

Lesson 9



LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

READING:

1 PETER 1

STUDY TEXT:

1 PETER 1:17-19

THEME:

THE CALL TO
HOLINESS (PT.3)

STUDY METHOD:

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

FURTHER STUDY:

ROMANS 8:12-17
JOHN 1:11-13

MEMORY VERSE:

1 PETER 1:18-19

PRAYER & PRAISE:

THE PRIVILEGE OF SONSHIP

The true believer has the privilege of calling on God as “Father”. This precious reality must not be diminished. At the moment of salvation we gain an entrance into the family of God. We, the unworthy recipients of His grace, are adopted and all the privileges associated with the heavenly household are conferred. When teaching His disciples to pray, Jesus said, *“Our Father in heaven...”*¹ “The Hymn of Joy” often called “Joyful, Joyful we adore Thee”, is a poem written by Henry van Dyke in 1907. One of the lines reads, *“Thou the Father, Christ our Brother—all who live in love are Thine”*. One of the grandest realities in all of Christianity is the fact that God is not some distant deity - He is our spiritual Father!

The Impartial Father

God the Father is unbiased. He does not judge based on race, status, or station. Paul said, *“God shows no partiality”*.² Understanding that God is absolutely just and righteous in all His ways will motivate us to live in a holy manner. He cannot be bribed or bought, and His judgment is not susceptible to corruption. God sees the “whole picture” for *“no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*³

Holy Conduct Through Reverential Fear

Peter wants the believer to understand that God’s holiness, righteousness, and justice are all the motivation we should need to conduct ourselves in a manner that is pleasing to Him. In other words, if we understand who God the Father really is, our behaviour, attitude, and thought life will be brought into alignment with His. In this way, love becomes the ultimate motive for change rather than strict adherence to commands. It is easy to obey those who we hold in high regard and love dearly.

The word “fear” in this context speaks of reverence, respect, honour, and veneration. This “fear” is not a slavish phobia, but a holy admiration which inspires the Christian to obey and cherish the commands of God.

The High Cost of Redemption

Verses 18-19 provide another motivation for pursuing holiness - the considerable cost incurred by Christ to redeem us from sin and impurity. If the character of God was not enough to persuade us to live aright, Peter piles on the incalculable value of Christ’s death on our behalf!

The word “ransomed” or “redeemed” speaks of “buying something

¹ Matthew 6:9

² Romans 2:11

³ Hebrews 4:13

back” or the “price paid to liberate a captive.” This word was most often used with regards to the slave trade.

The Christian’s deliverance did not come about through a financial transaction (silver or gold), but through the death of Christ. Like the lamb of the Old Testament, Jesus came as our perfect substitute, and laid down His life as our sin-offering before the Father. He is the only One who met the criteria to redeem us, and His once-for-all sacrifice can never be undone or annulled. Praise the Lord!

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. Read the following texts and comment on what it means for God to be our Father.

Isaiah 64:8; James 1:17; Psalm 103:13; Proverbs 3:11-12; 1 John 4:14

2. Read James 2:1-13. How does knowing God is impartial transform our behaviour towards others?

3. What will a reverential fear for the Lord produce in the believer? Compare the following texts: Proverbs 8:13; Ephesians 5:21; Psalm 86:11; Psalm 34:9 _____

4. Read Philippians 2:5-11. Discuss the “process of redemption” (the “descents” and “ascents”) of Jesus Christ in procuring our salvation. _____

LIST ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE PASTOR BELOW
