

As God's Chosen People, You are Focused

Week Five: 1 Peter 1:7-12

Last week, we were reminded that we have certain joy in the face of persecution. It's a strange idea to our human minds, but it is a truth found throughout the pages of the entire Bible. *We only looked at New Testament truths, but the prophets were, much in the same way, reminded of the protection and reward that would be given to them, even as they suffered awful persecution.* That segues nicely into the questions before us today:

1. Name at least three ways in which our faith is more valuable than gold (verse 7).
2. Agree or disagree and explain: God's act of pruning in John 15:2 (from 4/28 worship service) and his refining/testing with fire in 1 Peter 1:7 are two ways to talk about the same thing.
3. Verses 8 and 9 really hit on the essence of faith and hope. What phrases in these verses (or others that come to mind) stand out to you when thinking about faith and hope? Explain.

Verses 10-12

Read through these verses silently, jotting down any questions or comments you have.

4. In what way do these verses help equip us for when someone says that Christianity is such a "new" religion when compared to others that began in the BC era?
5. We don't use the phrase "Spirit of Christ" very often. What might the phrase suggest about the relationship among the three persons of the Godhead?
6. Turn to **Daniel 12:8-9**. What connection do these verses have to 1 Peter 1:12?
7. What does the "now" in verse 12 imply about the rest of the sentence?

8. The sentence about angels is one we don't often discuss. What have humans experienced that angels have not?
- a. Perhaps that gives some insight as to why some artists would paint or sculpt angels hovering low over baptismal fonts or other baptism scenes. Explain.
 - b. Also note these words from a hymn by Charles Wesley:

*The first-born sons of light
Desire in vain its depths to see.
They cannot reach the mystery:
the length and breadth and height.*

Overview

9. What do these verses say to the matter of inspiration of the Scriptures?
10. In what ways did the pouring out of the Spirit on Pentecost differ from his operations in the Old Testament?

What other comments and questions do you have?

Closing Prayer 639 God Has Spoken by His Prophets v. 1 and 2
**God has spoken by his prophets, spoken his unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil one firm anchor holds us fast:
God is King, his throne eternal, God the first and God the last.**

**God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory, with the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word incarnate, God from God, before time was;
Light from Light, to earth descending, he reveals our God to us. Amen.**