

"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"

Part 12

1 Peter 1:1-2:10

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of 1 Peter we have come to the end of chapter 1. Let us keep in mind the readers of Peter's letter are facing some of the most trying times ever to come upon the church. Peter had called his readers to a life of holiness earlier in this chapter.

Notice 1 Peter 1:13-16

Peter then went on to give them motivation for holy living.

1. The Judgment Seat of Christ.
2. The cost of redemption, the Blood of Jesus Christ.
3. The hope for every believer found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
4. The purifying of our souls.
5. The new birth.

Now, when Peter spoke of the new birth of the believer, he was very clear that we were born again by the Word of God. There is yet one more motivation for holy living.

"The Motivation of the Eternal Word of God"

Notice 1 Peter 1:23

This statement which Peter made here led him to place great emphasis upon God's Word. So, in the closing of this chapter Peter will take the time to explain how important God's Word is for the believer. Peter knew that as these people faced persecution, they needed assurance. They needed to be grounded in the Word.

Application:

As we go through life in this old sin filled world and as this world moves ever closer to the kingdom of the Anti-Christ, we need assurance and stability, and this comes from anchoring our souls in the Word of God. Let us notice a few verses that help us to see the importance of God's Word.

➤ **God's Word Gives Stability**

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

➤ **God's Word Keeps us from Sin**

Psalm 119:10-12

¹⁰ With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

¹² Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

➤ **God's Word Guides us in Life**

Psalm 119:103-105

¹⁰³ How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

➤ **God's Word gives us Wisdom**

Psalm 119:130

¹³⁰ The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

➤ **God's Word gives us Strength**

Psalm 119:28

²⁸ My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

➤ **God's Word brings Joy to our Heart**

Psalm 119:111

¹¹¹ Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

- **God's Word brings Endurance, Comfort, and Hope**

Romans 15:4

⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

- **God's Word is our Weapon in the Spiritual Battle**

Ephesians 6:12-17

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

We could continue all evening with this list but from these points we see the importance of the Word of God in the life of the believer. Now let us get to our text for tonight. Peter is going to draw a contrast to help us to see the importance of the Word of God.

I. The Eternality of the Word of God

Notice 1 Peter 1:23

We see the importance of God's Word in this verse for it was by the Word of God that we were born again. Last week I reminded you that **NOT ONE PERSON IS SAVED APART FROM HEARING THE WORD OF GOD.**

Romans 10:13-17

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

When you heard the Gospel, and you placed your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ the Spirit of God caused you to be born again. No one is born again by a dream, or a vision, or a feeling. The new birth is ONLY by hearing the Gospel and believing the Gospel. Apart from the Bible you cannot be saved.

Notice 1 Peter 1:23 again.

At the end of this verse Peter tells us that the Word of God lives and abides forever. Notice the words of Spurgeon on this thought:

"God's Word never dies, God's Word never changes. There are some who think we ought to get a new gospel every few years or even every few weeks, but that was not Peter's notion. He wrote, and he was divinely inspired to write, concerning 'the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.'"

The Bible is alive, and it is the living Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This is one reason why Paul referred to the Gospel as he did in Romans.

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Now as we move on in Peter's letter, he will present an illustration as to how important the living Word is for the believer. He will contrast the Word of God with man's life and beauty.

Notice 1 Peter 1:24

Here in this verse Peter quotes from the Old Testament, from the book of Isaiah. He quotes Isaiah 40:6-8 but we need to see the context to understand the verses and then bring the meaning to Peter's letter.

Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

² Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

⁶ The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

⁷ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

⁸ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Isaiah writes concerning the voice that cries in the wilderness (this applies to John the Baptist). Then in verse 8 the voice asks, "What shall I cry?" The answer is, "Cry out about the frailty of man." Man is like the grass of the field. He is here one day and gone the next just like the grass. But it is the Word of God that endures forever. So, what does this mean to frail mankind? The Word of God says the Messiah was coming and therefore frail mankind needs to believe in the Word of God! The promises of the Word of God contain

the only hope for man in his frailty and this HOPE is eternal. Everything in this world will pass away but the GRACES of God's Word are eternal.

Notice the words of Harrison on Peter quoting from Isaiah:

"Isaiah 40 is one of the most remarkable chapters in all Scripture for placing God and man in sharp contrast. Human life, however beautiful in appearance, is fleeting and perishable, but God in His being, word, and purpose, is enduring. Masterman finds the utility of the passage for Peter's purpose to be along this line. "The design is to bring into contrast the temporary state of the human forces arrayed against the Gospel and the stability of the Church of Christ." The Word abides, and so does the life which it engenders."

Peter wants his readers to understand that the Word is eternal, and all the graces of the Christian life are eternal. He wants them to understand that their NEW LIFE is eternal. This is in contrast to our earthly lives which are temporary.

James 4:13-15

¹³ *Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

¹⁴ *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

¹⁵ *For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.*

Job 7:6-7

⁶ *My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.*

⁷ *O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good.*

Job 9:25-26

²⁵ *Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.*

²⁶ *They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.*

Job 14:1-2

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

² He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Application:

We may lose much of what we have in this life, but we will always have our eternal life. We will always have the promises of God and the graces of the Christian life.

John 10:27-29

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Romans 11:29

²⁹ For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Conclusion:

Notice 1 Peter 1:25

Because the Word of God is eternal, and it endures forever we need to give our lives to learning it. There are many things in life to occupy our time and keep us out of church, but away from the church you will not grow in the Truth of the Word. Right now, in your life there is nothing needed more than the Word of God.

The Gospel transformed your life for the better and the full counsel of the Word of God will continue to transform you into the image of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:13-14

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;