

following Jesus in uncertain times

What is the series about?

You only have to watch the news for five minutes to know that we live in very uncertain times. In every arena from politics to economics things are far from stable. With this cultural backdrop, the Bible reminds us that Jesus brings certainty in uncertain situations. In this series we unpack what it looks like to follow Jesus in uncertain times.

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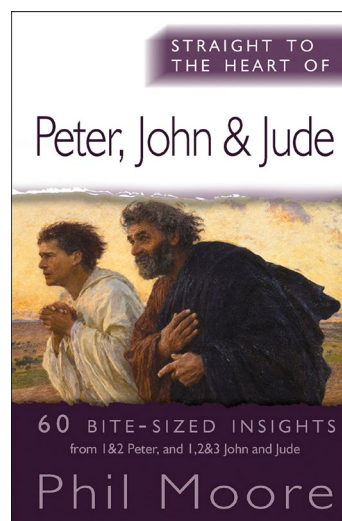
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Recommended Reading

Straight to the Heart of:

Peter, John & Jude

Phil Moore



Title: Born again to a living hope

Speaker: Paul Hatton (City West) Bible Ref: 1 Peter 1:3-7

Overview

1. **Peter begins in worship.** He worships the God of Jesus Christ. (Vs 3)
2. **His great mercy gives us new birth.** All him, nothing to do with us. (Tit 3:4)
3. The new birth is required because of our **sinful nature** (*Ps 51:5, Rom 8:7*) and our **inherited guilt** (*Eph 2:3*)
4. The new birth gives us two concrete realities:
 - a) **A living hope** (Vs 3) - See *Romans 6:4* for another unpacking of this living hope.
 - b) **Into an inheritance** (Vs 4-5) - See *Rev 21:1-5* for a description of this inheritance.
God keeps two things for us:
 - i. **Your inheritance is kept** (Vs 4) - See Jesus' teaching in *Matt 6:19-21*
 - ii. **Your faith is kept** (Vs 5) - If God begins a work he completes it! (*Phil 1:6*)

Questions to help your group understand the truth preached

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. Why does Peter break out in worship in verse 3, and why does he mention Jesus?
2. Why do we need the new birth and what is it? (*Jn 3:3-6, Ps 51:5, Rom 8:7, Eph 2:3*)
3. What is the inheritance Peter is talking about? (*Rev 21:1-5*)

Questions to help your group apply the truth preached

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

1. How does understanding the new birth lead us to worship?
2. What things are you tempted to put your hope in other than Jesus?
3. Peter talks about two things being kept. What are they and how does that give us security and hope as we follow Jesus? (Our inheritance and our faith)

Questions to help your group dig deeper

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

1. If a Christian receives a new nature, what is their relationship with their old sinful nature?
2. How do we walk with Jesus in light of having a new nature? (*Col 3:12* is one example)