

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 8

1 Peter 1.13-16 Starting with *v. 13*, Peter is giving ethical exhortations....That flow from our salvation through Christ.

Christians (you and me) obey and are faithful because God has chosen, saved, and redeemed us from sin, death, and the devil.

The Christian life is always lived out of God's grace and power!

(v14): The phrase, “obedient children” is a Hebrew idiom describing the family relationship between God's people...With...God the Father, Jesus the Son, through the Holy Spirit.

Obedience... ὑπακοή (*hypakoē*)... “To obey.” When we listen to God through His holy Word, we are learning about God, His character, will, and ways.

(vs.15-16): As obedient children of God, we learn that we are called to be *holy like Him*!

Verse 16 quotes *Leviticus 11.44*...

Holiness in the Old Testament sense was conformity to the covenant requirements of God.

In this sense, we are like our Heavenly Father when we are faithful to Him and love like Him...

...As opposed to being faithful to the world and the cultural values set against God...His will and ways!

1 Peter 1.17-19 Again, obedient children know the holy nature and just character of our Heavenly Father who is a just judge.

And again...what God has done for us in Jesus, informs, shapes, and empowers the way we live in this world, which is contrary to ways of this world!

One particular mode of obedience for the believer is to abandon the former and futile ways of living, handed down from previous generations in our family of origin.

When we become Christians, sometimes the attitudes we grew up with, the “family rules” and worldviews of our family of origin.

As Christians, we now belong to the family of Jesus...this family has primacy over our family of origin—no matter how great they may be!

(vs.18-19): Using the intentional language of the marketplace...particularly of the slave trade in the first-century world...Peter reminds the believer that we have been *ransomed*...

λυτρώομαι (*lytroomai*)... “To liberate”... The payment was the blood of Christ.

“In the OT, a sacrifice had to be perfect. This foreshadowed Christ the perfect sacrifice, free from all sin and worthy of saving all people... [Luther writes]... Just one drop of this innocent blood would have been more than enough for the sin of the whole world. Yet the Father wanted to pour out His grace on us so abundantly and to spend so much that He let His Son Christ shed all His blood and gave us the entire

treasure. Therefore He does not want us to make light of and think little of such great grace; but He wants us to be moved to conduct ourselves with fear, lest this treasure be taken away from us” (AE 30:36).¹

1 Peter 1.20-21 Peter, once again, in *v. 18–19*, tells us that God has set His people free from the power of evil, not by the easy way of simply paying money, but at infinite cost: the giving of His Son on the cross!

Jesus coming to the world was not God’s “Plan B”... as if God had tried everything else and now He will try Jesus

v. 20 makes it clear that the death of Jesus was God’s eternal plan and purpose. Peter assures believers (you and me) that Jesus...

“...*has been chosen by God*...literally...“foreordained” (ESV, “foreknown”) with God as the implicit agent. As in 1:2, “foreordination” includes the idea of not only knowing beforehand, but doing something in order to insure that such an event will really take place...In rendering *He had been chosen by God before the creation of the world* it may be relevant to place the temporal expression first, for example, “before God created the world, he had chosen Christ”...Although Christ was chosen ahead of time, it was only *in these last days* that he *was revealed*. *In these last days* is literally “at the end of times” and refers to the period beginning with the incarnation and extending to his second coming.”²

Our hope and power to live comes from the greatness of Jesus’ work and its results in our lives.

Because we can trust God and His good plans, just like His good plan in Jesus Christ, no matter what we may be facing, we can have a deep, confident reliance upon our Heavenly Father!

Going Forward...

- God has made us holy *in Christ*...So we can live a holy life by His grace and power through the Holy Spirit!
- As God’s holy people...we are to honor the Lord, remembering that we were redeemed (bought back) by the blood of Jesus!

¹*The Lutheran Study Bible* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2009).

² D.C. Arichea and E.A. Nida. *A Handbook on the First Letter from Peter* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1980).