

Lesson 11



LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

READING:

1 PETER 1

STUDY TEXT:

1 PETER 1:22-25

THEME:

THE ENDURING WORD

STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God
Promises of God
Principles for Life
Lessons to Learn
Examples to Follow

FURTHER STUDY:

GALATIANS 4:4-5
PSALM 27

MEMORY VERSE:

1 PETER 1:18-19

PRAYER & PRAISE:

PURIFICATION THAT LEADS TO GENUINE LOVE

To be “purified” is to be made clean. This purification takes place in the soul, which refers to the inner man, the immaterial part of a person. Cleansing is experienced when an individual obeys the commandment of Jesus to “repent and believe the gospel”.¹ At this point they are born again,² and their new life in Christ begins. The most prominent “birthmark” of our Christian life is our love for the brethren. This reality is attested to by Jesus and His apostles: John 13:35; 1 John 3:14; Romans 13:8; 1 Thessalonians 3:12;

The evidence of a regenerated heart will always be seen in our attitude, affections, speech, and behaviour. Since they had obeyed the truth, resulting in a divine love being poured into their hearts,³ now they must extend this love to others in sincerity and purity. Take note of the key words in this text: “earnestly” (intently, fervently); “pure” (clean, unsoiled, unpolluted), and; “heart” (central and inmost part of our being). In other words, the mark of a true Christian will be their fervent sacrificial love for others, which proceeds from the unpolluted, inner chambers of the heart.

NEW BIRTH THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD

Peter was likely with Jesus in John 3 when He was confronted by Nicodemus. In that passage, the Lord instructed Nicodemus to be “born again.” Now some 30 years later Peter reminds his scattered flock that they have been born again, and that this took place through the “living and abiding word of God.” A comparison is drawn here between the physical birth (described as perishable seed which leads to death) and the spiritual life in Christ (which is described as imperishable [seed]). To bolster this truth, Peter quotes from Isaiah 40:6,8 which speaks of the eternal nature of God’s Word in contrast to the fleeting nature of our flesh which, like a flower, withers and falls.

THE GOOD NEWS THAT WE PREACH

This passage is concluded with the words, “*And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*” In case there was any doubt in the believers’ minds, Peter succinctly explains that the “word of God” is none other than the gospel (literally “good news”) that he had preached to them. Here we are reminded that God’s special revelation, the Scriptures, has one unified and unchanging truth - the good news about Jesus Christ. The entire Bible points to God’s redemptive plan and must be understood and interpreted through this central theme.

Sometimes we forget the overarching purpose of the Bible: to point us to Christ, and His message of reconciliation. This is the good news we preach.

¹ Mark 1:16

² John 3:3

³ Romans 5:5

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. Read the following verses and discuss how the gospel has purified the soul and what that means in our practical life: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Titus 2:11-14 _____

2. Read Romans 12:9-10. Describe genuine love? According to verse 10, what does love do, and how can we develop in this area? _____

3. What does it mean to be “born again?” How did Jesus explain this concept in John 3:1-8 to Nicodemus? _____

4. The gospel is the “imperishable seed” which produces life in the soul of man. Read the following verses and explain the responsibility of every Christian as it relates to the gospel: Mark 16:15; Romans 10:14; Mark 4:14; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 _____

LIST ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE PASTOR BELOW
