New Life
CHURCH CRAWLEY

The message of 1 Peter

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS TUESDAY 7TH JULY

- Imagine a new believer asks you “who is Peter?” How would you introduce Peter to this person in 1 minute?
- How should God’s mercy affect us? Personally and as a church?
- Why is our hope called a “living” hope?
- How will knowing we have an inheritance in heaven affect our behaviour and attitudes when we face trials?
- What aspect of 1 Peter do you need to hear most at the moment?
- How can you promote a desire for the "pure spiritual milk" 1 Peter 2:2 in your walk with God?
- How can help you keep accountable in this process?

Pontus
Bithynia
Phillippi
Cappadocia
Galatia
Troas
Pergamum
Asia Minor
Ephesus
Colossae
Lystra
Derbe
Tarsus
Perge
Antioch
Rhodes
Salamis
Paphos

A key characteristic of the book of 1 Peter is the EMPHASIS ON HOPE

A blissfully naïve chump with a big smile?

Cutting-edge science shows that hope matters a lot - hope is vital to our health & wellbeing. You can

"Hope is patience with the lamp lit." (Tertullian)

This living hope is identified very personally from Peters' own experience, he was an eyewitness, not a set of truths or doctrines sent by an angel.

Peter makes reference to his being an eye witness:

- He was an eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ (1 Pet. 5:1).
- He was an eyewitness of the transfiguration (2 Pet. 1:16-18).

Peter underlines the value of this living hope.
He uses the word "precious" a number of times.

Peter uses the word eight times in both 1 and 2 Peter to refer to five precious things:

1. A faith more precious than gold (1 Pet. 1:7; 2 Pet. 1:1)
2. The precious blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:19)
3. Christ, the precious, chosen Cornerstone Stone (1 Pet. 2:4,6, 7)
4. A precious gentle and quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3:4)
5. Great and precious promises (2 Pet. 1:4)

Peter is clear to confirm that this living hope is all about what Christ has done for us. It is God's work, God's initiative, God who redeem us, bought us and brought back to himself.!

There are references to the work of Christ:

1. His incarnation (1 Pet. 1:20).
2. His sinless life (1 Pet. 1:19; 2:22)
3. His suffering and death (1 Pet. 2:24)
4. His resurrection (1 Pet. 3:21-22)
5. His ascension 1I Pet. 3:22)
6. His enthronement (1 Pet. 3:22)
7. His second coming (1 Pet. 1:7, 13; 4:13; 5:1, 4)

A key characteristic of the book of 1 Peter is the PRACTICAL CALL TO HOLINESS

He reminds them that as Gentiles, they once lived in ignorance (they didn't know the ways of God).

But they're now a holy nation, part of God's own people, called to a new way of life.

This new life, Peter insists, is to be lived out specifically in their community — in their relationships with one another.

Holiness is not an abstract thought, it is to be worked out the context of real relationships and Peter tells us how:

1 Peter 1:22
"have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart."

1 Peter 4:8
“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins"

IT IS A DEMONSTRATION OF DISCIPLESHIP...

John 13:33-35, Jesus gave a new commandment to love one another, even as Jesus loved us.

A key characteristic of the book of 1 Peter is the call to be FAITHFUL IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY

It was most likely written around 63-65 A.D. This was at a time when Nero was moving more and more against the church.

The word suffering in one form or another occurs approximately sixteen times in the book.

1 Pet 4:12 "DO NOT BE SURPRISED"
How many times have you seen people's faith shipwrecked because if difficulty come into their lives?

Jesus warned us in Matt 13 commonly called the parable of the sower that the cares of this life, it's worries and concerns can choke our spiritual lives!

Peter's theology of suffering can be found in the following references:

1. Suffering for righteousness is part of the call of the believer (1 Pet. 2:19-21).
2. Suffering is to be patiently endured without retaliation (1 Pet. 2:23; 3:9).
3. Suffering patiently does not count for anything if it is for doing wrong (1 Pet. 2:20).
4. Suffering identifies us with Christ who suffered for us (1 Pet. 4:1).
5. Suffering verifies our faith and will lead to certain glory (1 Pet. 4:12-14). Suffering must be seen from an eternal perspective.
6. Suffering is part of the nature of Christianity (I Pet. 4:19).
7. Suffering should not consume us because we have better things to look forward to (1 Pet. 4:19).
9. Because of all of this, we can actually rejoice in suffering (1 Pet. 4:13).

WHEN OUR FAITH IS TESTED WHAT CAN WE BE SURE OF?

- **GOD IS PRESENT IN OUR TROUBLES**

Psalm 46 *“God is an ever present help…"*

- **GOD HAS A PURPOSE THROUGH IT**

2 Cor 4:18 *“light and momentary troubles producing an eternal glory God”*

CONCLUSION:

Asking you to make a commitment that Peter encourages us to have in our lives:

1 Peter 2:2-3 New Living Translation (NLT)

"Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness."