

The 1st Letter of Peter (Week 2)

A reminder as we read on in this Letter of Peter, that any “Scriptures” referred to by the authors of the New Testament writings, are what we know as the Old Testament! Peter, would have been brought up from childhood knowing the writings of the Books of the Law and the Prophets. He writes as a Jew, recognising that God’s plan of salvation, as revealed in the Old Testament, is completed in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Read I Peter 1, verses 10 to 25

Verses 10 - 12

The prophet who comes to mind reading these verses is Isaiah. The well known verses from Isaiah, chapter 53 are well worth re-reading in this context. Peter emphasises that the whole of scripture is important for Christian believers - written for our benefit. If this is so, there is no such thing as “irrelevant Old Testament lessons”! The Apostle Paul wrote “*All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and training in righteousness . . .*” (2 Timothy 3, verse 16).

The preaching of the “Good News” was, and is, the mission of the Church following on from the Day of Pentecost: see Acts 1, verse 8.

What a privilege is ours as Christian believers! If we are part of the new creation in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5, verse 17 - 20), we have an insight not available to the angelic host! We know what it is to be redeemed and brought to new life in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses 13 – 25 – The implications of salvation!

Verse 13 begins with that important word “Therefore” = “So then” as in Romans 12, verse 1 and Ephesians 4, verse 1. Because of all that God has done there should be a change of emphasis in our lives. We should be continually working at “putting off” the old desires of our earthly life and “putting on” the things pleasing to the Holy Spirit of God. (see Colossians 3, verses 5 – 17 and Ephesians 4, verse 25 – 32).

The call for the people of God to be holy is a constant theme through the Bible. The quote here in verse 16 is from Leviticus 11, verse 44.

The tremendous price paid as a ransom for our eternal life should lead us into a godly fear and a desire to live our lives for Christ and for his glory. As we have become believers in God through Christ we have faith and hope in Him for our future salvation.

Again in verse 22 we are encouraged to show our obedience to the truth in practical outworking. Showing sincere love for our Christian brothers and sisters – one translation says “*love one another whole-heartedly*”.

As Christian believers we have work to do! Yes! The Word of the Lord has been preached to us. Yes! We have been born again through the precious blood of Christ. Yes! Our faith and hope are in God whose word and promise never fails. Therefore – it follows that we should now live for Him and in Him, showing His glory to the world.

*Sing above the toil and strife,
Jesus saves!
By His death and endless life,
Jesus saves!
Sing it softly through the gloom,
When the heart for mercy craves,
Sing in triumph o’er the tomb,
Jesus saves!*

*Priscilla J Owens 1898
(From the hymn “We have heard the joyful sound”)*