

As God's Chosen People, You Are Redeemed

Week Seven: 1 Peter 1:17-25

Let's read verses 17 through 21.

1. 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?
2. 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... ⁵ Your 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.
3. 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 questions and comments do you have?

We continue with verses 22 through 25.

4. Verse 22, “purified your souls” – To what would this purification be referring? Remember the context of Peter's original audience.
 - a. It's notable that this verse just speaks of “the truth” as opposed to “the truth of God” or “one path of truth.” Explain why that is noteworthy.

- b. “By obeying the truth” might raise some red flags in our anti-works-righteousness minds (which is a good thing, by the way). How would you explain this phrase to a Catholic friend?
 - c. We talked last week about God’s call to holiness really being a call to love. Peter drives that point home at the end of this verse. What, if any, words or phrases which describe that love stand out to you in verse 22?
5. Verse 23 – The whole verse hinges on the phrase “born again.” We’ve talked about the implications of this phrase as it is used in other circles. What brings about this new birth, according to this verse? In what ways is that different (and more reassuring) than what other people might say?
- a. “Perishable/imperishable” – Just like we talked about the Old Testament prophets potentially reading the books of Moses as they wrote their own inspired words, I wonder if Peter had borrowed from some of Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 – *That is the way the resurrection of the dead will be. What is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable.* ⁴³ *It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.* ⁴⁴ *It is sown as a natural body; it is raised as a spiritual body.*
6. Verses 24 and 25 expound on the idea of perishable vs. imperishable.
- a. What is perishable?
 - b. In what ways is it “like grass”?
 - c. What is imperishable?
 - d. According to the last phrase of verse 25—this is a bit repetitive, but it is worth repeating—by what means have we been born again?

This is my encouragement to you. Continue in the Word. Bring others with you to worship and this time of study so that they would be reminded alongside you that they are born again through the Word; they will be imperishable one day. That’s good news you can’t get enough of.

Closing prayer 316 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry v. 3 and 5
**We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
 without your grace we waste away like flow’rs that wither and decay.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
 whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore. Amen.**