



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 9th January 2022

The hope of Grace. 1 Peter 1:13-25

Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.

1 Peter 1:13-25 The call to be Holy

¹³Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

¹⁷Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

²²Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

Comment

Peter, probably at that time in prison in Rome, was writing to the young church, scattered across the region of Asia Minor (Turkey today). It was a time of great suffering, as Christians were being increasingly persecuted by Emperor Nero, so Peter was writing to encourage the believers to remember their identity, to stand firm in faith and to remind them of God’s great blessing - their ‘living hope’ in Jesus who brings healing, wholeness and love into even the most desperate of situations.

Verse 13 begins ‘Therefore’. So Peter is now starting to give practical guidance on how this Living hope is nurtured and worked out in practice. It begins with staying alert and sober, watchful in our thinking, recognising the spiritual battle around us and the old temptations that seek to knock us off track. We need to be aware of the temptation to conform to societal norms (v17), materialism (v18), empty religion (v18), relational conflict (v22), and scepticism about God’s word (v23). Instead, holiness means considering ourselves set apart for God’s special purposes and for purity. (See Colossians 3 for Paul’s teaching on this subject). Thankfully overcoming our unholy ways (that is sanctification or becoming Christ-like) is not left to us alone! It is the purpose, the plan of the Father who has “predestined us to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Romans 8:29). It is also the passion of the Holy Spirit, by whom we “are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Questions

1. Have you made any New Year resolutions? What might be a good ‘faith resolution’ for 2022?
2. How are your levels of faith, hope and love doing at the moment? How might these increase?
3. Peter suggests that focussing on our ‘Living Hope’ in Christ is foundational for resilience as a Christian. What are some things that can attack our core Christian identity?
4. Do you think living a holy life is possible? How?
5. If life is temporary (v24), what should we be investing our efforts into today?