

Title: LOOKING FOR THINGS THAT LAST, 1 PETER 1:17 – 25
(Chatham, NJ; 05/08/11, AM) [Pc – Expository]

Theme: After experiencing the Resurrection Peter and the other disciples decided that they had experienced something that would last into eternity.

Purpose: To illustrate how Peter understood the Resurrection affected his flock long after he had experienced it and long after many others had come to faith.

Introduction:

1. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus experienced an “aha” moment when they realized Christ had appeared to them, Luke 24:31.
2. His words had boiled up in them when he spoke to them, verse 32.
3. They said to themselves, “We have to go back,” 33. They returned to the others.
4. New information and a new experience changed them.
5. At a later time Peter explains to the early church how it affected them, 1:17-25.

I. God Has Acted and Implemented His Plan of Salvation.

- A. He planned this from the beginning.
 1. Chosen before the foundation of the world, 20.
 2. This is a peek into the mystery of the nature of God: he knew the future and planned for it.
 3. Christ has been revealed in these last times (epoch).
- B. He redeemed (ransomed) us, 18.
 1. In Mark 10:45 Jesus reveals his role: a ransom fee.
 2. He came to serve in this capacity.
 3. He purchased us out of the slavery of sin.
- C. He purified us, 22.
 1. Peter emphasizes our role by noting that our obedience to the truth purified us.
 2. However, the whole tenor of this discussion reveals that God was the true agent of purification; we responded to Him.
- D. We've been born again, 23.
 1. When Jesus explains this, he reveals that the Holy Spirit is the agent.
 2. God has come into our world.
 3. Not only did Christ come in human form, but he has left us with redemption and with purification that can be experienced.

II. How We Are Drawn Into the Plan

- A. Call on God as our Father, 17.
 1. The premise of his remarks reflects a relationship.
 2. God is our Father.
 3. Our hope and faith are in him, 21.
- B. Conduct yourselves with fear.
 1. The right kind of fear heightens the senses and prepares us for danger.
 2. Later in 5:8 Peter reminds us that our adversary is on the prowl.
 3. “In exile” conjures up the image of Israel in foreign lands.
 4. In a place that does not belong to us, we are at least not comfortable.
 5. Perhaps getting comfortable is something that creates problems.
 6. There are dangers on this journey.

- C. Love one another, 22.
 - 1. From a “pure” heart, not a tainted one
 - 2. Connected with “sincere brotherly love”
 - 3. Love earnestly.
 - 4. Purity, sincerity, and earnestness: without guile.
 - 5. Quotes about love:
 - a. To be loved, be lovable.
 - b. Most of us want very much to be loved. Perhaps we are not concerned enough about loving.
 - c. Love looks through a telescope; envy, through a microscope.
 - d. We find rest in those we love, and we provide a resting place in ourselves for those who love us.

III. Perishable versus Imperishable: What Things Will Last?

- A. The blood of Christ, 18.
 - 1. Is blood really imperishable?
 - 2. Hidden behind the physical death of Christ was an eternal plan.
 - 3. The physical blood changed our spiritual condition.
 - 4. Mysteriously it still affects us by cleansing all who come to Christ.
- B. Word of God, 23.
 - 1. This makes more sense to us.
 - 2. Words have the power to influence, change, and motivate.
 - 3. Peter quotes Isaiah 40:6, 8.
 - 4. God’s word has an eternal nature.

Conclusion:

- 1. Peter refers, of course, to the good news of the Gospel of Christ, 25.
- 2. Reaching back to the plan from the foundation of the world and reaching forward into the future, Peter exhorts us to remember that which endures: the blood of Christ and the Word of God.
- 3. In John 6:27-29 Jesus exhorts the crowd to spend their time pursuing that which is eternal.
- 4. From Resurrection Sunday to the present the experience of the disciples has been to pursue that very thing.
- 5. What else can provide you with things that don’t perish, fade, or wear out?
- 6. Choose the Gospel! You won’t be sorry when eternity comes.