

1 Peter 2

These are the leaders notes from the Kielder Bible Study Group for the meeting that was held on 24th January 2012

Recap from last time

- Who was the letter written to? - Jewish and Gentile Greek speaking believers
- What was the theme of the book? - To encourage the readers to grow in faith trust and obedience of God.
- Chapter 1 talks about living in Hope – Why are we doing that? - The joy of knowing Jesus v8-9
- Also talks about the desire the beauty of God to be Holy v13 -16
 - Peter calls us to do three things
 - look to the future - consider what we will receive as Jesus is revealed in us and in the age to come. (Hope of meeting Jesus v13)
 - forsake the past : don't let your old wrong desires prevail.
 - how to live in the present: be self-controlled, be holy (different, separated to God), consider yourselves strangers in this world. (Obedience to the written law v15)

So moving to Chapter 2. This continues the theme of Holiness

1 Peter 2 v1-3 Nourished through the word of the Lord, but we will go back to 1 Peter 1 v22 and read through to 2 v3 just to get the full meaning of the section

Q What does Peter see that there is perceived a conflict between? A Love and Truth and Malice and Deceit

Q What do we think is think is the most important aspect of this? A Love

Peter is trying to develop a positive situation by encouraging appropriate behaviour.

Q So how does Peter say (new) Christians will grow? A Milk of the word

Q What does this mean in reality for us?

Q What do you think some scholars link 1 Peter 2 v2 be linked to? A (Baptism) – starting afresh in our Christian life. But if we go back to 1 Peter 1 v24 he is talking about the word that is preached. So preaching is being described as the cleansing agent here.. The word of God that is preached is often involved in the process of giving new life.

V3 refers to Psalm 34 v8 but as I think the Psalm is a really good one lets read it all the way through.

God's word is essentially positive and this is something for all preachers to remember

1 Peter 2 v4-6 – Abiding in Christ – This is some of my favourite verses in the Bible..

The way they built in those times was that the foundations were laid out and then the first stone is laid on the foundation as a corner stone. This was laid very very carefully on the foundation providing a point of reference for the walls of the whole building

Q Who does Peter say is the corner stone? A Christ

Q How does he describe him? A A living stone v4

Q Why does he call him a living stone? A A reminder of the resurrection helping promote the theme of hope

Matthew 16 v17-20 Jesus is talking to Peter about being a living house (church)

1 Peter 2 v7-8 – Unbelievers reject Jesus

The concordance suggests two meanings of the passage

1. That the Greek implies that the rejected stone was one that caused people to trip over it and that the word that is translated as the capstone is also the same as the cornerstone. So they say that the verse could mean that the stone that caused people to trip over now has become the cornerstone, the most important stone in the building..
2. Or that the capstone is a capstone – the last stone that is added to a building, holding it all together. This ties in with God being the Alpha (the first stone) and Omega (the last stone).

Q With this in mind who do we think are the people that are doing the rejecting? A Herod, the Romans

Q As Peter talks about this as a living stone, which is the present does this apply to us now days? If so how?

1 Peter 2 v9-10 – A blessed true people

Q What are these two verses all about?

The concordance stresses the difference between worshipping dead physical stones ie temple and living stones making the temple of God. Comparing the outward physical signs of worship to the inner signs of what is going on in ones heart.. Peter then takes this up with this new Theme for most of the rest of the letter –

How to live a holy life in the midst of unbelievers

Q Before we look at the next verses - Do we think this applies to us?

1 Peter 2 v11-12 – General principles

This is so against the current world – where everyone wants their own rights.

Q What does the word alien imply? A That the person is only present in that place for a short time. It is not their long term home so they should not change their life style to meet their surroundings.

Q Why are they aliens? - Because they are from a Holy Nation belonging to God.

1 Peter 2 v13-17 – How to live as a citizen

Q Peter is saying that Christians should be law abiding citizens – was this just something for the people of the time or does this apply to us? If us now – what about speeding where does that fit in, parking longer than the ticket says. Not filling in the tax return correctly. Avoiding VAT by paying cash???

Q How do we think his readers felt about his comments on obeying the government and rulers especially when the ruler at the time was Nero who was killing Christians

1 Peter 2 v18-20 – Living as servants

Q What do we think about these two verses – Surely what Peter is saying kind of runs against all that our society holds strongly. If something is unjust then we should not accept it but make a stand against it. Do Peters word still count now days or have they been superseded?

1 Peter 2 v21-23 Lifestyle Motivation is one of the in phrases of our times. These few verses are all about this.

Peter uses the word example in this section – If we read Isaiah 53 6 -12 it will give us a better insight into what he was meaning..

Q What examples can we think of?

1 Peter 2 v23-25 In these last two verses Peter expands on this thoughts of Jesus as an example for us. Lets also read Hebrews 10 v5-7

Q We are surrounded by sheep and the term Shepard is one we are very familiar with, but how does it exactly relate to our Christian life's.

Summary

So to summarise – this is probably some of the hardest teaching that there is in the Bible to follow in practise. Everything in us due to our sinful nature wants to retaliate, and we are not just talking about hypothetical circumstances but the here and the now.

Q Practically how can we live our lives in a way that Peter is suggesting we should do so.