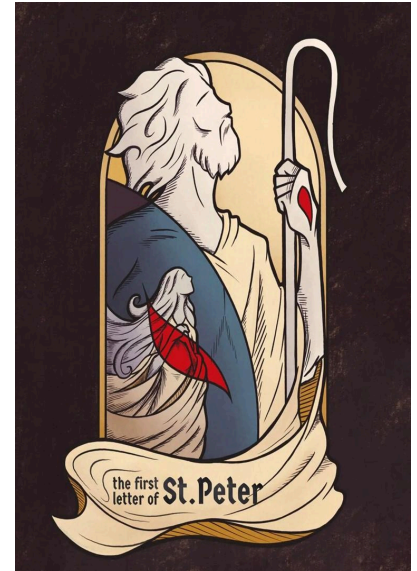


Hope in the Midst of Suffering

1 Peter 1:8-2:3

Verses 8-12

1. Reflect on verses 8-9. How do you maintain love and joy in Christ despite not seeing him physically? What role do the means of grace, Word and sacrament, play in this kind of faith?



2. Sometimes we think of the Old Testament as filled merely with laws and dreary prophecies. What does Peter see when he looks at the Old Testament?

Verses 13-21

3. Reflect on verses 8-9. How do you maintain love and joy in Christ despite not seeing him physically?
4. Peter quotes the Old Testament where God says, “Be holy, because I am holy” (Leviticus 11:44). Sometimes that verse is used to preach the law and remind us we can never be as holy as God. But does it really do that here? Why does Peter quote this verse?
5. We are to live our lives in view of God’s judgment. Sometimes we hesitate to speak like that, for we know we have been cleansed by Christ’s blood; we have nothing to fear in the judgment for we will be judged on the basis of his works, not ours. Yet the Bible writers often speak of God judging us in view of our works. How do you understand Peter’s encouragement to us to serve the Lord because he will judge our works? (verse 17)

6. How do verses 18-21 make it clear that we are not saved by our works?

7. The law and the gospel are woven together in Scripture. When you read this section, what does the law say to you? What does the gospel say to you?

Verses 22-2:3

8. Verse 22 contains insight into how we have become believers and what we should do as God's people. Focus on each of these statements and describe what you are as a Christian.
 - a. "purified your souls"
 - b. "by obeying the truth"
 - c. "resulting in sincere love"
 - d. "love one another deeply"

9. To what is the "therefore" of 2:1 referring?

10. How should we be like newborn babies?

Next week—1 Peter 2:4-10

Try to read through the verses ahead of time and bring any questions or comments you have.