

August 17, 2025

1 Peter 1:22-25

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Scriptures for further study:
Deuteronomy 32:45-47

Matthew 4:4

Psalm 119:11

Isaiah 55:10-11

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 6:4

Ephesians 4:22-24

“1 Peter’s fundamental message is that God’s elect are a people marked out by the new birth and called to hope. Their suffering is not pointless but participates in the suffering of Christ, preparing them for future glory...the letter encourages believers to live distinctive lives that bear witness to the transforming power of the gospel amid hostile surroundings.”

-Sinclair Ferguson



Grace and Love

1 Peter 1:22-25

BIG IDEA: Since by the Truth we have been set apart for a purpose and born again into a new nature, let us eagerly love one another.

OUTLINE

1. Transformational Truth

2. Divine Purpose

3. New Nature

4. Gospel Love

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. What are some examples of “things,” such as a special uniform for a competition or special plates at Christmastime, that people reserve for a special occasion? What is the reason they are set apart?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:22, 23, 25, Deuteronomy 32:45-47, and Matthew 4:4. Based upon these passages, how does the Word of God transform us? How can these passages help us filter the cure-all claims we are offered?
3. Refer to 1 Peter 1:18. What are some of your “futile ways” that the Word transformed? For what purpose (verse 22) have we been transformed? Have you looked at obedience as the result or condition of obedience?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:23. What is the difference between our efforts at cultural self-improvement and the transformation described in this verse? Read Romans 6:4 and Ephesians 4:22-24. What happens to our nature when we are reborn?
5. Read 1 Peter 1:22. In your own words, describe the biblical idea of love. How does our culture often define love?

“The Word of God is the principal means of grace. It is by the Word that Christ communicates Himself and transforms the soul into His likeness.”

-Jonathan Edwards

“The love Peter has in mind is neither a warm, fuzzy feeling nor friendship around coffee...Christians are to love one another because by obeying the truth, by coming to faith in Jesus, they have set themselves apart from the ways of the world particularly in the ways they treat people.”

-Karen Jobe

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The title for this preaching series is Living Hope: How God's Grace to Us in Jesus Shapes and Empowers Us Towards Gospel Resilience. And the principle that we presented last week could be summarized this way: What we do today is shaped by what we believe about tomorrow! In one sense, that is a summary of 1 Peter and what God has in store for us through this preaching series.

1 Peter 1:22-25 Living as the New People of God. Since Christians have been given new life by the Word of God, they are to love one another fervently.

Praise to Jesus – Praise God that He has given us His life-transforming truth, that we have eyes to see and ears to hear the wonderful, good news of Jesus. Praise Him for a new nature, a new purpose for living, a new way of loving.

Repent through Jesus – Repent for the many ways we have failed to love sincerely, or harbored bitterness, selfishness, or apathy in our relationships, and for neglecting God's Word or trusting in fading things.

Consecration for Jesus – Let us rededicate ourselves to the grace of new birth by committing afresh to a life shaped by love, truth, God's enduring Word, and set our hearts on the summons to live a holy, loving, Word-shaped life in response to God's saving work.

FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

1. Has anyone ever said that you act or look like one of your parents? (In this week's passage, we will see how our lives should have some resemblance to God, who saved us and "caused us to be born again into a living hope" [1 Peter 1:3].)

2. As Peter moves into instructions for living as a Christian, what does he instruct Christians to focus on in verse 13? (He wrote, "set your hope fully on the grace". Remind your children that Christian hope has a certainty. It is not wishful thinking. Also, mention to your children that the last verse of our passage (v.21) talks of our hope in God. Christian hope is important to our lives. Peter knows that when we talk about how we are to live as Christians, it is easy to fall back on living in our own power. Instead, Peter reminded us that we need to depend on God's grace.)

3. According to verses 15-16, why should we pursue holiness? (This is because our God is holy. If He has caused us to be born again, then we will grow to look and act more like Him. Make sure your children know that we will never reach perfection in this sinful world.)

4. In verses 18-21, Peter once again compares the eternity of God and His Word with the temporary nature of this sinful world. How would this fact help these Christians face suffering and hardship? (Peter wanted his original audience and wanted us to have peace that nothing can take away our salvation in Christ, even our trials and struggles. We have been saved "with the precious blood of Christ," which doesn't fade away like things of this world. In verses 20-21, he wrote that our "faith and hope are in God", not in things of this world. Our Christian lives are always in response to what God's work of salvation and in the power of God the Holy Spirit.)

Scriptures for further study:

Hebrews 10:10

Romans 8:11-12

Romans 8:31-34

Titus 3: 3-7

John 1:29

FOR STUDENTS

Scriptures for further study:

Hebrews 4:12

2 Timothy 3:16-17

John 13:34-35

Colossians 3:12-14

1 John 4:7-14

1. When Peter says to “love one another earnestly from a pure heart,” what do you think that kind of love looks like in real life? How is that different from how love is often portrayed at school, on social media, or in the world around you?

2. Why does Peter say we should “love one another” in v. 23? How is God’s word described? What does it mean that the word of God is “living and abiding?” What is the significance?

3. Think about how you typically respond when someone annoys, offends, or disappoints you. How might remembering that you were born again by grace help you respond differently?

4. Peter says that the Word of God “remains forever,” while the things of this world “wither” and “fade.” What are some things in your life that feel important right now but probably won’t last? How can focusing on God’s Word help you put things in perspective?

5. Why do you think Peter connects being purified through obedience to the truth with loving others deeply? How does the gospel change not just what we believe but also how we treat people?

6. If someone looked at your life, would they see a love that is sincere and sacrificial like the love Jesus has for you? Why or why not? What is one way you want to grow in love this week?

FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. This short but powerful passage describes salvation variously as being “born again,” receiving a new heart, and being “purified” of sin. It also teaches us how we can be saved: by the word of God (the gospel), which we must believe and submit to.

QUESTION: Do you believe yourself to be truly born again? Are you saved? Have you put your faith and trust in the good news of the gospel, the word of God?

2. If being saved means being saved from our sin, what does verse 22 go on to tell us is the goal or the purpose for which we are saved? Or, in other words, when our hearts have truly been changed, what is the natural overflow of those new hearts?

3. How does this passage speak against the notion that salvation is merely a private or individual relationship with the Lord?

4. Quoting from Isaiah 40, Peter reminds us that all human existence—man's beauty, splendor, fame, achievement, glory, and greatness—is short-lived, while God's word and all who believe in God and His word will live forever.

QUESTION: If we were to truly take this truth to heart, how would this change our priorities, our perspective, our purpose? Furthermore, how would it encourage Peter's original audience, and us, to endure hardships and persecution at the hands of men?

Living Hope: How God's Glorious Grace in Jesus Shapes and Empowers Us by the Spirit to Live with Gospel Grit in a Foreign Land.



Daniel in the Lion's Den by Briton Riviere, 1872

About the Artist: Briton Rivière, a British painter known for his animal paintings, particularly those featuring dogs and wild animals with deep emotion and dramatic flair, came from an artistic family. His father, William Rivière, was a drawing master and art teacher. Rivière initially studied at the University of Oxford, drawn to literary and historical themes, but later developed a fascination with animals and became renowned for his ability to imbue them with emotional depth and narrative presence.

About the Artwork

"Daniel in the Lion's Den" (1872) depicts the biblical story with lifelike lions, a popular and symbolic theme in Victorian England. It explores faith under trial, divine protection, and moral strength against tyranny, themes that resonated with Victorian audiences during a time when Christian values and moral courage were emphasized.

In Riviere's painting, Daniel's calm, unarmed demeanor symbolizes absolute trust in God. His gaze suggests prayer, hope, or spiritual communion, not fear. He represents the righteous man steady in the face of evil. The lions, though fierce, are subdued, a miracle of restraint. Riviere doesn't show angels or supernatural intervention; the restraint is invisible, spiritual. Some lions are relaxed, others alert, suggesting the tension between nature and divine command. Each lion has a distinct personality, reflecting the mystery of creation. The focused light on Daniel recalls God's presence in darkness. The murky den symbolizes the unknown, death, or temptation, yet Daniel remains untouched. Unlike dramatic biblical scenes, there's no movement or violence. The silence emphasizes Daniel's victory through trust, countering 19th-century action-heavy storytelling with a meditation on spiritual endurance.

1 Peter and Daniel in the Lion's Den

This painting, based on a biblical scene, helps us understand the overall theme of the New Testament letter. 1 Peter teaches Christians that as God's elect, they are called to live holy lives of faithful witness, enduring suffering with hope rooted in God's grace, while embracing their Gospel identity as a holy, royal priesthood in a hostile world. Like Daniel in the Old Testament, we are strangers in a distant place. Jesus told his disciples and us in the Gospel of John that we are "not of this world." Hebrews reminds the church that "this world is not their permanent home." Even within 1 Peter, God's people are called "sojourners and exiles."

Like Daniel, the darkness of this broken, sinful, and fallen world is always present. While we may never face a physical lion, Peter's first letter tells us that our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, and the spiritual forces of evil are ever present. Yet, like Daniel, we must face the opposition with a Gospel poise, knowing that which is unseen is more powerful than what is seen and against us. Peter uses the language of "standing firm" in God's grace as we encounter all forms of darkness.

Church, may we see the beauty of 1 Peter in its overall message: God's glorious grace leading us to Gospel grit as sojourners in a dark world. But may we not just perceive its beauty but also embrace God's unique calling in these words: stand firm!