

CP - 8.13.23

1 Peter 1:22–2:12 - “Love, Long, Live”

*****Truth, People, Mission**

*****Peter’s audience was living under extreme persecution.**

- They are elect exiles. (People chosen by God living in a foreign, hostile land)
- What would Peter say to them?
- He challenged them by 3 commands to live in this world.
 - He called them to love God’s People
 - He called them to long for God’s Truth
 - He called them to live for God’s Glory

*****The Power of the Word of God: “Defend the Bible? I’d sooner defend a lion. You don’t defend the Bible; you open its cage and let it roar.” — Charles Spurgeon**

1. A Call to Love (1:22–25)

- Salvation gives us the capacity to love. (22)
 - You love because you’ve been purified by obedience to the truth.
 - Purified - something happened in the past with continuing results
 - Obedience is the evidence of faith— or it is faith defined
 - Truth isn’t just something to know but to obey because faith is active.
 - Love for Christ displays itself in 2 main ways:
 - Obedience
 - Love for His people
 - “Earnestly” = stretched to it’s max
 - “Pure heart” = only by the power of the gospel can we love purely
 - This love is supernatural.
- Salvation gives us the necessity to love (23)
 - “Since you have been born again” (23)
 - Born from above...
 - Seed is the life giver (plants, animals, humans)
 - We’ve been born again by an imperishable seed.
- Notice what the active agent in both the purification of our souls and being born again
 - Obedience to the truth (22)
 - Through the living and abiding Word of God (23)
 - The Word which is the good news preached (25)
- Important the connection here:
 - We want people to get saved — Preach the Word
 - We want people to love one another — Preach the Word
 - The call is to love other believers
 - The Word is what fuels our capacity to love

2. A Call to Long (2:1–8)

- For the Word (2:1–3)

- So (Therefore), put away all of these things (malice/deceit/hypocrisy/envy/slander)
- How do we put these things away?
 - Long for pure spiritual milk
 - The most natural thing for a baby to do is cry for milk
 - Rhett still lets us know when he is hungry
- The Word not only saves but it also sanctifies.
- The Word matures our spiritual lives.
 - Spiritual growth isn't mystical but rational
 - God transforms our minds then, by it, transforms our actions
 - "Transformed by the renewal of our minds"
- The Word enables us to put away sin
- Child-like vs. Childish (1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Hebrews 5:12-14)
- Will you love for the Word? Will you ask the Lord to give you a longing?
- "Dust on the Bible equals a drought in the heart"
- If you have tasted that the Lord is good..
 - ***"Longing to grow spiritually comes from a taste of the beauty of the Lord, an experience of his kindness and goodness. Those who pursue God ardently have tasted his sweetness. Christian growth for Peter is not a mere call to duty or an alien moralism. The desire to grow springs from an experience with the Lord's kindness, an experience that leaves believers desiring more"— Thomas R. Schreiner***

- For the Lord (2:4–8)

- His Presence

- As you come to Him (consistently)

- His Worship (4–5)

- We are being built up as a spiritual house together
- To be a holy priesthood to offer acceptable spiritual sacrifices to God
- Not everyone trusts in Jesus; He is a stumbling block and a rock of offense.
- Disobedience of the truth is the stumbling
- Look at the relation of Christ and Christians (Living stone/like living stones)
 - He was rejected by men but chosen and precious in the sight of God
 - We are like living stones and often rejected by men but like him we are chosen and precious in the sight of God... That's what verses 9-10 teach us
 - **But not us... God has done a work in us to long to worship Jesus.**
 - Chosen race, royal priesthood, a holy nation, people of his own possession
 - **That you may proclaim the excellencies of him*** (Mission) (Preach)**
 - We want to worship Him with our lives but want others to worship Him also.

3. A Call to Live (2:11–12)

- The call to God's Mission is both vocal and practical.
- In v. 9, there is the call to proclaim
- In v. 11–12, there is a call to live.
 - Live with the reminder that we are sojourners and exiles (This world is not our home.)
 - Abstain from passions of flesh that wage war against your soul
 - What seems merely physical goes beyond the hands to the heart
- ***“Peter’s hope was that unbelievers will be compelled to admit that the lifestyle of believers is morally beautiful, and this admission will bring them to saving faith so that God will be glorified on the day of judgment”***
— ***Thomas R. Schreiner***
- The believer's life is not passive but militant in regards to indwelling sin.
- Honorable — not defensive but a life of virtue and goodness
- Day of visitation — Jesus is returning soon!