**Week of Nov 17, 2019**

**1 Peter 1:13-25**

**Key Verse:** “15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

(1 Peter 1:15-16)

**13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:** **15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. 24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

First Peter is classified as a general epistle and is named after its writer, Peter. The theme of this epistle is persecution. God’s people were being persecuted because of their faith. Peter would have written this epistle around 63-64 AD, not long before he was martyred by Nero in Rome. The recipients of this epistle would have been a mixture of Gentiles and Jewish Christians. The letter is addressed to “Dear friends, foreigners and exiles…” and “among the pagans” (1 Peter 1:1,12,). Peter also refers to the recipients’ idolatry and pagan past prior to being saved (1 Peter 1:14, 18, 4:3). The purpose for writing this epistle was to address their persecutions, such as “slanderous accusations, social ostracism, mob riots and local police action…..”. First Peter emphasizes appropriate Christian behavior in the face of suffering persecution. He also deals at length with the gift of salvation. Peter shows that Christians can praise God even under persecution. He emphasizes that Christian can endure suffering by focusing on the future with Christ in heaven. As God’s people look towards heaven, Peter encourages them to live holy live in every way, being imitators of God’s holy character. Peter writes that Christians are enabled to follow God’s command to holy living because Christ has redeemed us by his blood. He explains that Christians are liberated from the slavery of sin by the blood of Jesus. Peter them makes the point that God calls believers to live holy live for a purpose, s so they might be more effective in their relationships with each other – showing sincere, fervent love toward one another through having pure hearts. He teaches that Christian love for others is a clear expression of holy living and evidence one’s membership in the body of Christ. Finally, Peter quotes from Isaiah 40:6-8 and praises God that while everything else may fade away, even the grass, the World of the Lord will endure forever.

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