LESSONS THIS QUARTER

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1)	02 Mar	1 Peter 1:1-12	Our Inheritance	
2)	09 Mar	1 Peter 1:13-25	Our Mandate	
3)	16 Mar	1 Peter 2:1-10	Our Identify	
4)	23 Mar	1 Peter 2:11-25	Our Witness	
5)	30 Mar	1 Peter 3:1-12	Our Relationships	
6)	06 Apr	1 Peter 3:13-22	Our Defense	
	13 Apr	1 Peter 4:1-11	Our Faith	
	20 Apr	Mark 15-16	EASTER – Our Savior	
9)	27 Apr	1 Peter 4:12-19	Our Savior	
10)	04 May	1 Peter 5:1-14	Be Prepared	
11)	11 May		Be Equipped	
		2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25		

INTRODUCTION

- These next 13 verses can be read in less than 2 minutes, but to fully comprehend the information and positively change our behavior takes more quality time and in-depth personal study
- This holiness involves choosing our words, deeds, thoughts, and attitudes carefully before we even speak, do, think, or roll our eyes

Passage	Comments
	The Battle is in the Mind
1Peter 1:13	 "Gird up your minds" is a metaphor to prepare your minds for action" – which means think before speaking, before taking action, and even think about what's good to think about or not to think about, and even how to adjust your attitude to reflect a proper demeanor What will your response be in word, thought, deed, and demeanor when your kid smarts off to you? Or when you don't get the promotion you were hoping for? Or when your spouse is moody? Or when someone cuts you off on the road? Or when a beggar asks you for money? Or when you are tempted to lie or cheat? Prepare now so you can reap rewards later "Be sober" involves thinking and responding clearly, smartly, timely. The opposite of being sober is responding rashly, out of selfish motives, or out of spite. "Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." In other words, think long term and don't seek short term gratification. Think about the long-term benefits or consequences your words, thoughts, deeds, and demeanor will have on you
1:14	 and those around you before you convey them We Have a Choice – To Sin or Not to Sin Do not cave in to "former lusts" or previous passions for bad talk, bad deeds, bad thoughts, and bad attitudes Consider Romans 12:2 – "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect"
1:15-16	 What Would Jesus Do? Be Holy as God is Holy We are also commanded by Jesus, Himself, to be Perfect (i.e., "complete") as God is Perfect Mat 5:48 We can be holy like Him in all of our thoughts, actions, and words. Any time & every time we are obedient to His word, we become Holy/Perfect as He is Holy/Perfect – because that is what Jesus would do Think Before Speaking or Acting (James 1:19 – "Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger")

Passage	Comments	
1:17-21	 The Cross Was God's Plan A to Restore Mankind v17. "Conduct yourselves in fear" – This means we should properly respect God's authority in our lives to live obediently for Him, since He can easily discipline us or even take us home early for misbehaving v19. But the real motivation to fear God is not because He will punish us, but because He redeemed us with the precious blood of His Son, Jesus Christ v18b. Our futile or sinful way of life was inherited from our parents, and they inherited it from their parents – all the way back to Adam and Eve. In other words, we learn bad behavior at home – but we are still accountable for our bad behavior v20. Christ dying on the cross was "foreknown before the foundation of the world." Again, this was Plan A 	
1:22-23	 Why Should We Love Others? Cause God Loved Us "fervently love one another from the heart" This means we need to think how we are going show our sincere love to each member of Christ, beginning with our spouse and ending with the most unlovable What words should we say, or not say to them? What deeds should we do, or not do for them? What thoughts should we think or not think about them? What attitudes do we show, or not show around them? 	
1:24-25	 All Flesh is Like Grass – Here Today, Gone Tomorrow These 2 simple verses strongly convey we need to think more on heavenly things then our temporal state 	

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

 In these short 13 verses, Peter conveyed we need to change our behavior by thinking of proper words, thoughts, deeds, and demeanor even before we commit to uttering, doing, thinking or showing them – and this will help make us holy as God is holy

NEXT WEEK: 1Peter 2:1-10. These 10 verses are jammed pack with more doctrinal positions such as experiencing (i.e. "tasting") God in our lives; the priesthood of believers; salvation through Christ; the disobedient are appointed to destruction; and obedient believers are chosen for better things.

THE BACK PEW - Jeff LARSON



If people would heed God's Word more, their lives would be less complicated and more enriched with blessings