

Third Sunday of Easter – 2023  
Saturday, 4/22 at 4:00 | Sunday, 4/23 at 9:00



Text: 1 Peter 1:17-25 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Last week we began Peter's first letter – *discovering that he wrote to Jewish Christians who had been scattered and were living in Asia Minor – the area we know today as Turkey.*

Peter wrote about our **amazing eternal inheritance** – *the inheritance that is ours through our Spirit-given trust in Jesus!*

He also told us that trials may be permitted into our lives.


**Why? To prove our trust in Jesus to be genuine** – *which is very important to know with absolute certainty!*

**Today**, as we continue in **1 Peter chapter 1**, Peter will tell us the HUGE reasons why ***we believers*** should **respect God** and **sincerely love other believers**. Then, knowing such things, *let us greatly respect and greatly love!*

1. **Why Believers Should Respect God:**

- a. The precious blood of Christ: **<sup>17</sup> If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to**

**each one's work** [in other words, if your trust is in Jesus for eternal life and God is your Father, then], **conduct yourselves in fear** [with respect, reverence, and awe] **during the time of your [temporary] stay on earth; [Why?]** <sup>18</sup> **knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,** <sup>19</sup> **but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. // The precious blood of Christ – have you thought about it?**

- i. Coverings for Adam and Eve: Genesis 3 – animal blood was shed to provide skin coverings.
  - ii. The first Passover: Exodus 11-12 – lamb blood was shed to spare the firstborn men from death.
  - iii. The Passover Meals from Moses to Jesus: A period of about 1400 years and killing possibly 200,000+ lambs per annual celebration. So, how many lambs shed their blood during those years? Maybe **280 million+**! Every drop of blood  of every lamb was pointing ahead to Jesus, **The Lamb of God**, who was sent by the Father, **to take away the sin of the world – including yours and mine!**
  - iv. The precious blood of Christ: **The very Son of God in human flesh** ➔ **+** living in our place, **+** shedding His blood, and **+** suffering our eternal penalty to **➡** free us from **sin** and **death** and **➡** provide the gifts of **forgiveness** and **eternal life!**
- b. The monumental plan of God: <sup>20</sup> **For [Christ] was foreknown before the foundation of the world** [that is, before the Son of God created the world], **but has appeared**

in these last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through [Christ] are believers in God [the Father], who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God [the Father].

- i. Even before creation, God knew about the fall into sin and planned to send the Christ.
- ii. At the right time, the Son of God put on human flesh for our eternal benefit.
- iii. Now, by the work of the HS, we believe in Jesus and in God the Father who raised Jesus.
- iv. Significant believing differences:
  1. Some say, "I believe in God," but what does that mean – that some generic God exists?
  2. We have been blessed to understand that **✦the LORD** is our Father, **✦our Lord** is Jesus His Son, and **✦the Spirit** has made such things known, then He established and maintains our relationship with the Father and His Son.

Thinking about **➡who God is** and **➡what He has done**, let us give Him the highest **♥** respect, **♥** honor, **♥** trust, and **♥** obedience!

## 2. **Why Believers Should Sincerely Love Each Other:**

- a. An eternal connection: *That is what believers have with each other*; all believers **✦**are alive in Christ, **✦**are members of the one body of Christ, and **✦**are seeking to know and be obedient to God's word. With those things in mind, *this is what Peter wrote*: <sup>22</sup> **Since you [believers] have in obedience to the truth purified**

**your souls for a sincere love** [*φιλαδελφία – that is, a genuine brotherly love*] **of the brethren, fervently** [*eagerly, earnestly*] **love one another from the heart** [*from deep within (not on the surface)*], <sup>23</sup> **for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable** [*like our earthly lives*] **but imperishable** [*eternal*], **...through the living and enduring word of God.** // Here we are, ✦believers in Jesus – *saved, forgiven*, ✦in possession of eternal life, and ✦united together in one holy family with all other believers. What should we do? We should 😊pay attention to our brothers and sisters in Christ, 😊see their needs, and 😊eagerly show them genuine love in word and deed!

- b. The eternal word: <sup>24</sup> **For, “ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, <sup>25</sup> BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.” And this is the word which was preached to you.** // Since ✦God’s word is eternal and ✦the Holy Spirit has worked through it to give us eternal life and unite us to God’s holy family, let us ✓recognize what the Spirit has done for us and ✓gladly continue in that forever word of God ➡ ➡reading it, ➡studying it, ➡living it, and ➡sharing it!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear F, S, and HS! Your goodness to us is OVER THE TOP! TYSM! Now, in response, help us to ✦highly respect You and ✦sincerely love our brothers and sisters in Christ!

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