

## 21S18 1st Peter 1:22-25

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 1<sup>st</sup> Peter with 1 Peter 1:22-25.

The author is the Apostle Peter. Most scholars believe this letter was written sometime in AD60-64. The main theme of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1:22-25 (ICB). *[22Now you have made yourselves pure by obeying the truth. Now you can have true love for your brothers. So, love each other deeply with all your heart.](#)*

There are four words I want you to pay special attention to. Pure, Truth, Love and Deeply

The word Pure is translated as “cleansed” in the NLT and “purified souls” in KJV. It more like holy in that we have been cleansed of our sins and set apart for God. Another way of saying it would be, we are moving away from our selfish way of living and toward a new way of living based on love.

The second word is “truth” is translated from the Greek word (alētheias) from the root word aléthés (al-ay-thace’) meaning unconcealed, true, true in fact, worthy of credit, truthful. Truth is truth. There is only one truth, and it comes from God in the Bible. So, we are made pure or cleansed by obeying the truth of God as it is revealed to us in the Bible.

The next word is “love” translated from a form of the Greek word agape. Agape is different from other types of love. The essence of agape love is goodwill, benevolence, and willful delight type of love. Agape is not like our concept of mushy romantic love. It is also not like close friendship or brotherly love, the Greek word for this kind of love is philia. Agape love involves faithfulness, commitment, and an act of the will. It is distinguished from the other types of love by its lofty moral nature and strong character. You can read more about the Agape love in 1 Corinthians 13.

Our last word is deeply. Other translations use fervently or earnestly. Peter is telling our love for each other should be sincere and strong. This is the kind of love that leads you to sacrifice for them. Put other first before yourself. This is self-sacrificing love. A truly radical kind of love.

Let's continue reading 1 Peter 1:23-25 (ICB). *<sup>23</sup>You have been born again. This new life did not come from something that dies, but from something that cannot die. You were born again through God's living message that continues forever. <sup>24</sup>The Scripture says, "All people are like the grass. And all their strength is like the flowers of the field. The grass dies and the flowers fall. <sup>25</sup>But the word of the Lord will live forever." (Isaiah 40:6-8). And this is the word that was preached to you.*

Peter says we should be "born again", what does that mean? We have a new life. We have taken off the old self, that is we gotten rid of the selfish old self and put on the new self. We are new with God and new from inside out. We are changing our character to be more like Jesus. This does not mean we are perfect. Far from it. It means we are working to reshape our character to be more like Jesus. We don't let our old ambitions or selfishness rule us, we let God guide us and change us from the inside out.

Peter quotes a poem from Isaiah. He uses this poem to illustrate that our new self does not trust earthly riches or strength which all fade away, we trust God. We want to build our life around something that lasts forever. Our agape love for God and our agape love for others.

The "new life Peter is talking about comes in two different ways. The first way is when we follow Jesus. We immediately have new relationships with God. We are now His children. We are the children of God.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> way is we are also made new from the inside out, as the holy spirit helps us change our habits from bad to good. And I know it is hard to stop being selfish. The Good News is God can help. Spend time in prayer. Spend time reading and studying the Bible. Spend time with our Christian brothers and sisters. And Spend time serving others in the name of Jesus. That's how God will help us change for the inside out.

### **Let's Pray.**

### **In your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

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

Thank you for joining me for Students @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at [kip@punla.org](mailto:kip@punla.org). I appreciate your feedback. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

