

## FOCUS MATTERS, PART 2

# what REALLY matters

**1 Peter 1:1-9, ESV** – Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. <sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup> inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

### Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

# SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of April 26, 2020

1 Peter 1:1-12

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend we were reminded that despite all the challenges and tribulations that life brings, God has chosen us. How does this bring you comfort and joy?

2 We were also reminded that the Holy Spirit sanctifies us for obedience. Why is obedience so difficult? Why is obedience the only option for a follower of Christ?

3 Since we live in the world, we will face the same trials as everyone else. How should we face these trials? How can our response to trials be a testimony to others?

## DIGGING DEEPER

A **Romans 8:16-18, ESV** – <sup>16</sup> *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* <sup>17</sup> *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.* <sup>18</sup> *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

4 According to the passage above, how does the Holy Spirit work in the life of believers?

5 How should we view our current circumstances? Why?

**B** *Matt 28:18-20*, <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

6 According to the passage above, believers are commanded to make disciples. What does a disciple of Jesus look like?

7 What role does obedience have in being a disciple? What commandments does Jesus give us to obey?

**C** *Mark 1:14-17*, <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” <sup>16</sup> Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

*Mark 8:27-31*, <sup>27</sup> And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup> And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup> And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” <sup>30</sup> And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. <sup>31</sup> And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

*1 Cor 15:1-5*, Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

8 Looking at the passages above, what are the key aspects of the gospel that Jesus preached and taught?

9 How does following Jesus relate to obedience of Jesus and His commandments?

## TAKING IT HOME

People will look for peace and comfort during times of trials and challenges. How we, as believers, react under these same trials and challenges can be a great testimony to those around us. In turn, we will have opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus. How have you been exhibiting a life of comfort and joy in God and a life of obedience to the Holy Spirit? Who do you know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus? Share with your group or accountability partner and pray for a faith that is focused on Jesus and not on trials.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1 Corinthians 3:13  
1 Corinthians 15:20  
Ephesians 1:3  
Titus 3:4-7  
James 1:2-4