

21S17 1st Peter 1:13-21

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our series on 1st Peter with 1 Peter 1:13-21.

The author is the Apostle Peter. Most scholars believe this letter was written sometime in AD60-64. The main theme of 1st Peter is “Where does our Hope come from?” for those suffering persecution. This letter was written to Christians living in the Roman Empire and facing persecution because they follow Jesus.

I’m reading from the International Children’s Bible (ICB) today, I like the plain English in this translation. Let’s read 1 Peter 1:13 (ICB). *¹³So prepare your minds for service and have self-control. All your hope should be for the gift of grace that will be yours when Jesus Christ comes again.*

I’ve always been told that when you see the word “So,” in the Bible it is time to listen carefully. The “so” is there so we will pay attention to the “what” that is said next. So, what does Peter say next. Stop talking and start doing. Prepare are ourselves for service to others. We don’t live for yourself anymore.

Let’s continue reading 1 Peter 1:14-16 (ICB). *¹⁴In the past you did not understand, so you did the evil things you wanted. But now you are children of God who obey. So do not live as you lived in the past. ¹⁵But be holy in all that you do, just as God is holy. God is the One who called you. ¹⁶It is written in the Scriptures: “You must be holy, because I am holy.”*

Peter is explaining that before we knew Jesus, we did evil things because we did not know any better. But now we are children of the King. Children of God. We no longer live like we did before we knew Jesus. We are Holy because God is Holy. As Children of God, we are Holy. Which means set aside for God. We have a purpose.

Let’s continue reading 1 Peter 1:17 (ICB). *¹⁷You pray to God and call him Father. And this Father judges each man’s work equally. So, while you are here on earth, you should live with respect for God.*

Others Bible translations use “fear God”. In Ancient world people understood what “fear the King” meant. It means you respect what they say. You do what the tell you do. You “fear them” meaning you respect them. Think about this, if you ignore your parents or teachers, you won’t have a good relationship with them. You will miss the blessings of a good relationship with them. This is the same with God, if we ignore Him and don’t do what He asks us to do, then we will miss the blessing of a good relationship with God. Remember Christian means a follower of Christ, as follower of Jesus. If you ignore Him and don’t do what He asks, then how can you expect to have a good relationship with Him.

Let's continue reading 1 Peter 1:18-21 (ICB).¹⁸*You know that in the past you were living in a worthless way. You got that way of living from the people who lived before you. But you were saved from that useless life. You were bought, but not with something that ruins like gold or silver.* ¹⁹*You were bought with the precious blood of the death of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb.* ²⁰*Christ was chosen before the world was made. But he was shown to the world in these last times for you.* ²¹*You believe in God through Christ. God raised Christ from death and gave him glory. So your faith and your hope are in God.*

What is the “worthless living” Peter is talking about. Selfish living. If we put ourselves first and don't care about others, then we are living selfishly. This is worthless living. God saved us from this useless life. The word translated as useless is translated “futile” or “empty” or “vain” in other translations. It is translated from the Greek word (mataias) from the root word matén (mat'-ane) which means “to no purpose” or “pointless”. Another way is to say without any real purpose or a fruitless life. Doesn't sound very good to have no point or purpose to your life. Most of us want our life to matter. Peter tells us if we want purpose, then following Jesus is the only way. Serving others in the name of Jesus is our purpose. Now that does not necessarily mean you have to be pastor or missionary. Serving others for Jesus, means living your life as a follower of Jesus. Love the people Jesus puts in front of you, even the ones who hate you, cheat you, and are not nice to you. You love them by treating them fairly, even if they are not fair. You love them by treating them with respect, even if they don't give you respect. Serving others is when you see a need and you fill that need. You see people in need and you try to do something about that need. You don't go plan and study the problem; you just do it. God will guide your process and provide you with everything you need. You just need to do something.

We were bought out of that useless life with a price, the Blood of Jesus Christ. He paid my debt to God for my selfishness, my sins so I could become a child of God. And because we are now children of God, we should do what” Listen to Him and Do what He says.

From your experience does life go better when we listen to our parents and teachers or boss? Of course, we benefit from a good relationship with them. So, if we know this about dealing with people then what about God? If we don't listen to God, if we don't do what He says, then we will miss the blessings of a good relationship with God.

Let's Pray.

I hope you are enjoying our study of 1st Peter. I truly love this letter of Peter's. I hope you will join me for the rest of this series

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