1ST & 2ND **PETER** STUDY GUIDE LESSON TWO – 1 PETER 1:10-25

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When someone refuses to forgive another person it causes a rift in that relationship. No relationship can thrive when the offended person holds a grudge. We offend our perfectly loving Father in heaven every time we dishonor Him. We dishonor Him by being indifferent to His majesty or by not loving those He created in His image (which includes all of us). The two great commandments are to love God and to love others but I fall short of those commands and offend God every day. I thank God that He does not hold a grudge! There is no rift in our relationship. I feel very bad when I offend Him but I also experience joy and freedom as I walk in His everlasting forgiveness. The more I taste His forgiveness, the more I don't want to offend Him ... but I'm still so weak. Praise God that His love is greater than my weakness!

On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter's fear caused him to deny that he even knew Him, his best friend. He offended the holy God who sent His Son to die for our sins. However, when Peter saw that Jesus Christ was alive, raised from a horrible death, he finally understood the power of God's love and forgiveness. The relationship with his Friend, his Heavenly Father, his Comforter, his Almighty Counselor, and his Prince of Peace was healed forever. Peter's life was raised from the dark tomb of guilt and shame to a new birth, a living hope. *Grace and peace be yours in abundance. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:2b-3 NIV).*

1) Read 1 Peter 1:10-12

- a) Several truths were revealed to the prophets of the Old Testament. In verse 10, the prophets prophesied, or spoke of, what?
 - i) Look up Zechariah 12:10. Zechariah prophesied of Christ. What kind of Spirit was poured out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem?

Note: Supplication means to pray fervently. Understanding God's grace (undeserved blessing) leads me to want to know Him better and so I seek Him in passionate prayer.

b) In verse 11, what were the prophets trying to find out?

- c) In verse 12, it was revealed to the Old Testament prophets that they were serving who?
- d) Look up Luke 24:25-27 and Luke 24:44-47. After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people. What ministry did He perform in these passages?
 - i) From Luke 24:47, what is proclaimed to all the nations?
 - ii) *Optional Extra Blessing The book of Isaiah was written about 700 years before Christ was born. Read Isaiah 53:1-12 and let this prophecy of Christ sink into your heart. Imagine sitting with the disciples as Christ explained the prophecies of Isaiah. What amazing love!
- e) The end of 1 Peter 1:12 says, "Even angels long to look into these things." In the Greek it means that they stoop to look intently. Look up Luke 15:10. What else do you learn about angels?

2) Read 1 Peter 1:13-16

- a) Verse 13 begins with the word "therefore." Peter is referring back to our salvation through Christ (verses 9-10). Because of our salvation we are instructed to, "prepare your minds for action, be self-controlled (sober in spirit), and set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."
 - i) *Prepare our minds for action* Read 2 Corinthians 10:5 and Romans 12:2. These verses instruct us on how to keep our thought life pure. What are we encouraged to do?

- (1) 2 Corinthians 10:5 talks about speculations or things we think about that are raised up against the knowledge of God. Anything that is against the knowledge of God (truth found in God's Word) would be a lie. Satan loves to whisper lies into our minds until we believe the lie. Have you believed lies recently? If so, what are they?
- ii) *Be self-controlled or sober in spirit* This means to be calm, steady, controlled, and alert. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8. What two pieces of "armor" help us to be alert and sober?
- iii) Fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. We are saved because of His goodness, not our own. This is very humbling. How do you think this humble truth leads me to be an obedient child?
- iv) God has called us to be holy, not conformed to former lusts. Because we are sprinkled with the blood of Christ, God sees us as holy as Christ. This motivates me to obedience. Read Leviticus 20:7-8. The word "sanctify" (or holy in the NIV) means to be purified and be set apart for God's service. From the Leviticus passage, who is it that sanctifies you?
 - (1) Again, knowing that God sees me as holy humbles my spirit to obedience rather than rebellion. Personal question What former lusts is God calling you to be purified from? I encourage you to pray, confessing your sins that you might be healed from them (James 5:16).

Holiness is not something we do, it is something that is done to us. It is not something that we possess, it is something that possesses us.

3) Read 1 Peter 1:17-21

Note: The judgment mentioned in verse 17 is not the White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11 where unbelievers will be thrown into the lake of fire. The judgment in 1 Peter is not to determine salvation. It is an examination of a believer's motives and actions in order to reward him or her. This judgment seat is mentioned in Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10. The Greek word for judgment seat in these verses is "bema" (bay'-ma). It is at the bema seat judgment that I want to hear, "Well done good and faithful servant!"

a) Read Romans 14:10-12 and 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. What do you learn about the judgment or bema seat of Christ?

- b) There may have been 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire when Peter wrote his letter. The slave's freedom could be purchased either by the slave after saving money to pay off his master, or by someone else who pays the price to redeem them. Read Titus 3:3-6. What were we once enslaved to?
- c) From 1 Peter 1:18-19, how are we redeemed?

Note: Throughout the Old Testament, innocent animals were killed as a payment for our sins. In Genesis 3, God killed an animal to make skins to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness, symbolizing the shedding of blood to cover sins. In Exodus 12 we see the blood of the Passover lamb used to protect Israel from the angel of death. You may ask, "Why blood?" When we realize that something innocent had to die for the sins we commit daily, we realize how serious our ugly sins are to God.

d) Look again at verse 18. Take a moment to think about your upbringing. Are there religious ceremonies, customs, or ideas passed down through your family or church that you have held on to thinking they would make you more acceptable to God? If we try to be redeemed by anything other than the blood of Christ, it is a futile way of life! Our faith and hope are in God, not religious ceremony.

4) Read 1 Peter 1:22-25

- a) What are the results to obedience to the truth?
- b) The word "sincere" in verse 22 means "unhypocritical." Think back to a time when your love for someone was really motivated by getting something in return. You didn't love them for their sake but because it benefited you. Why doesn't insincere love reflect God's love?
- c) What is the imperishable seed likened to in verse 23?
- d) Read Matt 13:18-23. What is the seed compared to in these verses?
 - i) What happens to the seed that is sown in good soil? Can we choose to be good soil? Look back through the lesson. How can we make our hearts "good soil" that will produce fruit?
- e) The word of God endures forever. Remember that when Peter wrote this the New Testament had not been fully written and established as scripture. He was referring back to the Old Testament with all of the prophecies about Christ. How important is the word of God to you? I encourage you to write out a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind to understand the scriptures.

NOTES FOR LESSON TWO:
