

"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"

Part 9

1 Peter 1:1-2:10

Introduction: In our study of 1 Peter, we are currently looking at the Peter's call to his readers to live lives of holiness.

Notice 1 Peter 1:15-16

In the face of the persecution, they were facing or the persecution they would face Peter reminds them that they are to be holy. No matter what they faced they were expected to be holy. The word "holy" means "to be set apart". The idea was they were not to be like the people of the world. They were children of the King and they were to live as such even in the face of persecution. They were to handle the persecution just as Jesus would if He were standing in their shoes.

This is something that is not possible for us in our own power. The life of holiness in the face of persecution is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit living the life of Jesus Christ through us.

2 Corinthians 4:7-11

⁷ *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

⁸ *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*

⁹ *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

¹⁰ *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

¹¹ *For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

Peter moves on and he then gives several points of motivation for living a life of holiness. We have already looked at two of the points of motivation.

➤ Motivation for Holiness
Part 2

1. The Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ.

Notice 1 Peter 1:17

2. The Cost of Salvation.

Notice 1 Peter 1:18-19

This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight which is the next point of motivation for holiness.

3. God's Love for Sinners

Notice 1 Peter 1:19

At the end of verse 19 Peter reminds us that Jesus was and is sinless. The phrase "as of a Lamb" is a reminder that Jesus never fought against His persecutors. He was submissive to the will of the Father.

Isaiah 53:7-12

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, **yet he opened not his mouth**: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, **so he openeth not his mouth**.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Notice 1 Peter 1:20a

All the suffering of our Lord was ordained by the Father before the world ever began.

Revelation 13:8

⁸ *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

In the mind of God Jesus was slain before man ever existed. God knew before man was ever created that Adam would be disobedient and would plunge the entire human race into sin. God knew before the world began that there would need to be a sinless man die for the payment of all sin. God knew before He ever created the trees that His Son would hang upon a tree and suffer for the sins of mankind.

So, the question is, "Why did God not stop it all?"

He could have kept Adam from sinning. He could have never created Satan. He could have created man with no free will and just programmed him to live in obedience. So, why did He allow man to fall into sin which would send His Son to the old rugged cross? I suppose it will take all eternity to understand all the ways of God. But we can know two reasons why He allowed all of this to happen.

A. It was so that man would know of the LOVE and the GRACE of God.

If it were not for the cross, we would not know of the depths of God's love for us.

John 3:3:16-18

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

¹⁷ *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

¹⁸ *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

1 John 4:8-9

⁸ *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

⁹ In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

B. So that God could gather a people that willingly love Him.

If man was not created with a free will, then we would be like robots and we would do as God programed us. Let me show you a conversation which Jesus had with a lawyer.

Luke 10:25-28

²⁵ *And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*

²⁶ *He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?*

²⁷ *And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*

²⁸ *And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.*

God wants man to love Him willingly. I want you to notice the words of Yancy on the suffering of Job.

"God wants us to choose to love him freely, even when that choice involves pain, because we are committed to him, not to our own good feelings and rewards. He wants us to cleave to him, as Job did, even when we have every reason to deny him hotly. That, I believe, is the central message of Job. Satan had taunted God with the accusation that humans are not truly free. Was Job being faithful simply because God had allowed him a prosperous life? Job's fiery trials proved the answer beyond doubt. Job clung to God's justice when he was the best example in history of God's apparent injustice. He did not seek the Giver because of his gifts; when all gifts were removed he still sought the Giver."

James 1:12

¹² *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

1 Corinthians 2:9

⁹ *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

Getting back to our verse, it was the love of God that predestined Jesus Christ to come into a world full of sin and to die for us.

Application:

This alone should motivate us to live in holiness. It was the love of God that set us free from the power of sin.

Romans 6:8, 12-15, 17-18

⁸ *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

¹² *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

¹³ *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

¹⁵ *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*

¹⁷ **But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**

¹⁸ **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**

4. The Humanity of Jesus Christ.

Notice 1 Peter 1:20b

Jesus Christ was manifest in that He became a man. He had to take upon Him a human body so He could die as man's Substitute. The writer of Hebrews wrote concerning the humanity of Jesus Christ. In Hebrews we see some of the blessings that we experience because of the humanity of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

¹⁰ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

¹⁶ For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

¹⁷ Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Let us notice some of the blessings for us.

a. We have a Savior who can identify with every trial we go through.

Jesus became "perfect through sufferings". This means He became PERFECT in experience. Because Jesus became a Man, and He suffered as a Man, He can now relate to all we go through and He knows exactly what we need in the midst of the trials of life. The word "succour" in verse 18 means "to bring aid to".

b. We have a Savior who conquered the greatest weapon the enemy had to use against us. That weapon was death.

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Satan has used the fear of death to control the majority of the world's population. But as believers we know that death was conquered and therefore, we do not need to fear death. Satan has been stripped of his weapon.

1 Corinthians 15:55-58

⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Conclusion:

God in His love for us has provided blessings beyond our knowledge for us. Let us therefore, live lives of holiness in order to glorify Him.