

1 Peter

Outline

Lesson 1

Living *Hope* through Christ's Resurrection (1:1-12)

Lesson 2

***Hope*-produced Holiness of Living (1:13 - 2:12)**

Lesson 3

Hope-produced Submission to One Another (2:13 - 3:12)

Lesson 4

Hope in the Midst of Suffering for Christ (3:13 - 4:19)

Lesson 5

Shepherds Lead with *Hope* and Humility (5:1-14)

Introduction

In the first 12 verses of chapter 1, Peter addressed *God's elect* as *strangers in the world*. Although we are strangers to the world, we are no strangers to God who has chosen us, saved us, and brought us to faith. By that faith and through Christ's resurrection, we have a *living hope* and the *inheritance* of eternal life.

As I await the gift of eternal life and live as a stranger in this world, what is God's purpose for me in this life? Peter answers this question in each of the following sections.

Be holy: 1:13-21

Even unbelievers are able to live lives that are outwardly decent and they are able to do what society considers "good." However, there is a big difference between the "good" deeds that unbelievers do and the good works a Christian does.

What motivates an unbeliever to live and act decently?

What motivates a Christian to live a holy and decent life?

- Verse 13
- Verses 14-16 (note especially verse 15)
- Verse 17
- Verses 18-19
- Verses 20-21

Peter encourages Christians to live lives in reverent fear (verse 17). What's the difference between *being afraid of God* and *fearing God*?

As I await the gift of eternal life and live as a stranger in this world, my purpose is to...

Love and one another: 1:22 - 2:3

Peter now encourages us to love our brothers and sisters "deeply, from the heart." Love is not a foreign concept to the world—even unbelievers know how to love. However, what is different about Christian love that Peter encourages?

Verses 23-25 further motivate the Christian to love his brother or sister. Our motivation is that we have been “born again.” How have we been born again according to this passage? Compare to Titus 3:4,5.

In 2:1 Peter commands us to rid ourselves of sins that prevent us from loving one another. Since our sinful nature still accompanies us (the old Adam), this is not always so easy. Therefore, how do we overcome those sins mentioned in verse 1?

What characteristics of a newborn baby compare to your life as a Christian?

As I await the gift of eternal life and live as a stranger in this world, my purpose is to...

The holy Christian church: 2:4-12

We certainly display love for God and love for our neighbors privately in our everyday lives. However, it's also God's will that we do so publicly through the church. How do you define *church*?

How is the holy Christian church described in this section?

In what two ways is Jesus like a stone?

How does one become a member of the holy Christian church and what are the results?

In Scripture, Christ is called both a cornerstone and a priest. In this section Christians are identified as both living stones and royal priests. What is Peter trying to tell us?

As a stranger in the world, what comfort do you have in knowing that you are a member of the holy Christian church? What benefits do you have as a member of a *visible church* like Emmanuel Lutheran Church?

“Church isn't for me. There are just too many rules.” How could you use verses 11-12 to respond to that objection and show a Christian's call to live a holy life is not restricting and burdensome?

As I await the gift of eternal life and live as a stranger in this world, my purpose is to...

For study at home

Read 1 Corinthians 12. What illustration does Paul use to describe the church? How does it teach me to value all members of the church?

Next time

Lesson 3 – *Hope*-produced Submission to One Another (2:11 - 3:12)