

As God's Chosen People, You Are Called to Holy Living

Week Six: 1 Peter 1:13-21

Last week, we focused on vs. 10 to 12, which highlighted the Spirit's inspiration of the prophetic Word. The one question we did not address, which has a fitting connection to today's worship service, was "In what ways did the pouring out of the Spirit on Pentecost differ from his operations in the Old Testament?"

Let's read verses 13 through 16.

1. Verse 13 – Whenever the matter of readiness or being prepared comes up in the New Testament, it almost always has a connection to what day, *when Jesus Christ is revealed*?
 - a. In Exodus 12:11, the Lord spoke about the Passover: *This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt ready for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.* What connections are there to 1 Peter 1:13?
 - b. Hope is mentioned again. In what ways does hope change our view of the Last Day?
2. Verse 14 – The converts of Peter's day most often came out of a life of total paganism, consisting of things like sexual immorality and sacrifices to idols. In what ways is that similar to our society?
 - a. Discuss *why obedient children* is such a fitting term for believers in the midst of such things.
3. Verses 15 and 16 – The call to holiness is a timeless one. It is not simply an OT command that falls by the wayside after Jesus' arrival; nor is it a stodgy, stuffy command. Consider the following:
 - a. What did God give his people at Mt. Sinai as the standard for holy living?
 - b. How did Jesus summarize God's standard when asked what the "greatest command" was?
 - c. Consider **Romans 13:8-10**. What does holiness look like?
4. Apply that to all of verses 13-16. What makes living in such a way difficult?
 - a. In what ways does it show our readiness for Christ?

What comments and questions do you have?

Let's read verses 17 through 21.

5. Verse 17 – God judges impartially. By what sorts of things might a partial judge be swayed?
 - a. In what ways is God's impartiality chilling law?
 - b. In what ways is it comforting gospel?
6. Verses 18 through 20 – When we fail at conducting ourselves “in reverence” (which, it should be noted is simply a way to talk about our thankful response to God, NOT a way by which we earn God's favor), what word/phrase in this verse gives us all the comfort we need?
 - a. How does the phrase “precious blood of Christ” keep us from thinking that God's grace is cheap because it is given freely to us?
 - b. The description of “a lamb without blemish or spot” stems from Exodus 12:3 and 5, God's commands about the Passover – “Tell the entire Israelite community that...they are to take a lamb or a young goat for themselves... ⁵Your lamb must be unblemished, a year-old male.”
 - c. Verse 20 touches on two different aspects of the relationship between God and time. Explain what those two aspects are and how they relate to your daily life.
7. An entire sermon can often be preached on one verse, much like verse 21. What points might you expect to hear in a sermon on that verse?

What comments or questions do you have?

Looking ahead – Next week (May 26) will be the last class on 1 Peter. We will aim to wrap up chapter 1. Pastor Plagenz will take over classes beginning on June 2 and will begin going through the Bible Information Class material during the Bible Class hour. This is for some prospects to join and create a habit of their own, but also for all regular attendees to revisit the foundations of the faith. 1 Peter may be revisited in the future.

Closing Prayer – 560 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ v. 2

**Your blood, not mine, O Christ, can heal my sinful soul;
your wounds, not mine contain the balm that makes me whole.
To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee? Amen.**