

A Study Through the First Epistle of Peter

1Peter 1:22–25

notes by Tim Hegg

Born Again Through the Living Word

Review of Chapter 1

- 1-2** Opening Salutation: “chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Yeshua the Messiah...”
- 3-5** Foundational Doctrines:
- Resurrection of Yeshua
 - The new life of those who believe in Him
- 6-9** • Gives strength to rejoice even in times of trial
- 10-12** • The prophets spoke of the Gospel
- They knew that the Gospel was for all peoples
- 13-16** Exhortations:
- The life of faith is a life of holiness
- 17-21** • The foundation for holiness is Yeshua’s work
- His death and subsequent exaltation
- 22-25** Conclusion: Living in a way that honors God is the fruit which the living word of God produces in the life of those who are truly born again. This is often seen in the way that we love each other.

1Peter 1:22

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls

- The verb “to purify” (*hagnizō*) is a participle in the perfect tense, which indicates an action which took place in the past but has current, on-going significance.
- The purifying of one’s life begins when a person first believes in Yeshua and it continues from that point on.
- Note well that the purifying work within a believer comes about through the “obedience to the truth.”
- Where is this standard of truth to be found? In the “living and enduring word of God” (v. 23).
- In the same way that the Bible reveals to us God’s way of saving sinners, it also gives us God’s way for redeemed sinners to live a purified life before Him.
- The Bible never separates “justification” from “sanctification.” All who are justified or inevitably sanctified (Rom 8:30).

for a sincere love of the brethren,

- One of the marks of the on-going work of purification which takes place in the life a believer is that he or she has a “sincere love” for other believers.
- “sincere” (*anupokritos*) – based on the Greek word *hupokritās* from which we get our word “hypocrite.” Thus, “without hypocrisy.”
- The word actually means “to do the job of an actor,” “to pretend to be someone else.”
- So what is “sincere love?” It is:
 - loving someone in a way that leads them to become more and more like Yeshua.
 - loving someone by helping them obey God’s word.
- “love” = *philadelphia*, “to accept others as within the family of God.”
- “brethren” = fellow believers; those within a person’s own community of faith.

fervently love one another from the heart

- “love” = *agapaō*
 - This time Peter calls for *agapē* type love—giving of oneself without requiring something in return.
 - Yeshua is the prime example of *agapē* type love.
- “fervently” = *ektenōs*
 - “to persevere,” “not giving up” = tough love

1Peter 1:23

for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable,

- “Born again” means you are not who you once were.
 - The old person has died and a new person has been recreated to become like Yeshua.
 - a new heart; a new way of thinking; a new approach to life; a new understanding of relationships.
- “Born again...of (out of, *ek*) imperishable seed”
 - by the eternal grace of God in Messiah
 - by the work of the eternal Ruach HaElohim
 - results in eternal life—life that never ends
- “through (*dia*) the living & enduring word of God.”
 - The “imperishable seed” is the grace of God in Messiah planted in the heart of the believer by the Ruach HaKodesh

that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

- The “word of God” has Yeshua as its constant focus.
 - this is emphasized by the word *logos* is used here, even though in the following quote the Lxx uses *hrēma*.
 - Yeshua is the incarnate Word (Jn 1:1) revealed by the written word.
 - “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of Messiah” (Rom 10:17)
- The written word of God is
 - “living” = active, accomplishing God’s purposes by means of His Ruach
 - “enduring” = does not change, does not grow old or decay, always relevant and applicable in all ages.

1Peter 1:24–25

FOR ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER. And this is the word which was preached to you.

- Peter quotes Isaiah 40 which contrasts the transitory nature of human life with the eternal word of God.
 - He makes it clear that the “word” by which his readers were evangelized was the word of God which never changes.
 - The contrast is between human words and God’s word.
- What Peter is contrasting is the eternal, unchanging word of God, the Scriptures, with the teachings of men which often change with the passing of time.
- The belief in the unchanging, eternal word of God was foundational for the Protestant Reformation and was known as *Sola Scriptura*.

Sola Scriptura

- The Scriptures, and the Scriptures alone, form the supreme authority in all matters of faith and practice.
 - *Sola scriptura* does not deny that other authorities govern the spiritual life and devotion of believers, but sees them all as subordinate to and corrected by the written word of God.
 - It means that the Scriptures alone form the final standard by which all matters of faith and halachah are to be measured and defined.

Our *hashkafah* (point of view) is firmly based on the authority of Scripture. We believe that Yeshua and his apostles should have the authority to interpret those Scriptures and define our religion, both our theology and our praxis, and we observe that Yeshua and the apostles and all their disciples practiced no religion other than Judaism. We believe in complete continuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament, and along with that, complete continuity between the Old Testament

people of Israel and the Jewish people of today.

Our point of view acknowledges Jewish authority. We do not believe the New Testament stripped the Jewish people of the biblical and God-given authority to transmit, interpret, and apply the Torah. Although the rest of the Jewish world may be enemies regarding the gospel, they are nonetheless beloved for the sake of the fathers (Romans 11:28). [*Messiah Journal*, #119, p. 11]

Summary

- Peter exhorts us to demonstrate our faith in Yeshua by loving each other in the same manner in which God has loved us in His Son, Yeshua our Messiah.
- Even as we came to faith through the Gospel revealed in the Scriptures, so we are to love one another by putting into practice what the Scriptures teach.
- The ways man may perish, but the word of God remains forever.
- Therefore, we should accept the teachings of men only when they agree with the Scriptures.
- God has given no man or group of people a greater authority than what is found in the Bible in matters relating to our faith and *halachah*.

*For the word of God is living and active and
sharper than any two-edged sword,
and piercing as far as the division
of soul and spirit,
of both joints and marrow,
and able to judge the thoughts
and intentions of the heart.*

Hebrews 4:12