

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 9

1 Peter 1.20-21 Peter, once again, in *vs. 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.”¹

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!

1 Peter 1.22-23 Peter continues to describe Jesus’ saving work for us and how this work empowers daily life.

v. 22 reveals that God continues to change our lives as He works in and through His church.

Peter uses the image of purification, related to the Old Testament system of washings, which enabled a person to be in God’s presence.

Christian living is *only possible* because of God’s grace from beginning to end.

As God gracefully makes it possible to be in His presence through the forgiveness of sins (purification), this graceful purification continues through the activity of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s heart.

“Peter calls forgiven Christians to do what God’s Word teaches. This flows from the life we have in Christ’s resurrection (*v. 21*)...Peter uses two different words for love. Obedience results in sincere love (Greek *philadelphia*) of fellow Christians. Having been forgiven, they now have pure hearts and are called to love with complete self-sacrificing love (Greek *agape*).”²

1 Peter 1.24-25 Peter now quotes *Isaiah 40.6–8* to affirm his point that God’s Word is eternal.

In *vs. 24-25*, quoting the Prophet Isaiah, the finitude of human life is contrasted with the eternal life of the Christian.

One primary truth that Peter wants his readers to know is that this relationship with God is eternal.

¹ D.C. Arichea and E.A. Nida. *A Handbook on the First Letter from Peter* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1980).

² *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

“While all that is born of perishable seed withers and falls...God’s Word stands forever.”³

Believers can trust that God will never cease to love us and lead us.

For Peter, the particular emphasis of this eternal Word is Jesus Christ, the “good news” or *gospel*.

εὐαγγελίζω (*euangelizō*)... “A good message” (“Good news”)

It is the eternal Word of God, which *creates faith* in heart of the believer.

This is the message that the church is to proclaim in word and deed!

The hope of the Gospel...If God is love...and if God is eternal...divine love is eternal!

1 Corinthians 13.8, 13⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away...¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

“Our first birth was a birth of “flesh,” and the flesh is corruptible. Whatever is born of flesh is destined to die and decay. This explains why mankind cannot hold civilization together: it is all based on human flesh and is destined to fall apart. Like the beautiful flowers of spring, man’s works look successful for a time, but then they start to decay and die...If we try to build unity in the church on the basis of our first birth, we will fail; but if we build unity on the basis of the new birth, it will succeed. Each believer has the same Holy Spirit dwelling within (Rom. 8:9).”⁴

Going Forward...

- Our conduct, our ethics as believers, is founded upon God’s Word and truth. We know what is good from what is bad because God has told us.
- From 1 Peter, there are three foundations for determining whether an action is right or wrong. First, does it conform to the character of God? Second, is it the natural outcome of a life that has benefited from the salvation of God? Finally, will it stand up to God’s scrutiny in that final day when he ushers us into his glorious presence?⁵

³ J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.). *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1985).

⁴ W.W. Wiersbe. *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books. 1996).

⁵ Adapted from, C.A. Beetham and N.L. Erickson, Eds. *The NIV Application Commentary on the Bible* (Zondervan Academic, 2004).