

**"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"**

**Part 10**

**1 Peter 1:1-2:10**

**Introduction:** When we as believers go through seasons of heaviness as we face the trials of life there is something that is vitally important.

1. **First of all, our walk with the Lord is the most important because our God is the God of comfort, patience, and hope.**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

<sup>4</sup> *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

<sup>5</sup> *For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.*

**Romans 15:5, 13**

<sup>5</sup> *Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:*

<sup>13</sup> *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*

2. **The second point of concern is our relationship with fellow believers.**

God uses fellow believers to comfort and to help us in the difficulties of life. When writing to the believers at Thessalonica about their loved ones who had died in Christ Paul wrote the following words:

**1 Thessalonians 4:18**

<sup>18</sup> *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

*<sup>25</sup> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Peter knew the importance of fellowship in the body of Jesus Christ and in the verses before us tonight he will address our love to one another.

Last week we were looking at the motivations for holiness and we ended with verse 20 in which Peter spoke of the plan of God to save man and the humanity of Jesus Christ.

**Notice 1 Peter 1:20**

He will now give to his readers yet another motivation for holy living.

➤ **Our Rest in God**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:21**

It is by Jesus that we believe in God. The word believe here has the idea of trusting in Him or resting in Him. The idea is that Jesus Christ came into the world to manifest the invisible God so that man would come to know Him.

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*

*<sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

*<sup>3</sup> Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

**Colossians 1:14-17**

*<sup>14</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

*<sup>15</sup> Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

*<sup>16</sup> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

*<sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

John 14:7-11

<sup>7</sup> *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*

<sup>8</sup> *Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*

<sup>9</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?*

<sup>10</sup> *Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

<sup>11</sup> *Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*

These are just a few of the verses that help us to see that Jesus Christ was the manifestation of the Living God. So, as we study the life of Jesus Christ and we see His love and compassion for His fellow man we have then come to rest in God as we face the tests and the trials of this life.

**Notice 1 Peter 1:21 again.**

We see the resurrection and we the glory of Jesus Christ and it should lead us to have faith and hope in God. We too will be resurrected, and we too will be seen as the glory of God.

**Ephesians 2:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

<sup>7</sup> *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

**Notice 1 Peter 1:21 again.**

Our **faith** and our **hope** are to be in God. I want to explain the difference in faith and hope.

Faith is that which enables the believer to trust in God in the midst of the present-day circumstances.

**Psalm 37:1-5**

*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.*

<sup>2</sup> *For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.*

<sup>3</sup> **Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.**

<sup>4</sup> *Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

<sup>5</sup> **Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.**

**Isaiah 26:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: **because he trusteth in thee.***

<sup>4</sup> **Trust ye in the LORD** for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Hope is that which looks forward to future grace, to be revealed for them in heavenly glory.

**Titus 2:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

<sup>12</sup> *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

<sup>13</sup> *Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

Now let us get to the point that Peter is making.

- a. Because Jesus became a Man, we therefore can know God and we can now walk by faith and rest in His goodness and grace.
- b. Because Jesus was resurrected and has ascended back to the Father, we now have an eternal hope.

These two points are so very important as we go through the seasons of heaviness in our lives. Basically, God has provided us an Anchor in our Savior to sustain us in the storms of life. Without Him we would not have this. This again is another motivation to live in holiness because of what God has done for us.

➤ **Loving fellow believers**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:22**

In this verse we have a Truth stated and then we have an exhortation.

✓ **The Truth stated.**

The "obedience to the Truth" here is obedience to the Gospel. The Gospel is the Truth and when we placed our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ/the Gospel our souls were forever purified.

**Hebrews 10:14**

*<sup>14</sup> For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

Peter gives us proof of a purified soul in this verse. It is unfeigned love of the brethren. "Unfeigned" means sincere.

**1 John 3:14-18**

*<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

*<sup>15</sup> Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

*<sup>16</sup> Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

*<sup>17</sup> But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*

*<sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

Love for the brethren is a love that will not just be demonstrated in word but also in deed. It is the result of true saving faith.

**James 2:14-18**

*14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

*15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

*16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

*17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

*18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

Notice the words of Wuest:

*"The world wears a mask. The love which it shows on the face is only external. That is feigned love. Ours should be unfeigned. If a saint does not have a love which is unfeigned, the trouble is with his adjustment to the Holy Spirit who is the One to provide that saint with that love. The Spirit-filled saint does not have to play the hypocrite in the matter of love, for love shines right out of his eyes. It is on his face, in his actions."*

✓ **An exhortation given.**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:22 again.**

The exhortation is that we are to love one another with a pure heart fervently. This means to love one another with no ulterior motive and to do so intensely.

**Notice 1 Peter 1:23**

We have been born again by the Word of God which is incorruptible. In other words, we were born again by that which is pure and so the love that flows from us should also be pure for it comes from the new nature in the believer which is pure.

Notice the words of William Barclay

*"The Christ-filled life is the life of brotherly love. It must issue in a love for the brethren which is sincere and hearty and steadfast. The Christian is a man who is reborn, not of mortal, but of immortal seed. That may mean either of two things. It may mean that the remaking of the Christian is due to no human agency but to the agency of God, another way of saying what John said when he spoke of those "who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God". More probably it means that the Christian is remade by the entry into him of the seed of the Word; and the picture is that of the Parable of the Sower. The quotation which Peter makes is from and the second interpretation fits that better.*

*However, we take it, the meaning is that the Christian is remade. Because he is reborn, the life of God is in him. The great characteristic of the life of God is love, and so the Christian must show that divine love for men. The Christian is the man who lives the Christ-filled life, the life that is different, never forgets the infinity of its obligation, and is made beautiful by the love of the God who gave it birth."*

**Conclusion:**

We shall get back to this next week. But until then, let us close tonight understanding that when the storms and the afflictions come into our lives, we need one another. This is the way in which God has designed the body. We are not to face the storms alone but together as a body. When a fellow believer feels the hatred of the world in his or her life, they need to know that within the church they are loved with a fervent love.

**John 13:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

<sup>35</sup> *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*