



Sermon Title: "Back to Basics: God's Word Is Our Exclusive Foundation"

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

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Sunday, September 10, 2017

Introduction

- God's Word Is Our Exclusive Foundation -
- Worship Is Our Passionate Life Priority -
- Discipleship Is Our Lifelong Commitment -
- Outreach Is Our Joyful Mission -
- Fellowship Is Our Collective Responsibility -
- Prayer Is Our Constant Resource -

John 5:39; 1 Peter 1:1 -

Note: The theme of 1st Peter is "Standing Firm in the Grace of God!"

1 Peter 5:12 - "I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it."

I. The Living and Abiding Word of God

A. Highlights from 1 Peter 1:22-25

- 1) The only right response to God and His Word is belief, trust, and obedience.
1 Peter 1:1-2; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 1:13 -

Note: The Gospel is to be believed and it is to be obeyed.

- 2) Those who believe and obey the Gospel must love one another.

What are we to do? To whom are we to do it? How are we to do it?

John 13:34 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

- 3) The Word of God is the seed which produces spiritual life.
Romans 10:17 -

- 4) The Word of God is living!
John 1:1 -

5) The Word of God is abiding!

What does it mean that God's Word is abiding?

Psalm 119:89, 144; Matthew 24:35 -

6) The abiding Word of God stands in stark contrast to our earthly existence!

Why does Peter tell us this? Is he trying to depress and discourage us? Is this edifying?

1 Peter 1:4 -

7) The Word of God is the Good News, which we have believed & obeyed!

B. Cultivating a Craving for Christ and His Word

Note: 1 Peter 2:1-3 rightly challenges the "Christian Fatalist".

Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:29 -

Note: These verses also address the Christian seeking short-cuts.

John 17:17; Psalm 119:9 -

1) To rightly grow and mature in Christ, there are things to be cast-off!

2) Pursue a longing for God's Word like a newborn infant craves milk.

*"Run, John, run, the law commands, but gives us neither feet nor hands.
Far better news the Gospel brings: It bids us fly and gives us wings."
- John Bunyan*

3) Our longing to be like Jesus ought to help motivate our hunger for God's Word.

Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 12:20 -

4) Our longing and hunger for God's Word should be fueled by the goodness of Christ.

Take Home Questions for Further Study & Reflection & Application...

1. Peter is writing to "elect exiles" (1 Peter 1:1). What is the significance of this term?
2. In what ways is the Gospel to be believed? In what ways is the Gospel to be obeyed?
3. How should we define & think about love? In what ways are we tempted to let culture and sinful thinking reshape our definition and understanding of love?
4. Why does Peter contrast the eternal/abiding word of God with our fleeting life? What's the point and why is this not discouraging and depressing to the believer?
5. What do you think would be Peter's advice to the "Christian fatalist" and to the Christian who is seeking short-cuts to growth and maturity?
6. How should a Christian be like a newborn infant? How can we influence/effect our cravings?
7. How should the goodness of Christ increase our longings for God's word?