

A Study of The Epistle of 1st Peter

Theme: "A LIVING HOPE!"

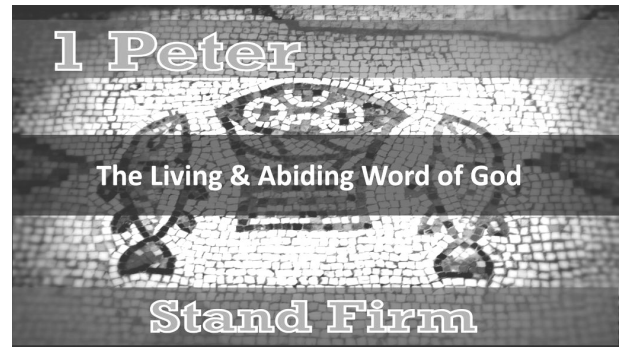
Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.

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Lesson: 10

Chapter 1:22-25

Date: 10-4-20



BIBLE TEXT:

(1 Peter 1:22-25)

(22) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (23) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through **the living and abiding word of God**; (24) for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, (25) but **the word of the Lord remains forever.**" And **this word is the good news that was preached** to you.

STUDY NOTES:

(22) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

(Ps 51:10; Jn 13:34,35; Rom 12:9,10; 1 Th 4:9,10; 1 Tim 1:5; Heb 13:1; Jas 4:8)

(23) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through **the living and abiding word of God**;

(Jn 1:13,14; 3:3-5; Titus 3:5; Heb 4:12; Jas 1:18)

(24) for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,

(Ps 102:11; 103:15; Is 40:6-9; Jas 1:10,11)

(25) but **the word of the Lord remains forever.**" And **this word is the good news that was preached** to you.

(Mt 11:5; 24:35; Lk 4:18; Acts 10:36; Rom 10:15)

That Word is the good news which was preached to you.

It is as though the apostle were saying: You need not open your eyes wide when you come **to the Word of God**. You have it before your eyes. It is **the Word which we are preaching**. With it you can subdue all evil lusts. You need not search far. Do no more than take hold of it when it is preached. For it is so near that one can hear it, as Moses also says in Deut. 30:11–14: “For this commandment which I command you this day is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven; neither is it beyond the sea. But **the Word is very near to you**; it is in your mouth and in your heart.” To be sure, it is quickly spoken and heard; but when it enters the heart, it cannot die or pass away. Nor does it let you die. It holds you as long as you cling to it.

Thus when I hear that **Jesus Christ** died, took away my sin, gained heaven for me, and gave me all that He has, I am hearing **the Gospel. The Word** is soon gone when it is preached; but when it falls into the heart and is grasped by faith, it can never slip away. No creature can invalidate this truth. The depths of hell can do nothing against it; and even if I am already in the jaws of the devil, I must come out and remain where **the Word** remains, if I can take hold of it. Therefore St. Peter says with good reason that you need not look for anything else than what we have preached.

St. Paul also says in Rom 1:16: “I am not ashamed of **the Gospel; it is the power of God** for salvation to everyone who has faith.” **The Word is a divine and eternal power**; for although the voice or speech soon fades away, yet the core remains, that is, the meaning, the truth expressed with the voice. Thus when I put a cup of wine to my lips, I drink the wine even though I do not force the cup down my throat along with the wine. Thus **the Word** which the voice speaks enters the heart and comes to life even though the voice remains outside and passes away.

Therefore it is surely a divine power. Indeed, it is God Himself. For thus God says to Moses in Ex. 4:12: “I will be with your mouth.” And in Ps. 81:10 He says: “Open your mouth wide”; that is, “Preach boldly. Speak out, be hungry; I will fill you. I will be present there and say enough.” Thus Christ says in John 14:6: “**I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.**” He who clings to this is born of God (cf. 1 John 5:1). Thus the seed is our Lord God Himself. All this points out that we cannot be helped with works. Although **the Word** is unimposing and seems to be nothing while it proceeds from the mouth, yet there is such boundless power in it that it makes all who cleave to it children of God, as John 1:12 says. It is on such a precious blessing that our salvation rests.

This is the first chapter of this epistle. In it you see how masterfully St. Peter preaches faith and treats of it. Hence one sees clearly that **this epistle is the true Gospel**.

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Since God has purified our souls by our obedience to the truth,
how can we show a sincere brotherly love,
and love one another earnestly from a pure heart?
2. Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable,
through the living and abiding word of God and since the word of the Lord remains forever,
in what ways can this word of the good news that was preached to you,
shape your lives?