

1 & 2 Peter Bible Study

1 Peter 1:14-2:3

Lesson 5 Notes

Peter is telling us to not be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Not to return to thinking that conforms to the world's standards (Romans 12:2). We no longer live according to our lusts, but we live following the Spirit. Following the Spirit leads to holiness because of the new heart we have received at salvation (Ezekiel 36:25-29). We now want to separate ourselves from all sin and evil. We are compelled to live for Him (2 Cor. 5:15) in holiness by the Spirit He has placed in our hearts. We now are "new creatures, the old things have passed away; behold new things have come (2 Cor. 5:17). Holiness is now a way of life for the believer who has been given a new heart, new desires, and a new life at conversion. Our new heart and new life causes us to respect and honor the Lord by the way we live our lives. "Because we are sons, God has sent forth his Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' (Romans 8:15; Gal. 4:6). Peter does not want us to forget that though we have an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father, we must conduct ourselves in holiness while we are on this earth. "We must have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:9-10). "True love and worship to God are marked by understanding that He is the Christian's loving, gracious, and generous Father, but also his holy, disciplining Judge. How believers conduct themselves before His omniscient presence matters in both time and eternity. Peter brings us to the truth that our new heart and new life can only be a reality because we have been redeemed. We have been purchased by the payment of His life. Jesus Christ paid the ransom. "Redemption is a term that describes one of the essential features of salvation. It deals specifically with the cost of salvation and the means by which God received payment. Because all people are helpless slaves to sin and condemned by the law if they are not forgiven and reconciled to God. He has purchased them back from their condition. Only then can he release them from sin's bondage and curse". If we have been bought (with the price of His life) why would we want to walk in our former lusts? Once again, we have been redeemed from our futile way of life inherited by our forefathers. Romans 6:6 says, "Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we should no longer be slaves to sin... you because slaves of righteousness". It was at salvation that believers

received the capacity to demonstrate supernatural love (Romans 5:5). When we were redeemed He purified our souls. Purified is a perfect participle that describes a past action with continuing results. This was no human work, it refers to a fully divine work. We are saved, "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood". Peter reminds us that we now have the supernatural capacity to fervently love one another from the heart. We now have a love that is not based on emotion, or desirability of the object, but by the noble-intention of the one who loves exercised by the will. Fervently is a physiological term meaning to stretch to the furthest limit of the muscle's capacity. Peter is telling us that love is not legalistic, but is a love that comes from the heart. Our new hearts compel us to love (2Cor. 5:15). Sincere love is the prevailing standard for the believer (Romans 5:5; 1Thess. 4:9; 1John 3:3; Timothy 1:5; Phil.1:9-11). Peter reminds, us once again, that we have been born again. We now have a new self, "which it's in the likeness of God that has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth (Ephesians4:24)". We have gone from being godless, lawless, and selfish (Romans 3:9-18) to manifesting repentance, trust and genuine love without hypocrisy. "We have been born again now of a seed which is perishable, but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God". This love for the word reminds us that this imperishable divine seed is the source of our spiritual transformation and growth. It is the only power to live the Christian life. Based on the power of God's word and God's love, Peter instructs us to, "put aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation". "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice (Ephesians 4:31)" is reminding us of the same truth. The truly saved Christian will delight in God's word and the desire to obey it. The word becomes 'a joy and the delight of our hearts; for we have been called by Your, name, O Lord God of hosts (Jer. 15:16)". As we behold the glory of God in the mirror of His gospel (1Cor.3:18), we are in the process of being transformed into His likeness. We will love His law and hate sin. We will desire (by the act of the will) to put aside anything that does not represent His divine love. We will long for truth, beauty, and purity in our inner man. Life is in the word of God illuminated by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has shown us who God is and He becomes the delight of our hearts.

