1 Peter Introduction to Bible Study

1. Sword Wielding – Piano Playing
   1. If you want to learn to wield a sword, play the piano, work with wood, sew, or do any number of things well, you need to practice.
      1. I was a pole vaulter in High School
      2. I would spend hours working through each movement, pacing off the exact number of steps from the box to where I would start.
      3. I would practice running with a 14’ pole in front of me
      4. I would stand at the box and practice the turn of the pole
      5. I would hang on a rope and invert myself holding my feet above me head, over and over again
      6. All in an effort to train my body to respond as I wanted it to respond.
   2. Drills over and over again develop the fundamentals so that body memory is developed and skill and proficiency are achieved.
   3. And it is this way in everything we do, very few people are just naturals, they need to practice over and over.
   4. So as I came to this chapter about Bible Study, it occurred to me how odd it seemed to talk about the importance of Bible Study or how to do a bible study rather than actually showing you, doing a study with you.
   5. So today we are going to spend time in 1 Peter 1 actually doing a bible study together, with the intention of showing you a method that should be simple enough that you can reproduce it at home with any other scripture
2. 3 parts of Bible Study - OIA
   1. Observation
      1. What does it say?
      2. When we take time to actually look at the text
      3. Compare Bible Translations
      4. Note the Who, what, where,
      5. Maybe relations, cause and effects, if-then, because, so that, …
      6. English class
      7. Too often we read a passage and then jump to some way of living it out, but until we have really looked at the passage and understood what it actually says, we aren’t ready to apply it.
   2. Interpretation
      1. What does it mean?
      2. Given the observations made, what does it mean – to audience, to me, to others?
      3. What doctrines are being taught?
      4. These are often statements that answer Why and How questions.
      5. Broad beliefs we can draw from text…
      6. How does it point to Jesus?
   3. Application
      1. How can I live this out?
      2. What specific things can I do, say, think, not do, not say, not think?
      3. What things must change?
      4. How can I pray this?
3. So with that let’s begin part way into the Letter at 1Peter 1:8-19
   1. And lets practice OIA
   2. [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)
      1. Type in “1 Peter 1”
      2. We want to Read our passage in Context
      3. Read 1 Peter 1
   3. I want to quickly observe a few things about 1Peter 1:1-7 before moving to a more in-depth and interactive practicum this morning:
   4. Author is Peter, the apostle
      1. Gospel of Mark, 1-2 Peter
      2. Cp. Johannine tradition: Gospel of John, 1-3 John, Revelation
      3. Cp. Jacobean/Matthean: Gospel of Matthew, James, Jude
      4. Cp. Pauline tradition: all the rest
   5. Audience: “elect exiles of the Dispersion”
      1. 3 terms here that are fascinating that connect this NT church to the OT people of God:
         1. Elect – chosen. Abraham, Israel were chosen
            1. Gen 18:19 God says ‘I have chosen him [Abraham]’
         2. Exiles – ties them the period when God’s people were not living in the Land of Promise, but are in the nations.
         3. Dispersion – Cast far and wide into the world
      2. Listing of regions that follows is basically all of Asia Minor – modern day Turkish arena
   6. This dispersion is per the plan of God, for the sanctifying of people and for our salvation (2)
   7. Trinitarian Nature of Salvation: Father knows, Spirit Sanctifies, Jesus is Lord and Savior (2)
   8. Salvation originates in the Father’s act for us (3) accomplished by Jesus death and resurrection and results in an inheritance for the saints (4)
   9. But God’s people are suffering (6) but this suffering will prove the reality and wonder of their faith (7)
4. Read in Parallel
   1. [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)
      1. Add Parallel NiRV “1 Peter 1”
      2. We want to Read our passage in multiple translations
      3. Read 1Peter 1:1-2 in Parallel: See how themes of Election, Exiled, Dispersion are drawn out in these other words?
5. Observation
   1. Copy to MSS
   2. Change the formatting by phrases 1 Peter 1:3-9 Exercise
      1. Open the MSWord icon file: 13 1 Peter 1;3-9 MSS for PPT.docx in Sermons:Believe on Dropbox
6. Other Study Aids
   1. <https://www.studylight.org>
      1. General Bible Search 1Peter 1
      2. Bible Study Tools, Commentaries, Barnes “1Peter 1”

1 Peter 1:3-19

Observations

Verse 3-5

Peter blesses the Father because of his mercy

Jesus is Son of God, Lord (Master), Christ (Messiah), our Lord and Messiah

Our includes Peter, elect exiles, gentiles and jews, men and women and children…

Blessing is emphatic

Being born again is result of God’s mercy

Being born again gains us 2 things: living hope, heavenly inheritance

Hope is related to resurrection from dead

Inheritance is permanent

God is guarding his people

Salvation is a future event

God is the initiator of regeneration

Interpretations

Verse 3-5

When God regenerates people, new life begins, hope comes, inheritance is assured

i.e. perseverance of saints

Hope isn’t only future, but it is present since it is living…

Hope is related to eternal life, conquering of death, victory of Jesus!

Hope, resurrection, inheritance all related to each other

Faith isn’t my doing, it is God’s power in me, producing (Eph 2:8-9 grace through faith and this not of yourselves)

Heaven will break into earth in the future.

Salvation doesn’t depend on my effort.

God chooses those he saves.

Mercy can’t be earned

Resurrection of Jesus is key to our hope.

Doctrine of Glorification, ultimate state as compared with sanctification (present state)

Applications

Verse 3-5

I must bless God, declare his goodness, thank him for blessings/gifts, sing of his mercy

Devote time to thinking about the gifts that await me in the end.

Pray for increasing awareness of God’s mercy

Pray for hope that affects everything I encounter in this world

Thank God for security that comes from his work in my life

Pray that I will be ready for the ‘quality’ of inheritance that awaits me.

Observations

Verse 6-7

‘This’ refers great mercy (born again, living hope, inheritance, God’s guarding power)

Rejoicing (heavenly) and grieving (earthly) can be simultaneous

Trials ultimately lead to praise, honor and glory

*Is this praise, honor and glory given to Jesus?*

*Is this praise, honor and glory given to persevering disciples by Jesus?*

Trials are temporary

Trials are difficult (grieved)

Genuine faith doesn’t perish (7)

Interpretations

Verse 6-7

Keeping Eyes fixed on our destiny will allow us to undergo immense difficulty and set it all within eternal perspective

Trials come from God’s hand (see v2 foreknowledge)

Our faith and God’s power work together

Both Jesus and the disciple will be praised by our persevering.

It’s okay to look forward to hearing “Well done good and faithful servant” (Mt 25:23)

Jesus is coming back.

Applications

Verse 6-7

I must rejoice, sing, thank God for what he has done for me, is doing, will do

I must pray for faith to stand the trials

I must pray for God to get the glory when I stand in midst of hardship

I must remind myself that trials show faith to be real.

I must remember that Jesus is coming back!

Observations

Verse 8-9

Jesus is not visible to people whom Peter is writing, either in past or present

They love Jesus

They Believe in Jesus

They Rejoice deeply

Result of faith is salvation of one’s soul

Salvation isn’t completed, it is ongoing (obtain**ing**)

Faith isn’t the end, but a means

These are all corporate/plural ‘you’

*What is joy filled with glory?*

Interpretations

Verse 8-9

Loving Jesus is not related to seeing Him

Believing in Jesus is not related to seeing Him

There is equality between those who saw Jesus and those who didn’t.

Believing and rejoicing are related

Inner realities of person (love, joy, faith) not related to external experience (see/seen)

Applications

Verse 8-9

My life ought to be marked with joy because of Christ. I should smile, sing, affect others as full of hope.

It is acceptable to believe things that are not proven by our sense experience

Since salvation is ongoing, so must our faith and love and joy in Jesus be ongoing

I must help other Christians to love and believe in Jesus until Joy flows out of them.

Observations

Verse 10

Salvation tied to grace (10) is tied to Jesus (11)

Salvation/grace revealed in OT

Prophets were diligent in seeking to understand the Words of God

Salvation/grace is something possessed by Peter’s audience (grace that was to be yours)

Verse 11

Prophets interested in the who and when of salvation

Prophets animated by Spirit of Christ in OT

Spirit revealed suffering and resurrection of Jesus through OT prophets

Verse 12

Prophets learned that grace in Jesus was future event, which Peter’s audience has now experienced

Good news tied to sufferings and glories of Jesus tied to grace tied to salvation

NT preachers have same Spirit as OT Prophets

Even the angels didn’t understand salvation

Interpretations

Verse 10-12

1. It is important to seek to understand the meaning of every Scriptures as it points to Jesus – specifically his sufferings and resurrection and atonement

Does this jive with other Scripture passages?

Yes. See Luke 24:25-27 (Christ to suffer and enter his glory),

Luke 25:46-48 (Christ suffer, 3rd day rise, repentance and forgiveness of sins proclaimed)

John 5:39 Scriptures testify to me,

2Cor 1:20 (All promises of God are yes in him – JC)

Hebrews all about how OT points to Jesus

1. Christians ought to learn Bible Study skills
2. Salvation is a reality b/c of Christ
3. Announcing salvation, i.e. the Story of Christ’s death and rez and forgiveness is the means people come to faith, love and joy in Jesus
4. The same Holy Spirit is still at work in preaching to reveal truth to people
5. Preaching the Gospel to others is a way of serving them (12)

Applications

Verse 10-12

I ought to Proclaim Jesus to others.

Asking How a passage relates to Jesus ought to be a part of every reading of Scripture

I won’t finish my Scripture study until I am joyful at the new way I understand Jesus.

I will Pray for the Spirit to confirm the message to those to whom I speak.

I will pray for the Spirit to help me see Christ as I study the Bible each day

Observations

Verse 13

Therefore – Action which should flow from above truths is coming

Prepare mind for action? These are not normally connected. Mind is for thought, body for action.

Grace we experience now is not complete

Full grace/salvation is coming at return of Jesus

Hope = longing/desire/anticipation

Hope is not in Christ as I would think, but in what Christ will give his people – grace.

Interpretations

Verse 13

Our actions are dictated by the mind and the things we believe

Grace in context of 2nd coming is freedom from judgment.

Sober-minded is way of saying clear headed, intentional

Because we know the gospel (8-12) we ought to think (13), Hope (13) and live (14ff)

Preparation takes effort, drills, practice

Applications

Verse 13

I prepare my mind for action by learning what holiness and profanity is accd. To God.

So I read Scripture daily many times – morning, breakfast, 2 pm, dinner, Bedtime

I prepare for action by memorizing Bible passages

I prepare by worshipping, confessing sin, choosing to believe God’s word and act upon it.

I read smarter scholars about Bible

Sober-minded requires a plan, a method, systematizing of what how I learn

Ask myself Q – Would I want Jesus to find me doing this when he returns?

Observations

Verse 14-16

Believers are likened to obedient children

Commanded to not give in to our passions

Commanded to be holy, b/c God is holy: Actions flows from reality

We were called, now we are to be holy

Invitation is to affect actions, just as invitation to dinner party affects clothes wear.

All actions are to be characterized by holiness

OT passage is applied to the life of NT believers

Holiness and former passions appear to be opposed

Interpretations

Verse 14-16

There are passions of old nature and assume there are passions of new nature

We are children of heavenly father

Obedient children do what their parents tell them, learn to discern truth from error

The life of a believer is to look very different from their former life

Applications

Verse 14-16

Examine how your life is different now from an earlier stage. Are you more holy?

Studying and understanding God’s character is important (back to preparing in v13)

Before I knew God, what did I pursue? Value?

How has knowing God changed the things I pursue and value?

Observations

Verse 17

God is like a father to believers

God’s fatherhood and impartial judging go together

No curve for our actions

Everyone’s deeds are judged

NT believers are living in exile

Our actions should be in light of God’s impartial judging

Verse 18-19

Believers are ransomed from futile ways

Futile ways are passed down

Blood of Jesus is like spotless lamb

Blood of Jesus is imperishable

Interpretations

Verse 17-19

Fear of judgment is also a proper motivation

Believers are transferred from old to new, so act like it.

Living in exile means we are not home, we belong elsewhere

Sacrificial system points us to Jesus the real one to remove sin

I ought not fear how others perceive me, but how God perceives my actions

Since ransom was imperishable, it is never ending, and can’t fail to accomplish its purpose.

Applications

Verse 17-19

Carefully examine the traditions, teachings and ways you learned from your family to see if it was God’s ways, compare it to the Word.

People in exile always talk about their homeland and look forward to returning, so should I talk about heaven and my longing to be there.