

1 Peter 2:1-3  
“Hope In A Hostile World”

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (1 Peter 2:1-3) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I titled today's message: “How Am I To Live Different?”

~ INTRO ~

LAST WEEK...

- We covered three **topics**:
  - *Ransomed (v.18) / Cleansed (v.22) / & Born-again (v.23).*

AND... AS WE DUG DEEPER...

- Around those topics...
  - We understanding the practical implications!

WE ASKED THE QUESTION...

- Why am I to live different?

THEN WE STUDIED THE SCRIPTURES FOR THE ANSWER:

1. **The cost of salvation** – Jesus' death
2. **The result of salvation** – cleansed from our sin (assurance /security)
3. **The length of salvation** – a gift that lasts forever

\*IF YOU MISSED LAST WEEKS STUDY...

- Please go back and check it out.
  - So you understand how we're building week-by-week.

WELL... TODAY...

**HERE'S THE QUESTION WE'RE ASKING:**

- How am I to live different as a Christian?

BUT... LET'S START...

- With a basic understanding first!
  - The Epistles provide Life Skills for Christians.

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IN OTHER WORDS...

- Our success will be seriously hindered...
  - If we don't use the tools (directions) God has given us.

SO... THE **EPISTLES** PROVIDE:

- a) Daily insight into God's will for the Christian.
- b) They help us overcome practical problems with Godly responses.

\*We're getting Hope in a *HOSTILE* world!

DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

NOW THE TOPIC: “How am I to live different – as a Christian?”

**HERE'S WHAT THE TEXT SAYS:**

- (1 Peter 2:1-3) NLT

**IDEA #1 – “AVOID UNNECESSARY PAIN” (v.1) NLT**

AS WE READ THRU THE BIBLE...

- If we let the word speak for itself...
  - It's easy to see... God's love & mercy for people!
- It doesn't matter if you're in the OT / NT.

HOWEVER...

- We also need to grasp... that life lived in opposition to God...
  - Is a life that “*damages our soul!*”
    - (The eternal part of humans that lasts forever).
- God is NOT into our hurt!
  - He offers & teaches us a better way!

(Proverbs 19:3) NLT

“People ruin their lives by their own foolishness...”

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*and then are angry at the LORD.”*

SO...

**HERE’S THE TRUTHS WE’RE TO UNDERSTAND** (v.1)

**5-THINGS TO AVOID:**

1. **Malice** = A mental & emotional parking spot that stores hateful thoughts about others.
  - √ Grudges.
  - √ Revenge.
  - √ Ill-will that wishes harm or tragedy on another.

**(Prov. 24:17-18) NLT**

- The Christian motivation & reaction should be different...
  - It shouldn’t be filled with *malice*.
- 2. **Deceit** = Deliberate actions of lying, cheating, or stealing.
  - These are average responses of a person...
    - Who lacks moral qualities = Character!
- 3. **Hypocrisy** = Pretending to like OR love thru a false front (two-faced).
  - The Church is to avoid this in friendship circles...
    - Family interactions & the fellowship of the Church.
- 4. **Envy / jealousy** = Displeasure experienced or expressed against others who are doing good.
- 5. **Evil speaking** = “*this is the attempt to make oneself look cleaner by slinging mud on someone else.*”
  -

**CHURCH...**

- This is NOT just a list of “*bad things*”
  - That OTHER people do!
    - These are human tendencies apart from God.

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WE’VE BEEN GIVEN THIS LEVEL OF DETAIL...

- So that when this stuff surfaces in our lives...
  - We recognize it...
    - And turn away from bad habits that harm!

GOD IS HELPING US DISCOVER...

- Subtle attitudes / actions / & habits that injure our soul.

LISTEN...

- We’re living in a **Post Modern Culture**.
  - Which means that our society wants the blessings of God...
    - Without any belief or obedience to God!

AND WHEN THE CHURCH...

- Assumes everyone knows simple Bible truths...
  - We stop teaching the entire Bible.
    - Verses we deem less important get skipped.
- The next thing you know...
  - A whole generation is ignorant concerning God’s word.

**LET ME GIVE YOU A MUCH BIGGER EXAMPLE:**

- I. Article Published in **Christianity Today** on March 16, 2021.
  - Titled: ***The Cohabitation Dilemma Comes for American Pastors***

Cohabitation Defined: *“The state of living together and having a sexual relationship without being married.”*

**Cohabitation...**

*“it’s the new norm among young professing evangelicals across America.”*

*“Those under 40, increasingly see cohabitation as morally acceptable. Most young evangelicals have engaged in it or expect to.”*

*“Pew Research survey 2019, found that 58 percent of white evangelicals and 70 percent of black Protestants, believe cohabiting is acceptable if a couple plans to marry.”*

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*“the majority of new Christians and ‘cultural’ Christians... believe cohabitation is acceptable.”*

*“... millennials are simply not getting married at the same rate that was true a generation ago.”*

(Source: [ChristianityToday.com/cohabitation](http://ChristianityToday.com/cohabitation) )

- II. BARNAS GROUP – State of the Church Report...  
- Article: March 4, 2020

*Reports that 35% of U.S. adults read their Bible weekly*

(Source: [Barna.com/changing-state-of-the-church/](http://Barna.com/changing-state-of-the-church/) )

**POINT BEING:**

- The Church is called to stay faithful to the word of God (John 15).

IF THESE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE...

- Then the Church has room for growth!

AND PETER... DIRECTS US...

- Into the path of Spiritual growth.

**IDEA #2 – “DO WHAT HELPS” (v.2) NLT**

(v.1) Covered the sins that **stunt** spiritual growth...

- But (v.2) highlights what **supports** spiritual growth.

FLIP TO (Heb. 5:11-14) NLT

- Paul was calling these readers to spiritual growth as well.

IN LIGHT OF THE...

- Cohabitation article & the state of the article...
  - I think it’s a safe bet to say we too could use...

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- Some pointed help TO resume health practices.

(v.2) says...

- “Crave” NLT / “Desire” NKJV
  - The literal meaning describes a longing pursuit!

**~ IN CLOSING ~**

I WANT TO POINT YOU TO GOD’S GRACE...

- To resume a regular personal time of reading the Bible.

(Isa. 44:22) NLT

*“I have swept away your sins like a cloud. I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist. Oh, return to me, for I have paid the price to set you free.”*

DOES THAT SPEAK TO ANYONE HERE?

- Online / in-person do you need this fresh start today?
- If God has spoken to you in this area raise your hand.

**~ LET’S PRAY ~**