

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Sept	1 Peter 1:1-12	A Living Hope
2) 11 Sept	1 Peter 1:13-25	Be Holy
3) 18 Sept	1 Peter 2:1-10	Building Our Faith
4) 25 Sept	1 Peter 2:11-25	Living as Strangers
5) 02 Oct	1 Peter 3:1-12	Living in Relationship
6) 09 Oct	1 Peter 3:13-22	Always Ready
7) 16 Oct	1 Peter 4:1-11	Equipped to Live
8) 23 Oct	1 Peter 4:12-19	When Ridiculed
9) 30 Oct	1 Peter 5:1-14	Alert Living
10) 6 Nov	2 Peter 1:3-11	Being Useful
11) 13 Nov	2 Peter 1:1-21	With Trust
12) 20 Nov	2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25	On Guard
13) 27 Nov	2 Peter 3:1-18	With Anticipation

INTRODUCTION OF 1 & 2 PETER AND JUDE

- Peter is addressing some Jewish and Gentile Christians who are experiencing the beginnings of persecution. Roman Emperor Nero has not yet burned Rome and placed the blame on Christians
- 1 Peter was written to help with threats from outside the church
- 2 Peter & Jude were written to help address threats from inside the church (false prophets and false teachers)
- One of the hardest parts of our Christian faith is staying focused on the Eternal and not worry about the Temporal state of things

Passage	Comments
1Peter 1:1-5	<p><b>Hope – Recognize its Basis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Pontus to Bithynia comprises modern day Turkey. Today's Christian population in Turkey is less than 2% out of 56 million. Why hasn't Christianity taken hold in Turkey over the past 2000 years? Did Satan win?</li> <li>• v2. One of the few verses which highlights the Trinity (Mt 28:19; Jn 14:26). Peter's words ("Elect according to the foreknowledge of God") were not meant to stir up theological debate, but to bring hope and comfort</li> <li>• vv4-5. An inheritance reserved in Heaven and kept by the power of God through [our God-given] faith – This is not our responsibility.....see Rom 3:3 &amp; 2Tim 2:13</li> <li>• Scripture tells us we are saved in the Past (2Tim 1:9), being saved in the Present (1Cor 1:18), and will be saved in the Future (Rom 5:9) – in other words, it's a done deal – BUT we are not sealed by the Holy Spirit until we believe (which is an act of our will)..... Eph 1:13</li> </ul>
A Note on the Election of God	<p>There are mainly two (2) competing positions on this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Calvinism.</b> The believer has no choice in believing (irresistible grace) – everything (election and predestination) is done for them by a sovereign God without the believer needing to be involved</li> <li>2. <b>Arminianism.</b> The invitation is open to all, God is willing and made it possible to save all. God, being omniscient, knew who would believe, so His sovereignty predestined the elect to be conformed, called, justified, etc.</li> </ol> <p><b>Other Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election and Salvation do not occur at the same time</li> <li>• Election occurs outside of time</li> <li>• Salvation occurs within time, for we are sealed by the Holy Spirit after we believe..... Eph 1:13</li> </ul>
1:6-9	<p><b>Hope – Rejoice in Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v6. <b>New Mindset</b> –The believers were rejoicing though they faced persecution and many temptations</li> <li>• v7. <b>Focused on Eternal not Temporal.</b> The trial of our faith is more precious than gold that perishes</li> <li>• vv8-9. These believers opted to believe without seeing – not a blind faith, but a substantiated faith.....Jn 20:29</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
1:10-12	<p><b>Hope – Recall God's Grace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Old Testament prophets "inquired and searched diligently" of the grace to be given to NT believers</li> <li>• The NT fulfills the OT so that neither can be fully understood without the other</li> <li>• ? Why would God convey bits and pieces about His Word to mankind extending over a 1400 year period, 40 authors, and 66 books, and not provide all of mankind with the same information from Day 1?</li> </ul>
Note on Calvinism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A resurgence of Calvinism within the SBC in recent years encourages us to become familiar with the tenants of its teachings – e.g., predestination and election vs man's will; and did Christ only die for the elect or did He die for both the elect and non-elect?</li> <li>• The elect are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ and this happened before time began; Yet salvation occurs after time was created</li> <li>• But what true benefits do the teachings of Calvinism offer the Church? If we were to consider the Presbyterian Church, which is staunch Calvinistic, &amp; which is struggling with issues on same-sex marriage, women pastors, and declining church attendance, we see that Calvinism does not promote spiritual maturity, does not preserve doctrinal purity, and does not improve evangelistic efforts – SO, BUYER BEWARE</li> <li>• Calvinism, like Pentecostalism, has some good stuff about it, it comes in many flavors, but it has some esoteric or feelings-based stuff which should be deeply questioned (see <a href="#">Comments on Calvin</a>)</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Christianity is not for wimps, and our faith is not an armchair faith
- Believers need to stay focused on the Eternal, not on the temporal
- Calvinists and Arminianist come in all flavors. In brief, not all Calvinist positions are wrong, neither are all Arminianist positions wrong. Neither will one chapter of one book resolve all the issues. It takes the whole counsel of God to sort through everything. Let God be found true & every man a liar (Rom 3:4)

NEXT WEEK: 1Peter 1:13-25. Believers should continue moving forward in their faith, and not to stand still.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"In the future dear, you should keep your views on politics and Calvinism to yourself."