

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER
TO THE CHURCH OF THE DISPERSION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

1 PETER CHAPTER 1:17-21

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-952 JUNE 24, 2018

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“The Christian Life” – Part 1

The Ministry of The Grace of God Toward All Those Who Are Anchored in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Grace, Holiness, Waiting, Sanctification, Maturity

Introduction to the Text: 1 Peter 1:17-21

1 Peter 1:17-21

17 And if you **call** on the Father, who without **partiality** judges **according** to each one’s work, **conduct** yourselves throughout the time of **your stay** here in **fear**;

18 knowing that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your **aimless conduct** received by **tradition** from your fathers,

19 but with the **precious** blood of Christ, as of a lamb without **blemish** and without **spot**.

20 He indeed was **foreordained** before the foundation of the world, but was **manifest** in these **last times** for you.

21 who **through** Him **believe in** God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory (being now a human Jesus is glorified), so that your **faith** and **hope** are in God.

Last time we were invited to walk with God and that decision, that response to His invitation imparts to us a “separation” from this world and toward God. (In this is our personal holiness)

The Christian Life Is Anchored

1.) Because the future is all about the HOPE

vs. 17

I believe that there’s a direct correlation between (1) the level of hope that you experience in your life is (2) equal to the reverence that you have for God.

:17 And if you **call** on the Father, who without **partiality judges according** to each one's **work, conduct** yourselves throughout the time of **your stay** here in **fear**;

Peter is contrasting the terrorizing fear that Nero's "anti-Christian" campaigns had brought about, by reminding them that there is a beautiful, healthy and appropriate fear that is #1 – greater than any earthly intimidation, and is #2 for our good and eternal benefit.

The Christian Life Is Anchored
Because the future is all about the HOPE

1a.) Our hope is settled with access

vs. 17a

:17a And if you call on the Father,

Here, the word "If" means both "if" as "when you do call" and "since you do call"

It is the natural response of a child to call on his or her father. Prayer is both simple and not simple. It is both calming and can be a battle.

call **grk:** epikaleo; to make an appeal. To call out to, to petition as a child calls out to the parent.

There is a great assumption here.
The bible assumes that the reader understands that there is a special and unique and loving relationship between child and parent.

All of this predicated upon us "going to God in prayer" because we believe we can.

Psalm 50:15

Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Christian Life Is Anchored
Because the future is all about the HOPE

1b.) Our hope rests upon His goodness

vs. 17b

:17 who without **partiality judges according** to each one's **work**,

partiality

grk: **aprosopoleptos**, *ap-ros-o-pol-ape'-tos*; having no favorites or "elevated ones". In a way not accepting the persons status, blood or rank.

judges

grk: krino; to judge with perfect knowledge and perfect understanding of the issue(s). To know all that can be known.

according

grk: a judgement or ruling based on someone's faithfulness to what was expected of them. A determination, evaluation that is made which is equal to the ability and opportunity given."

work

grk: ergon; decided actions, your life in private and in public, your behavior, your doings, your life-style lived.

**God will judge us with the intent to
"bring out what was, is good and lasting"**

John 15:5,16

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. :16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,

The Christian Life Is Anchored
Because the future is all about the HOPE

1c.) Our hope awaits the outcome

vs. 17c

:17c **conduct** yourselves throughout the time of **your stay** here in **fear**;

The Heaven-Bound Christian is now an altogether
different person from who he or she was before having encountered
Jesus Christ. – The Bible Could be Called “The Book of Transformation”

conduct grk: anastrepho; knowing what was and deciding to be what is. To turn-over or overturn one’s life.

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. **25** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

:17c conduct yourselves
throughout the time of **your stay**

stay grk: paroikia; the time it takes for you to pass by. A sojourning. An overnighiter, paroikos; to dwell near or to be close to your destination, to be a foreigner or an alien where you are staying.

And here’s the key to it all

fear grk: phobos; to be put to flight, to be in dread of, to dwell or live or to sojourn with a profound AWE, reverence.

Early Church Father - Polycarp

Instructed the believers at Philippi, **“Bind up your loose robes and serve as God’s slaves in reverential fear and truth.”**

Proverbs 9:10

“The **fear** of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and (connected is) the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Psalms 34:9

Fear the Lord, you His holy people, for those who fear Him lack nothing.

Our Hope Awaits The Outcome

Philippians 1:6

(be) Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you **will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;

The Christian Life Is Anchored

2.) Because the past is all about your FAITH

vs. 18-19

Because the past is all about your FAITH

2a.) Faith is knowing the method

vs. 18a

:18a Knowing that you were not **redeemed** with **corruptible** things, like **silver** or **gold**,

knowing

grk: having something of great importance revealed to you. Knowledge given. Having been told what the truth is or what the answer is.

**This Past Wednesday Night, I Celebrated my 41st.
Spiritual Birthday
By walking back through that time - “Remembering”.**
(Monday June 20, 1977)

I cannot stress this enough – “are you certain, do you know by experience that you are in fact a real Christian?”

John 6:35-39a NLT

“I am the bread of life. **Whoever** comes to me will never be hungry again. **Whoever** believes in me will never be thirsty. **36** But you haven’t believed in me even though you have seen me. **37** However, **those** the Father has given me **will come to me**, and I **will never reject them**. **38** For I have come down from heaven to do **the will of God** who sent me, not to do my own will. **39a** And **this is the will of God**, that I should **not lose even one** of all **those** He has given me,

redeemed

grk: in the past tense as a finished act. That which has happened. To have been delivered from slavery. Rescued from being under the absolute control and dominion of another.

**According to both secular and Church history,
there were some 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire.
History records many of them became Christians.**

In the Roman Empire, a slave had the opportunity to purchase his own freedom with money, or someone could buy him from his master to then set him free. Both situations were near impossible to experience because the slave never had enough resources, and who would have such a love for a slave to purchase them, only to set them free?

This whole-meaning of the word “Redeemed” comes from the slave-culture of the 1^{st.} century Roman world.

Which brings us to an interesting reality as slaves. When the things of life have been stripped away from us, we’re often brought to the place of having no other option or help from anyone or from any other direction. It’s only then that we must look up!

Remembrance / Memorial / Reflection / Testimony

It wasn't long after the Jews had left Egypt that they became disgruntled with God in the wilderness because that had forgotten how bad it had been in Egypt. They begin to say things like – “we had meat in Egypt, and onions too. It was awesome there.”

Notice with me what the Bible considers – Corruptible Things!

**Not Silver or Gold, Not Emeralds and Diamonds,
No earthly currency can do it.**

The Christian Life Is Anchored
Because the past is all about your FAITH

2b.) Faith is knowing the direction	vs. 18b
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:18b from your **aimless conduct**
received by tradition from your fathers,

aimless

grk: mataios; vain, useless, futile things, things that are empty or hold nothing. Believing, doing, spending, pursuing things that have no lasting value or purpose. Things that have no substance to them.

The Christian Life Is Anchored
Because the past is all about your FAITH

2c.) Faith is knowing the cost

vs. 19

:19 but with the **precious blood** of Christ,
as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

This is the doctrine of substitution taught in the Bible.

From Genesis to Revelation there is this connective thread that is preached by God through his Prophets, Preachers and even Angels – “That God was in Christ at the cross” purchasing the salvation of mankind

By the act of substitution.

Simply put – Jesus became my substitute, to die at my place, instead of me – he took my place and was judged from my sins.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all,

Philippians 2:5-10

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

2 Corinthians 5:18a

Now all things (meaning; this salvation and beyond) are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ,

Genesis 3:21

And **for** Adam and his wife the Lord God **made tunics of skin, and clothed** them.
(covered or removed from sight their nakedness)

Question: who paid the price for Adam & Eve’s sins?
An innocent animal - most likely a lamb.

What did the animal do to deserve that?
What price did the animal pay for Adam’s sin?

precious

grk: **timiω̄ tatoβ timiotatos**, *tim-ee-o´-tat-os*; from 5092; valuable, i.e. (objectively) costly, or (subjectively) honored, esteemed, or (figuratively) beloved: — dear, honorable, (more, most) precious, had in reputation.

The Christian Life Is Anchored

3.) Because today is all about His LOVE

vs. 20-21

The Christian Life Is Anchored Because today is all about His LOVE

3a.) God's love was greater than the risk

vs. 20

:20 He indeed was **foreordained** before the foundation of the world

Foreordained grk: *proginosko*; from 4253 and 1097; to know beforehand: — foreknew(2), foreknown(1), knowing beforehand(1), known previously(1).

Luke 9:22

And Jesus said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."

John 10:17-18

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **18 No one takes it from Me**, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

"No one takes it from Me"

I believe that, that it is true for the Christian also.

In reality – I believe that we cannot be murdered or killed. I believe that we cannot be put to death. No one can take our lives from us – because we live eternally in Christ.

The Christian Life Is Anchored Because today is all about His LOVE

3b.) God's love is only by appointment

vs. 20

:20 but was **manifest** in these **last times** for you

The Reality of “Now” in Your Life

The Christian Life Is Anchored
Because today is all about His LOVE

3c.) God’s love has been accepted or rejected

vs. 21

:21 who through Him **believe in** God,
who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, (why?)
so that your **faith** and **hope** are **in** God.

Acts 2:38-39

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

In light of all that He has done for us;

I must submit this challenge to you, the Christian at this church.

Do you believe in what you’ve heard here today?

How do you know if you do believe in what you’ve heard here today?

Proof – does **anyone in your life know** that you know Jesus?

Proof – does anyone, **do we, need you** in this church routinely?

Proof – have you ever **shared the Gospel** with another person?

Proof – have you ever **led anyone** else to Christ – witnessed?

Proof – if you decided **not to go** to church – would anyone suffer?

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19 Go** therefore and **make** disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

End of Study

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