

Strangers on the earth

Getting to grips with the message of 1 Peter

This first letter of Peter speaks right into the challenges Christians face in the western world in the 21st century.

Its aim is to encourage you as a believer, and to instruct you in how to live in such a way that you *“declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”*

You can find the background to this short series [here](#).

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3. 1 Peter 1.13-2.3 [w/b Sunday 17th February 2019]

“.., as foreigners here ..”

The new life which we have been given in Christ has seen us brought out of one realm (the ‘dominion of darkness’) and transferred as a new person into the realm of grace under the Lordship of Jesus.

We live out that new vibrant life, however, in a world at enmity with God, a world whose perspective and values differ radically from those of God’s kingdom. We will often, therefore, feel like ‘foreigners’ as we follow Jesus in this world - in much the same way as Joseph did in Egypt and Daniel did in Babylon.

[Despite your best intentions, there may not be time for all the questions to be addressed in your Community Group! It may be helpful to try and ensure that in this study you cover questions 4, 5, and 6. As always try to leave good time for shared prayer!]

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1. Read 1 Peter 1.3-2.3. The passage in this study flows out of the previous passage, so it will be helpful to read over those earlier verses also.

What is the essential thrust of what Peter writes in 1.13-2.3?

The ‘*Therefore..*’ at the start of 1.13 suggests a link with what has just been written: what is the connection?

2. Read 1 Peter 1.13-16. Who we are and where we’re headed as believers determines how we live: Peter picks up on and explains the repeated summons of God (Lev.11.44f and 19.2).

To what does Peter urge us to be applying our minds, and why is clear thinking so important for the Christian?

What clues are there in these verses as to what the call to ‘be holy’ will look like in our living?

3. **Read 1 Peter 1.17.** This verse provides something of a summary of what the whole passage is about.

What lies behind Peter's declaration that Christians live out our time "*as foreigners here*"?

How does Peter describe God here, and why does a right understanding of who God is inform our living?

4. **Read 1 Peter 1.18-21.** Peter is keen to remind his readers of the way they have been delivered from the life they once lived (and the experience they once had).

What was your experience of that former life as being '*empty*'?

How does "*the precious blood of Christ*" redeem a person from that '*empty life*'?

5. **Read 1 Peter 1.22.** The '*Now*' with which the verse begins is indicative of the new world into which we have been brought and the new life we live in Christ.

Read in isolation this verse could suggest that we are saved by our own '*works*': how does what Peter says here tie in with the gospel of God's *grace*?

How is the love (which Peter sets out as the hallmark of our new life) - how is that love described by him, and what will that look like in a fellowship of believers?

6. Read 1 Peter 1.23-25. Once again Peter points his readers back to the fact of their 'new birth' (see 1.3) and explains how that new birth came about.

How did God use the preaching of His Word in your life to bring about your being 'born again'?

What is the point Peter is making in describing the Word of God as a seed and contrasting it with grass and flowers?

7. Read 1 Peter 2.1-3. Birth is followed by growth: having just spoken about our being 'born again', this section is rounded off with an exhortation to 'grow up' in our salvation.

Why do you think Peter mentions the five specific sins to which he refers in v.1?

What is the 'pure spiritual milk' which we are to 'crave'?

In what ways, by what means, and to what extent are you aware of having 'grown up' in your salvation?