

START YOUR TIME TOGETHER

- Read 1 Peter 1:13-25
- What is the significance of the word "Therefore"?

When there is a "therefore" in the Scriptures it refers to the immediate context. In this case verses 1-12. It is in the light of what Peter already said that he is going to now discuss verses 13 to 25.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In verses 13-16 (NKJV) we find 5 statements. Can you list them and give a brief explanation of what each mean?
 - a. Gird up the loins of _____
 - b. Be _____
 - c. Rest your _____ fully upon the _____
 - d. Not _____ to your _____

 - e. Be _____

Of the five mentioned above, which do you struggle with the most?

2. Verse 14 reads: "do not be conformed to the former lusts" (NASB). Does it remind you of another verse of the Scriptures? (**Hint:** Romans 12:1-2)

Comparing these two scriptures we can deduce that "former lusts" are the same as "the pattern of this world".

- What exactly would these former lusts include?
(**Hint:** 1 Peter 4:3-4 as well as Colossians 3:5-9)
- Did you become a Christian later in life such that you once lived in your "former lusts" in ignorance? Share if you feel safe and comfortable.
- What do these "former lusts" say about the type of life that Peter's audience used to lead?

3. In verses 15-16 Peter writes: "**Be Holy**".

- Is Peter making a suggestion or issuing a command?
- What does it mean to be "holy"?
- What does it mean to be holy in your current context? Give specific examples?

- How does the Bible define "holy"?
 - Why do we need to be holy?
 - What reasons does Peter give for this command "to be holy"? (v. 15)
4. In verse 16, Peter is quoting Scripture from the Old Testament. Do you know where it is found? Who is it written to? What is the significance of that Old Testament command to be given to the New Testament church?
5. Going back to Romans 12:1
- How does Paul explain holiness: By _____ our bodies as _____.
 - How does Romans 12:1-2 help you with holiness in your personal life?
6. In verse 17, Peter refers to the "One" who has saved us as "Father" and "Judge".
- Why do you think he uses both terms in the same breath?

- What is the significance of each title?

- Peter says that this father and Judge is impartial. What do you understand about His impartiality? Are true believers going to be judged?

- Peter continues that in the light of this impartiality, we need to "conduct yourselves in fear". Does God scare you?
 - Does living holy scare you?
 - Is fear a good motivation?
 - Is there a biblical ground for the use of fear as a motivation for salvation and holy living?
 - What does "conduct yourselves in fear " mean to you?
 - What role does fear play in your parenting or in the way your parents did parenting? Give practical examples.

- 7. According to vv. 18-19, we are told that believers are redeemed people. Defining the word "redemption": Redemption in that time was a marketing term. It was used for the slave market where one would pay a price that was set for a slave usually paid in silver or gold to purchase (redeem) a slave.
 - What are we redeemed from? (v.18)

 - What currency was used to redeem us? (V.19)

8. Going back to the slave market analogy, when a slave was redeemed, his status did not change. - what changed was his ownership. He or she was redeemed for a price to become a slave of a new owner. In Romans 6:15-23 we have been given a spiritual comparison.
- In the culture of our day that has very little respect for being under authority and submission, is this concept of total submission and slavery to God and righteousness hard for you to swallow?
 - Can you accept that you are a bond slave to God?
9. Peter says that our redemption needs to affect our relationships. How does he put it in verse 22?
- What are some of the general ways we can express love to a believer in the church?
 - Who is suffering from a lack of encouragement and affirmation in your circle? How can you love that someone in a specific and practical way this week?
 - Do not ignore that love needs to have a tough side especially in the context of living holy and pure (Hebrews 12:4-11). Who can benefit from your tough love this week?

10. In verse 23, Peter writes that our spiritual rebirth was connected to the workings of an imperishable seed in our lives.
- What is that imperishable seed?
 - Was that your salvation experience?
 - Was the Word of God the reason for your conviction to come into the light? How important is God's Word to your life today? Can you make a new commitment to spend more time in God's word starting today?
11. Most of us are probably convinced that we need to be holy, but the dilemma we are facing is how to live a holy life. On Sunday we were told that by practicing 4 principles we can attain to holiness:
- a. Walk in childlike **obedience**. (v.14)
 - b. Live by the **rules** (10 Commandments).
 - c. Live like you **don't belong**. (v.17)
 - d. Love like you **mean it**. (v.22)

We have already touched on these though our time together, but can you make any final comments on any of the four principals. (Especially on "Live by the Rules")

Before we go into a time of prayer, lets share at least one take away from our study.

LET'S SPEND SOME TIME IN PRAYER

As we go to a time of prayer lets keep this old Proverbial:

"Joy shared is doubled; Grief shared is halved".

Remember that one of the reasons we are in this life group is to walk with each other in times of ecstasy and agony. Please consider us worthy to walk with you especially in times of pain and suffering.