

## **Strange World Good God-2**

### **1 Peter 1:13-25 (NIV)**

Hey Newsong!

I want to take an opportunity to welcome all of our first time guests! We're in week two of our summer series "Strange World Good God"

And what we're doing is going verse by verse through the letter of 1 Peter...

Peter is writing this letter to the churches that were located in what is now modern day Turkey...And he's writing to encourage them because they are going through intense persecution and suffering because they love and follow Jesus...

The Bible isn't about what happened...it's about what always happens...

The reality is that if you live your life for Jesus then you're living by a different set of

values...sooner or later the world around you...with its values and rules is going to clash with your walk with God...

This was happening in the first century church...it's happening in the 21st century church...

As Christians we have a biblical world-view...The Scriptures are our standard for how we live our life...

The Bible teaches us Who God is, Who we are in relation to Him, What He says is good and what He says is bad...What He says is right and what He says is wrong...

People who don't know God live by a different set of values and rules...

And so the world will ultimately call good what God calls bad...and call bad what God calls good...and so lies the conflict...

This is the tension that every Christian has to live with...we live in the world, but we're not of this world...We have a dual citizenship...We live here, but our ultimate home is in Heaven...We live here but because we're following the Jesus way...we're exiles...we're strangers

Here's what Peter has taught us so far...  
We're elected by God...We're chosen (vs 1-2)  
We have a living hope (vs 3) and it's a hope that can't be taken from us...it goes on into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade...it's kept in heaven for us (vs 4-5)

Even though we go through trials, hardships and suffering in this life (vs 6-9)  
We have what the prophets predicted and what the angels long to understand (vs 10-12)

**13 Therefore,** (Because of everything he just mentioned) **with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”**[a]

**17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,**

**19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**

**20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and**

**glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.**

**22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.[b] 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For,**

**“All people are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.”[c]And this is the word that was preached to you.**

Today Peter is going to teach us how to live for Jesus in this strange world...

Get your head in the **GAME**

**13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober,**

Peter's saying that in order for us to walk through this strange world as Christians we have to remember that the battlefield starts in our mind.

So he's using military language...He's saying you need to be alert and on guard, just like a soldier...you need to be ready for everything and anything...you need to prepare your mind for action...Get your head in the game...

To drive his point home he says...be fully sober. What's the opposite of sober? Drunk. How many know that your I.Q. doesn't get higher when you're drunk? How many know that you don't make the best decisions when you're drunk? How many know that your emotions are all over the place when you're drunk?

What Peter is saying is that as we're walking through this strange world...we need to be alert thinking clearly...thinking rationally...thinking biblically...Why?

Because the world around us is going to have foggy thinking...it will be irrational...it will be all over the place...and ultimately, because it has rejected God...it will be unbiblical.

And as followers of Jesus you and I...are going to be tempted, pulled, coerced, and at times even shamed into embracing a worldly mindset...

This is why the Apostle Paul writes

***2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.-Romans 12:2 (NLT)***

You may not realize this, but our worship includes the way we think...Jesus said

***30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart* (That's your emotional life) ***and with all your soul*** (That's your spiritual life) ***and with*****

***all your mind*** (that's your thought life) ***and with all your strength*** (that's your physical life)  
***-Mark 12:30 (NIV)***

Worship is a lifestyle...and a big part of our life is the way we think...Peter says we need to think clearly...be sober minded

We live in a world that tends to react first and then thinks about it later...our culture has lots of emotion and very little reason...lots of feelings but not a lot of thinking behind those feelings...I'm just saying that's not wise...emotions and feelings are important but we need to think things through before we react!

We get our head in the game by thinking clearly...but we also have to think hopefully

***13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming***

Last week I said that the trials that we face reveal what we put our hope in...People put their hope in money...when the money runs out the hope runs out...

As Christians we have a living hope...Our hope is in Jesus...Jesus is coming back...Jesus is going to take me home ...One day Jesus will right every wrong...One day Jesus will rule and reign...our hope is in Jesus!

To hope in the Greek is the word **el-pid'-zo**

It doesn't mean hope as in I hope I pass the test or I hope I win the mega millions...It literally means to look forward to with confidence...

Not that it may happen, but that it's going to happen! So while we're waiting for Jesus to return...keep moving forward!

Why is it important to not only think clearly but think hopefully? Because our walk through this strange world can be difficult.

As we walk through those various trials and temptations, the Holy Spirit in us is refining us like gold in a fire. He's saying...oooh see what that trial just revealed...you need to give that to Me...

The Christian life is a long distance marathon...

We have to choose to get up every single day and walk with the Lord...To put Him first in every area...when we get it wrong, the Word of God and the Spirit of God work together to convict and correct us...

And our motivation is in knowing that one day we will see Jesus at the finish line...

We want to hear Him say "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord"  
How do we live for Jesus in this strange world?  
We have to get our heads in the game...

We have to play by God's **RULES**

**14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."**

Peter deals with the way we think first because he knows that our thought life will determine our actions...

Proverbs 23 tells us **"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."**

So if we're going to walk through this strange world with Jesus, we need to play by His rules...

We're on team Jesus, and we have to remember that there are a lot of other teams around me that want me to join their team or at least play by their rules...

So it's very important that I listen and obey not what the world says...but what Jesus says...

Peter is saying that there's going to be pressure to conform...and we see this going on in our culture today...side with us...use our hashtag...fly our banner...join our cause...It doesn't matter what God says about these things...And Peter is saying yes it does!

In fact, Peter says to not care about what God says and thinks about things is how we used to think and live before we were saved...And then he gets really offensive...he says we were ignorant...

***do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.***

***15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."***

Here's what Peter's saying...He's like hey you didn't know what you were doing before you got saved...but now you do, because the word of God tells you and the Holy Spirit convicts

you...So you need to listen and obey what Jesus says not what the world says...

In the words of the prophet Ice Cube *“check yourself before you wreck yourself!”*

As Christians we should be very concerned about our personal conduct...Because the reality is that one day you and I will stand before Jesus and give an account not on how the world lived...but how we lived in the world...

And we will be judged not by the opinions, ideologies, preferences or passions of this world, but by the word of God!

So there are things that we used to do, and say that we now know are actually sin...And when these other teams pressure us to play by their rules we need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us say “no.”

If you're here, and you're a parent I guarantee that one of the words you use the most is no...

Comedian Tim Hawkins says that as parents we all have the gift of no and we should find different ways of saying the word

*“Mom can I?” No! “Dad, can I get the keys to the car?” Let’s see...No! Can I spend the night at my friend's house? “This old man, he said...no!” “Eeny, Meeny, Miney, No! “Now you’re just somebody that I used to...No!*

As a parent you say the word no and offer no other explanation or apology! So when we’re feeling the pull, or the temptation to compromise...don’t negotiate...just say no!

But we can’t just say no to the world...we also need to say yes to God!

Peter tells us that we need to be like obedient children...Children should obey their mother and father...and every parent here is like “I love that verse”

What Peter's saying is that just like we have children that need to obey us...we as Christians are also children who need to obey our heavenly Father...

Peter says that we are to pursue a life of holiness...because God is holy. In fact, holiness is an essential part of God's character.

In Isaiah chapter six, Isaiah is brought into the throne room of God, and he sees the seraphim flying around God's throne **3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."-Isaiah 6:3 (NIV)**

It's interesting that the attribute that the seraphim repeat for all eternity is God's holiness...

They don't say loving, loving, loving is the Lord...or merciful, merciful, merciful is the Lord...or good, good, good is the Lord...although God is all of these things...

Peter's simply saying that because God is holy we as His children need to be holy

To be holy means to be set apart...separated from the ungodly ways of the world...We cannot do this on our own...

This is the work of the Holy Spirit in us...He's setting us apart, sanctifying us...molding us into the image of Jesus...

### **My son Derik/looks and sounds like me**

Think about this, we tend to behave like those we associate with...The more time we spend with Jesus, the more we will be like Him...

We are children of God...to live a holy life simply means that when people look at your life they see the family resemblance...

We will never be as holy as God is on this side of heaven, but by the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit...we're being made holy...He does the heavy lifting...

*"Holiness is God working for you, in you and through you"-Mark Driscoll*

Now here's the tension...None of this is going to make sense unless you know and love Jesus...So pursuing a life of saying yes to God looks weird to the world...For example...

You're dating as a couple who love and serve Jesus...which means that you're choosing not to live together or have sex before marriage...

The world will say that's weird...Why don't you guys move in together...see if you're compatible...You know you don't buy a car unless you take it for a test drive...

You try to explain it...well, God created sex for a husband and wife to enjoy within the boundaries of a marriage...

To live together as if we were married, while not actually being married, is a sin according to God...See that sounds weird...

See what God calls sin the world calls normal...what God calls holy the world calls weird...

As followers of Jesus we really must decide: are we going to be “normal” according to the world's standards or weird according to Gods?

I'd rather be weird to the world and right with God then right to the world and wrong with God!

Now notice what Peter says...in verse 15. He says that we should look weird to the world in some things we do...

Oh did I misread that? Be holy in most of the things you do...

***15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;***

Do you know what the word all means in Greek? It means all!

When we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives, the Holy Spirit comes and lives inside of our heart, and He wants access to every area of it.

His goal is to sanctify us...make us holy...not just on Sunday...but everyday!

I'm playing by His rules, following His lead, caring about what He thinks, not just in some areas...but all areas of my life!

We've got to get our head in the game...We've got to play by God's rules...

We've got to keep moving **FORWARD**

***17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.***

Peter's saying because we are now children of God, we need to live out our lives... keep moving forward in this strange world with an attitude of reverent fear...

Reverent Fear doesn't mean that we're walking around in a state of terror...It doesn't mean we live our lives afraid of the world and afraid of God...

God is our Father, and He's a good Father...He's a holy Father...He doesn't wink at sin...He corrects us...

But He's a loving Father...He's a patient Father...He's full of grace and mercy...we don't have to be afraid of Him...we're awestruck by Him!

So we develop a “holy fear” of God...It’s living your life with the understanding that we are always in His presence...

And because He sees everything we do...we want to please Him...not because we’re afraid of Him, but because we love Him so much...And that love motivates us...we don’t want to disobey Him...we want to please Him!

So we keep moving forward walking in this strange world motivated by this incredible love that God has for us...It’s a love that cost everything... ***18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,***

***19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God,***

***who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.***

Peter's saying hey...You and I were bought with the precious blood of Jesus...and we need to remember that every time we feel tempted to follow the world, and its values and its system, we're going backwards not forward...

Peter says backwards is an empty way of life...It doesn't work! It didn't work for our parents or their parents or their parents...

Well my family has always been like this...uh yeah and it's still dumb!

Stop for a second and think about everything you used to think, say and do before you were saved...

I did what I wanted, when I wanted, with whomever I wanted...I did whatever I deemed necessary to get ahead...I lied, I cheated, I manipulated...

And even though I was “normal” in the world’s eyes...and I was doing what everyone else was telling me would bring me happiness and success...But it was all empty! It doesn’t lead to life...it leads to death

In fact, Paul says it like this...

***2 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.[a]***

***He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.***

***4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is***

***only by God's grace that you have been saved!)-Ephesians 2:1-4 (NLT)***

The bottom line is that God wants us to be as passionate for Him as we were for all of those other dumb things that we used to do...

We have to remember that He's redeemed us, He's saved us from those things...and we're not going back...

I'm not going back to that way of life...I'm not going back to that way of thinking...

I'm not going back to what the world calls normal...I'm going to say yes and be weird in a God way!

I'm going to live a God-first life, with a God-first agenda...I'm not going to conform to the world but I'm going to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit and living, active Word of God!

And instead of conforming to the world, I'm going to shine...Instead of joining their team...I'm going walk through this world, asking others to join Jesus' team!

I'm not going to do it the world's way...I'm going to do it God's way...Loving Him and Loving others...

***22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.[b]***

***23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.***

***24 For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,***

***25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.”[c]And this is the word that was preached to you.***

See the bottom line is this...everything that the world stands for...

It's systems, it's ideologies...its causes...they fall and are replaced by something else... But God's Word endures forever...His love never fails...The world might be strange but God is so good...and He is for you!

As we come to a close today...

It's possible that you've got some things in your life that you're still holding on too...

Thoughts that are rooted in the world and its system...behaviors that are normal to the world but are actually rebellion against God...

Decide today is the day that you're going to hand those things over to God...

Whether the Holy Spirit has been talking to you about this for a long time...or if today is the first time you've heard His voice...Say no to the world, and say yes to God!

**What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?**