

I PETER 1:13-25

SUMMARY: This week we continued working our way through the letter of I Peter. We have looked at the author and the audience (v.1-2), we have seen the source of our living hope (v.3-12) and today we begin to consider the results of that hope.

In I Peter 1:13-25, Peter identifies four key attributes or characteristics of a person who has grabbed ahold of their salvation in and through Jesus. Four things that will set apart those who believe from those who do not. The first is one that we have already touched on, hope.

This hope though is not simply an idea that floats in our head. Verse 13 shows that it sets our minds ready for action with a sober minded perspective.

The second is holiness, which to the modern mind sounds a little abstract. In simple terms, holiness is being set apart or being different. Verse 15 gives the church their point of difference, God himself. This holiness is also contrasted to the audiences 'former ignorance' (v.14)

The third characteristic is fear, another seemingly strange attribute. This fear though is a reverent fear, a fear of God the father who will judge each person impartially. This fear is an acknowledgment of who God is and by doing so also understanding who we are.

The fourth characteristic is love, finally a simple trait. Yet this love is not a simple love, we see in v.22 that it is obedient, (v.22) sincere and familial.

If we are to cling to our salvation, this is what it looks like, this should be us.

HOPE, HOLINESS, FEAR & LOVE

1. What about our world's current situation has confronted you the most? Why?
2. How would you summarize what the word 'therefore' points to in verse 13?
3. Why does hope have to be more than just an idea in our head?
4. What does hope that is ready for action and sober minded, look like to you?
5. If someone asked you to explain what holiness means to Christians, how would you answer?
6. In what ways should a follower of Jesus be clearly different to the world around us today?
7. What does v.14 show about the change a Christian should experience after conversion?
8. What does it mean to fear God?
9. Does God's impartial judgement of each person's work (v.17) make you nervous? Why?
10. Why is love such an important attribute to a Christian? What does that look like today?
11. What does v.24 challenge us to remember?
12. How does this passage comfort or confront the life of a Christian in our world today?