set your hope *fully* on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
- We have every motivation to live according to holiness – an extrinsic motivation (we will be judged by God), and an intrinsic motivation (thankfulness and awe at what Christ has done for us).

16 Aug 2020

1 Peter 1:22-2:10

The High Calling of God's People

How would you describe yourself to a stranger? How does our concept of our identity shape how we behave?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 1 Peter 1:22. What does Peter say is the result of obedience? What does he expect the believers to do?

2. Read Isaiah 40:6-8 (and consider its context).
 - a. What is “the word of our God” being referenced in Isaiah?

 - b. Hence, in 1 Peter 1:23-25, what is the “word of God” that was preached to the believers?

 - c. How is this a good basis for Peter’s instruction to “love one another deeply, from the heart”?

3. Read 1 Peter 2:1-3. Peter says that loving each other means getting rid of “all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.” What does he tell the believers to reach for instead? What does this tell you about malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander?

4. In 1 Peter 2:4-5, the believers are being compared to the Living Stone – Christ.
 - a. How is Christ described?

 - b. What does this tell us about how believers should see themselves?

 - c. What are the believers expected to do?

5. Read Isaiah 8:14 and 28:16. How is the Stone described? Who is this Stone?

6. How does Peter describe the believers in 1 Peter 2:9-10? What are they to do?

APPLICATION

7. The list given by Peter speaks of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. What would this list look like if it were applied to me? What am I being challenged to put away, and what am I being reminded to crave for instead?

8. What difference has God made in my life? How is this reflected in my daily actions?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

Through the gospel, our entire self-identity has been changed – we are now God’s people, “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.” Our lives and actions should reflect this change.

23 Aug 2020

1 Peter 2:11-25

Live as Servants of God

Believers and unbelievers have different understandings on what Christian living is meant to be like. How has your understanding of Christian living changed as you grew in your salvation?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Peter refers to the believers as “aliens and strangers in the world.” Earlier in 1 Peter 1 (v.1 and v.17), the same word “strangers” was used to describe the believers. What defines the believers as one community? (Consider the descriptions in 1 Peter 1:1, 3-5, 14-15; 2:4-5, 9-10.)
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-15. What are the believers asked to do? Why are they asked to do this?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:16-17 using the ESV translation. What contrasts do you see in treatment between everyone versus the brotherhood of believers, and between God and human authorities?
4. Peter references slaves and masters in v.18. Consider this slave-master relationship – what would it have meant to the believers to respect not only those masters who were good and considerate, but also those who were harsh?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:19-20. What does Peter call “commendable”? Why is it considered “commendable”?
6. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25. What reasons does Peter give for asking this of the believers?

c. What should be characteristic of Christian behaviour?

5. Read 1 Peter 3:9-12. What are Christians to do? Why?

6. Read Psalm 34:11-16. Why does Peter include this quote? (cf. 1 Peter 3:10-12)

APPLICATION

7. Our circumstances differ from the believers being written to in 1 Peter, yet the principle of following Christ's example remains. What does it mean for us to follow Christ's example in relating to the people around us? What needs to change in the way we relate to others?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

Although following Christ's example in our relationships is not easy and can bring pain, this is still what we are called to do as Christians in response to the salvation we have been given.