

January 24, 2021

The Ministry of Hope: Hope Claims Us as Children

1 Peter 1:13 – 2:3

Hope leading to Holiness

¹³Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶since it is written (*Lev. 11:44*), “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

v. 14 – what does being “conformed to the passions of your former ignorance” look like?

vv.13-16 Luther preaches, “Thus stupid minds seize upon this and change Christian life into carnal liberty. They think they should do what they please. St. Peter confronts these people here, anticipates them, and teaches them that Christian liberty must be exercised solely over against God. For here nothing else is necessary than faith, that I give God His due honor and regard Him as my God, who is just, truthful, and merciful. Such faith liberates us from sin and all evil. Now when I have given God this honor, then whatever life I live, I live for my neighbor, to serve and help him. The greatest work that comes from faith is this, that I confess Christ with my mouth and, if it has to be, bear testimony with my blood and risk my life. Yet God does not need the work; but I should do it to prove and confess my faith, in order that others, too, may be brought to faith. Then other works will follow. They must all tend to serve my neighbor. All this God must bring about in us. Therefore we should not make up our minds to begin to lead a carnal life and to do what we please.” (AE, vol 30)

v. 17 – exile/sojourning the Greek word is *paroikos* (“from the neighboring house”) and is where we get the word *Parish*. How does this section teach us about our life as strangers in this world? Where is our true home?

v. 18 – Contrary to what the Christians inherited in last week’s reading, what did they inherit from their earthly forefathers? How were they redeemed from it?

Hope begins and ends this section (vv. 13 & 21). Our hope is *on* grace and *in* God who raised Jesus from the dead. How should this lead us to holiness in our day and age? What “former ignorant passions” does our society promote? And how is the grace of God in Jesus Christ an antidote to it?

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for

“All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” (*Isaiah 40:6, 8*)

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Vv. 22-23- how should “brotherly love” look in a Christian church?

v. 23 – once again, are *Lutherans* “born again”? Is the focus on something the Christian does or something in God/from God?

Quick Quiz – which parable of Jesus uses seed in reference to the Word that creates faith and new life?

Keating- “For Peter, to become a Christian is to inherit a set of brothers and sisters that we do *not* choose. God has chosen them, and we must live with them and love them. We need a conversion to see that to become a Christian is to enter a new family, the household of God.”

2 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long (*imperative verb*) for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Word gives new birth. The Word gives spiritual growth unto salvation.

How central ought the Word of God be in the life of a believer and a congregation?

What are ways to increase that in ours today?