

1 Peter 4 & 5

These are the leaders notes from the Kielder Bible Study Group for the meeting that was held on 21th February 2012

Recap from last time

Peter is continuing his theme of Holiness but firstly focuses on living as a married person.

Wives - Nagging at an unbelieving husband will not make him believe in God.

Husbands - If the husband does not treat wife with respect then his prayers will be blocked.

If a husband then you have something to think about - Your wife is your equal "partner" and an equal "heir" of the Christian faith and all that comes with that. God holds you responsible.

Living as Christians Generally -

The three things we are not to do

- we're not to be nasty back to nasty people (v.9a),
- we're not to tell lies or speak wrongly (v.10),
- we're not to be involved in anything evil (v.11).

The three things we are to do

- we are to live in harmony (v.8) being caring, loving etc.,
- we are to bless those who seek to curse us (v.9),
- we are to seek good and peace for all (v.11).

Peter also gives use a couple of reasons for doing this

- because the good things are part of the inheritance to which we've been called (v.9).
- because God is watching (v.12) and he will deal with those who do wrong!.

So moving on to Chapter 4

1-6 Suffering for Righteousness & Romans 6 1-8

Q Who does Peter Say God Judges? – A The living and the Dead v5

Q Here the word dead refers to two states – can we work out what they are? A first all men are dead in their sins, and second it applies to all men in the past, and only God knows how they would have reacted if they had heard it.

When we receive God's Spirit and are made alive to Him in the Spirit. Our bodies die, but our spirits go on in Him.

7-11 The final judgement is near – Act as a church – Peter continues his encouragement

Q He gives us some personal targets for our lifestyle – Can we list them?

A be clear minded aware of all that is happening and what you are thinking and feeling and self-controlled you are in control of what you do, don't let yourself be driven by outside forces

Q Why should we live like this A it will help you pray and we're in the end times

Q What does he say about our gifts? Use our gifts to serve others.

Also offer hospitality, open your homes to one another, and don't do it grudgingly, for that's not love. Use your personal gifts to bless one another, speak words of love and blessing and serve one another whole heartedly.

Q Realistically what does he say we should not do? A Grumble about each other

12-16 Don't be surprised at your trials but rejoice

Q What does Peter say we should be doing when we have times of painful trial v12

1. don't be surprised
2. rejoice and praise God
3. know the time

17-18 Gods judgement is starting from his own house

Q What does Peter say God is going to do – A Judge his own house..

19 – Do right and trust in God

Chapter 5

1-4 Elders Shepard God's flock correctly

There are a couple of interpretations for this section, either the attributes for one person or for three separate types of person. Q Which ever is correct Peter provides three descriptions of peoples attributes here be they for one person or different people– What are they?

- Elders who are mature and go ahead of the others
- Shepherds who care for the needs of the flock (Shepherds tend to lead their flock – Cowboys tend to drive it along)
- Overseers who watch over, guard, protect and exercise authority in respect of the flock.

Q Why might being an Elder rather different in Peter's time than it is in the West. A Could very well have death sentence attached to it in Roman times, so sometimes people did not want to be elders

5-7 Be subject to Elders, Be humble to one another

Q The word grace appears here – A What do we think it means? A favour, kindness, friendship, mercy, forgiveness Galatians 1:1-5

Q Why is Peter asking us to be humble? A The proud have no need for God, they do things in their own power, not in God's.

8-11 Living as in spiritual conflict

Q Do we think these verses apply to us now or just to Peter's time?

Q How do we resist the devil? Ephesians 6:10-18 The armour of God

12-14 Closing Greetings

She in Babylon may be an oblique way of referring to the church in Rome from where it is believed he wrote this letter.

There were a number of themes Peter raised in this letter – I have got 10 listed – How many can we come up with?

- declare that we are a special people
- encourage us in our living among pagans
- instructing us to submit to authority, just or unjust
- direct Christian wives about unbelieving husbands and Christian husbands on how to treat their Christian wives
- encouraging righteous responses to unjust treatment
- speaking about Jesus going to the unrighteous
- living for God as Christ did
- suffering for being a Christian
- encouraging church leaders and the flock
- encouraging us to hold on to the end

So Peter here reminds his readers why he has written this letter. Q What relevance to us now have we got from this letter?

Realistically we need to think are we Christians living in an Alien world and what does that mean for us.