

Lamp in the Valley Ministries

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Meeting address: 167 South Country Rd, Remsenburg

Bible study Wednesdays 7 - 8 PM

1 Peter New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

- Aliens?
- They were in their native lands
- John 7:32-39
- John 14:1-6
- Matthew 6:19-20

who are chosen

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ

- Always a question - does God have elect? Then why pray for people and witness to them?
- God instructs it - Luke 6:28, Matthew 28:18-20
- Surely He would not give instruction in vain
- He simply knows who will turn in the end
- But all are given a fair chance

and be sprinkled with His blood:

- Leviticus 16:14
- Hebrews 9:7

May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

- Grace - Ephesians 2:8-9
- Peace - Matthew 10:34-38
- So what is the peace? Romans 5:1, Ephesians 6:15
- In this context of peace then, what does Matthew 5:9 mean?
- Peacemakers - those who share the Gospel and spread peace with God, not with man

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- What is significant here?
- Clearly references two entities
- Of course John 10:30

who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again

- What does this mean?
- Galatians 2:20
- Literally killed and reborn into a state of grace

to a living hope

- What is that living hope?
- Jesus Christ!

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- What is unusual here?
- He doesn't refer to our birth coming simply from Jesus dying for our sins but rather the resurrection
- Without the resurrection we would simply be forgiven... and dead
- The resurrection is proof that God accepted Christ's sacrifice as payment for our sins so that we can be restored to our original state - to live eternally with God
- Genesis 3:22-24

4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable

- What is meant by inheritance?
 - Romans 8:15-19
 - We inherit the kingdom of our Father
 - The kingdom in which to live
 - The power of God working through us
 - The ability to be in His glory and have it show through us
- What is meant by imperishable?
 - Matthew 27:50-51
 - John 6:37

and undefiled

- 1 John 1:9

and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

- John 14:2-3

5 who are protected by the power of God through faith

- How does this work?
- 1 - Romans 5:6-8, John 11:25-26 - our faith tells us His promises are real and reliable
- 2 - Colossians 2:8-23 - faith in God's Word gives us power through knowing of His victory already won, His power over demons and demonic influence, and His steadfastness to us

for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- A the last time - what does that mean?
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

- Ever have something you are dreading? How do you comfort yourself?
- Maybe by thinking well at least tomorrow it will be over
- Tomorrow is the weekend, tomorrow I'll see my friends, tomorrow I'll take a vacation
- We have the ultimate eternal vacation planned for us - by God!
- In this we can always rejoice, even when "for a little while" we have trials
- This is how Paul was able to write Philippians 4:11-13 - while he was in PRISON!
- And the prison Paul was in did not have luxuries - there is speculation it was probably a hole in the ground with a small opening, open to the weather, where they threw down food

7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable,

- The Bible refers to gold a lot
- 1 Kings 6:19-22
- 1 Kings 10:1-2
- Obviously it was precious in biblical times too
- So how is the proof of our faith more precious? How is gold perishable?
- Matthew 24:35

even though tested by fire,

- Gold is purified and tested by fire, just as we are through trials and judgment, but the proof of our faith remains
- So what makes the proof of our faith imperishable?
- It is in our spirit, our eternal soul

may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- What does this mean?
- That when we suffer trials we praise God - for our perseverance, for our purification and sanctification, and because we love Him more than we hate the trial

8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him,

- John 20:24-29

and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

- What does this tell us about our walk, especially when we have trials?
- Proof of our faith should be that even then we rejoice

9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

- Praise be to God!

10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,

11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

- What is the theological significance of this, what does it say about the reliability of the Gospel?
- The prophets of the Old Testament knew the Messiah was coming - something people actually debate today
- Luke 6:20-22

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you

- Who was serving who and for what purpose?
- The prophets of old were serving us today, and those in Christ's time, by writing what God told them about the Messiah, so that we might know Him
- Which speaks to the importance of knowing the Old Testament and the prophecies of Christ
- These are what build a firm foundation under a new Christian convert

through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven

- Was this just the apostles?
- All who preach the Gospel successfully today also do so through the Holy Spirit
- John 6:65

—things into which angels long to look.

- What things?
- The Gospel - that the ancient prophets sought to understand
- Luke 10:23-24
- More precious than gold!

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action,

- Can the mind, the thoughts, carry out actions?
- What is meant here is to prepare and order your thoughts and plans so that you are ready to dedicate yourself to the Gospel

keep sober in spirit,

- What does sober in spirit mean?
- Not only free from the influence of substances, but also focused, prepared for attack, confident in the Lord, your salvation and the Gospel, prepared to give a defense and to do spiritual battle, as though preparing for a physical battle.
- But remember our battle is spiritual - that's why were preparing our *minds*

fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Why is this important?
- We must above all else have all our hope, confidence, peace, joy, desire be focused on spending eternity with God and Christ in Heaven through our salvation in Jesus Christ
- So that nothing and no one else will distract us, disarm us, worry us
- Matthew 14:25-31

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

- What were we ignorant of?
- The Gospel, the Holy Spirit, God, God's commandments, God's existence, etc
- Luke 12:47-48

15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

- Where is it written?
- Leviticus 19:2; Leviticus 20:7; Leviticus 20:26; Leviticus 21:8; Exodus 19:6;
- What does Peter repeating this tell us?
- If we are obedient children, which can only happen through the Holy Spirit, the death of ourselves and our resurrection in Christ, we will obey God's law, grace or no grace, because we love Him
- 1 John 3:5-7

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

- Why does the idea of being impartially judged lead to fear (of God)?
- Consider each day you've lived - if you were judging yourself, would you say you have done everything good and right?

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

- Those things we hold most precious do not hold a candle to the blood of Christ that was spilled for us
- If someone gave all they had to free you from prison, what would be your response to them?
- How much more should it be toward your holy Creator who shed His own blood to pay for your iniquity?
- People think God wants to control them. His message really is, I can save you but I need you to obey what I say when I do so that it may go well with you and you don't stumble again

20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

- What does this mean?
- He had no ultimate reason to need to reveal Himself in the flesh
- So what was the reason?
- 1 John 4:7-8

21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

- "So that" - these words indicate a motivation, a reason
- So what is the reason?
- Hebrews 6:19-20

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

- How does Peter know this about us?
- If I love God and Jesus, if I have surrendered my will, and if Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Liife, how would I not be in obedience to Him?
- Since=because
- It is this obedience to God, to His Word, to Jesus, that allows us to fervently love one another
- Ephesians 6:10
- Matthew 19:25-26

23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable,

- Luke 1:26-35
- We know we have this holy Seed within us

that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

- John 1:1

24 For, "All flesh is like grass And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off,

25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word which was preached to you.

- for=because
- It is because we are lashed to the immovable Word (Jesus Christ) that we are able to survive and flourish eternally

1 Peter 2

1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

- Notice it says putting aside
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Proverbs 14:12
- Why is this important?
- Matthew 12:22-28
- Mark 9:38-41
- Note that Jesus did not demand any details of their preaching - if they were baptizing and preaching the Gospel they were with Him

2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

- Imagine how a baby cries for a bottle when they have that hunger that they don't understand - this is how we should be reaching for the Word!
- The goal is Hebrews 5:12-14

3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

- Psalm 34:8
- I think of the woman from John 4:27-30; 39-41
- So how do we taste the kindness of Christ
 - By true repentance, first of all - realizing we were doomed and He died for our sins
 - By surrender, experiencing His glory in the worst moments of our lives

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

- 1 Samuel 16:6-7
- John 3:18-21
- Why precious in the sight of God?
 - Isaiah 1:16-20
 - Philippians 2:5-11
- Why a living stone?
 - Stone - foundation of the building, cornerstone
 - Living - resurrected as a live human being and God at the same time

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house

- How then are we living stones?
 - We are alive
 - We are being stacked upon Jesus to form His church - spiritual house
 - Luke 21:5-6
 - John 2:18-20

for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- What does it mean "for a holy priesthood"
 - We are all a holy priesthood
 - The priests in the days of the Israelites in the wilderness and Canaan were specially chosen by God to be those who could purify themselves and be in His presence in order to present sacrifices

- One Christ died and the veil tore we can all now fill this role, and we are to do so
 - Matthew 27:50-51
 - 1 Timothy 2:5
 - Romans 8:14-16
 - Luke 12:1-8

6 For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”

- Those who studied the scriptures *should have* understood this
- Isaiah 28:14-19

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone,”

8 and, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”;

- Why a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense
 - John 5:1-18
 - Matthew 23:1-12
 - Mark 7:5-13
 - They saw and heard Jesus declaring Himself to be Son of God come to forgive sins but they were so wrapped up in their own traditions and pride they could only see Him as a threat
 - What kind of Messiah *would* they have accepted?

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

- So what does this tell us?
 - Obedience to the Word is key to accepting Christ
 - James 1:21
 - John 1:1-14

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession,

- Who is “you”
 - All believers
- Should we feel *proud* that we are a holy nation?
 - Philippians 2:12
 - If we are to be a holy possession of God, the One True Light, in Whom there is no shadow of turning and we love Him, then we should fear Him as well, and want to rise to His standard

so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- So why did He choose us?
 - Not only because He loves us but to bring Him glory

10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- Isaiah 43:1
- Galatians 3:13-14
- John 19:30
- What should the word “redeemed” mean to us?
 - God has purchased our freedom with His own blood
 - 1 Corinthians 6:20

11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

- Again, we are, once we are saved, aliens in this world - we are members of the Kingdom of God, only here now to spread God's Word of salvation
- The phrasing of this sentence is that these lusts literally wage a war against our actual souls
- James 1:13-15

12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

- What does this mean?
- Why would they slander you as evildoers?
 - Luke 6:22-23
- What would it mean to glorify God in the day of visitation?
 - Glorifying God should be easily understood
 - The day of visitation - there are many contradicting opinions on this phrase, I would just assume it to mean judgment day
 - In order for the Gentiles to glorify God on judgment day, they would have to convert to Christians
- So the meaning here is live a godly life so that people who are not yet believers are converted to believers by seeing how well you conduct yourself
- Luke 11:33-36

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

- This is not easy instruction but it is of course repeated by Paul in Romans 13:1-7
- For an example, we must look no further than King Saul - appointed by the Lord but disobedient to Him constantly and eventually rejected by God
- But Isaiah 46:8-11 - God knew the whole time what would happen
- And he declares through two of His messengers that we are to obey
- Plus Matthew 23:1-3 even though He had *heavily* rebuked the Pharisees

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

- We get a hint here of why this is a necessary part of the instruction we receive from God
- 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Must be above reproach so that they may not bring shame to God's name
- Romans 2:23-24

16 Act as free men,

- Galatians 5:1
- What yoke
- Anything that does not involve the Gospel - believe God's law, thus believe you have sinned, repent of your sin, believe Christ died to pay for it and believe that He was bodily resurrected to give eternal life

and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

- How would we use it as a covering for evil?
 - By saying I am not under the law so I do not have to obey it
 - Paul makes clear in Romans this is not an acceptable attitude
 - Romans 8:1-11

- If Christ dwells in you and Christ and God are the same and God does not change and - Galatians 2:20 Christ lives through us, then how can Christ disobey God's law
- Bondslaves - 1 Corinthians 6:20
 - He saved your life - your *eternal* life - so you ought to be glad to do as He asks

17 Honor all people,

- Matthew 5:43-48
- James 3:9
- 1 Peter 3:9
- So many arguments about who is dishonoring who, but God says honor all people, they are all His children, and He wants *none* to perish

love the brotherhood,

- The brotherhood - one body
- Ephesians 4:1-6

fear God, honor the king.

- What does it mean to fear God?
 - Know what He commands
 - Know what He desires
 - Be zealous to please Him
 - Defer to Him
 - Repent when you displease Him
- What does it mean to honor the King?
 - John 14:15

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

- This would be well heeded advice today
- Our job is to glorify God, to do His will and seek His kingdom and righteousness
- Matthew 6:24-34
- Romans 12:14-20
- I wonder how many of us today, for all our quoting of scripture, could say we are obeying Romans 12:20

20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

- Why would this be?
- Matthew 5:43-48
- Romans 12:14-21

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

- Isaiah 53:7

- Luke 23:33-34
- So what is the example?
 - We must suffer for the salvation of others - show them love in the face of persecution.

22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;

- What example does this give us?
 - James 1:20
 - Psalm 4:4 - tremble, not “be angry”

23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return

- Why not revile in return?
 - Genesis 1:27
 - James 3:9-10

; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

- What do we keep in mind to accomplish this same thing?
 - “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord”

24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,

- How can we model this?
 - We cannot take on others’ sins as Jesus did BUT we can allow our bodies to suffer as a result of their sin, all the while loving them through it and praying for them and giving them the Gospel

so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness;

- What brings about sin?
 - Pride, selfishness, etc
 - James 4:1-4
 - Is it not seeking friendship with the world to get angry when others don’t treat you with friendship?
 - If we are about God’s purpose their behavior should not matter to us, whether friendly or not.

for by His wounds you were healed.

- And by our wounds another can be healed

25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

- And you can help them do the same

Chapter 3

1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

3 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

10 For, "The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.

11 "He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it.

12 "For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

13 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,

20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.