LESSON 3 1 Peter 1:13-25

Why memorize Scripture? <u>Good</u> question! Here's one reason:

> "If Thy law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Thy precepts, For by them Thou hast kept me alive." (Psalm 119:92-93)

Review your memory verses: 1 Peter 1:3-5.

<u>Read</u> 1 Peter chapter 1. Go slowly. As you come to something He's done for you, thank Him. As you come to something you are to do, ask Him to cause His mercy to motivate your obedience as His Spirit energizes you. As you come to something you don't understand, tell Him you're counting on Him for insight. Amen!

<u>Re-read</u> 1 Peter 1:13-25. Notice references to family matters – relationships, births, inheritances.

1. Verse 13 begins with the word "therefore." As you know, "therefore" shows a causative connection (i.e. because of one thing, therefore another). What idea from the verses that have gone before is Peter now linking with the remainder of his thoughts in Chapter 1?

2. As you read through verses 13-25 list the commands (i.e. the things we're told to do). You could also think of these as family values for our new identity and our new Homeland.

<u>Read</u> 1 Peter 1:13.

3. How do you "prepare your minds for action," as the NIV puts it? Does Ephesians 6:14 help?

4. Give an example of how this works. Make it personal if you can. (Sure you can.)

5. What is the meaning of "hope" as used here? (It isn't "Oh, I hope so," or, "maybe.")

6. When you read in 1 Peter that you are to fix your hope *completely* on the grace to be brought to you, what does this mean to you?

7. What do you find that you are often fixing your hope on? Why is this dangerous?

<u>Read</u> 1 Peter 1:14-16.

8. When we hear the word "lusts" (NASB) we often think of only sexual desires. It really means *any* strong desire. List several strong desires and how each might lead someone to behave in a way that's different from the attitudes and actions God displays?

9. Describe the picture that first comes to mind when you think of a holy person.

10. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Does this description differ from your answer to question 9? In what way?

<u>Read</u> 1 Peter 1:17-21. 11. What does it mean to "conduct yourselves in fear"? Consult a dictionary if necessary.

12. Give the two reasons brought out in these verses for "conducting yourselves in fear." Which one motivates you the most and why?

<u>Read</u> 1 Peter 1:22-25.

13. What truths in verses 13-21 are we to obey in order to purify (cleanse) our souls? (Remember question 2.)

14. Those who follow Jesus can maintain a pure soul or heart in one of two ways. Peter tells us to obey so that our hearts will be pure. What is the other way to achieve a pure heart (1 John 1:6-9)?

"No moment of greater honesty is possible than when we open our lives to God in true confession. There we can express, not only our wrongdoings, but also our wrong motivations. There we can confess our sins of omission as well as those of commission. And it is also there that we can rediscover the greatest truth of all, which is not that we are sinful, but that God forgives the sinner who repents. The great discovery in opening our lives to God is that He embraces us with great generosity."

From Seize the Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer by Charles Ringma

15. "Today is the first day of the rest of your life," as the saying goes. According to verse 22, since we have purified ourselves by obedience, what is God's plan for us *now*, *today*?

- 16. Jot down the initials of one or two people that *you* struggle to love: _______. Now think through the commands in 1 Peter 1:22-25.
 - a. Which ones do you need to concentrate on more, and how will that help you love this person or persons?
 - b. Look again at verses 1:3 and 1:18-19. Also think of the quote from Charles Ringma (quoted earlier in this lesson). How can remembering that God embraces *you* with great mercy and generosity help you love one another?

17. What were the folks to whom Peter wrote going through that might make love of others a low priority?

18. How could the points Peter makes about family motivate you to love other believers? (Remember that your new identity came as a result of a new birth and puts you in a new family.)

19. Please summarize what you've learned from this section, using "I" rather than "we should" or "you."

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