

BIBLE STUDY

Topic:
Challenges of the Christian Life

Instructor:
The Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Director
The Bureau of Evangelism
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

Lessons

Lesson #1: “Adversity & Sanctity”
Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 1:1 – 2:3
Key Verses: 1 Peter 1:6,7 & 1 Peter 1:14-16

Lesson #2: “Ministry & Authority”
Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 2:4 - 3:12
Key Verses: 1 Peter 2:9 & 1 Peter 2:13

BIBLE STUDY

The Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

Topic: Challenges of the Christian Life

Lesson #1: “Adversity & Sanctity”

Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 1:1 – 2:3

Key Verses: 1 Peter 1:6,7 & 1 Peter 1:14-16

I. The Challenge of Hope amidst Adversity (1 Peter 1:1-12)

- A. We must appreciate the salutation and greeting in this letter. (1,2)
 - 1. It is a letter from the Apostle Peter.
 - 2. It is a letter to Christians, as pilgrims scattered throughout the world.
 - 3. It is a letter to God’s elect people.
 - a. A people chosen by the foreknowledge of the Father
 - b. A people made holy by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit
 - c. A people cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ for obedience
 - 4. It is a letter offering God’s grace and peace.
- B. We must give thanks to God for our sure hope of salvation in Jesus Christ. (3-5)
 - 1. He gave us the privilege of being born again. (3)
 - 2. He gave us the privilege of becoming members of God’s own family. (3)
 - 3. He gave us the hope of eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (3)
 - 4. He gave us an inheritance in heaven that can never perish, spoil, or fade. (4)
 - 5. He gives us His protection until the salvation is revealed at the end of time. (5)
- C. We must rejoice in the Lord in spite of adversity, which comes to test our faith. (6-9)
 - 1. We can rejoice because our time of testing is short in comparison with eternity. (6)
 - 2. We can rejoice because our trials test the genuineness of our faith. (7)
 - 3. We can rejoice with inexpressible joy even though we do not see Jesus Christ now. (8)
 - 4. We can rejoice because our faith will result in the salvation of our souls. (9)
- D. We must understand how God revealed the mystery of this hope of salvation. (10-12)
 - 1. The prophets who wrote about this salvation did not fully understand it. (10)
 - 2. The prophets tried to discern the exact details of Christ’s suffering and glory. (11)
 - 3. The prophets were told that these events would not occur during their lifetime. (12)
 - 4. The Holy Spirit has revealed to us mysteries into which angels long to see. (12)

II. The Challenge of Sanctity through the Word of God (1 Peter 1:13 – 2:3)

- A. Holy living requires our total commitment. (1:13)
 - 1. We must be mentally ready.
 - 2. We must be self-disciplined.
 - 3. We must be spiritually focused.
- B. Holy living requires our obedience in not living according to our former passions. (1:14)
- C. Holy living is required of us for three reasons. (1:15-21)
 - 1. We must be holy, because the God who called us is holy. (15,16)
 - 2. We must be holy, because God judges our attitudes and actions impartially. (17)
 - 3. We must be holy, because God set us free by the precious blood of Christ. (18-21)
 - a. He freed us from a sinful life that had no purpose and led to nothing good. (18)
 - b. He purposed before the beginning of time to save us through Jesus Christ. (19-20)
 - c. He revealed this plan of salvation to us in these last times. (20)
 - d. He raised Jesus Christ from the dead and gave Him glory, so that our faith and hope would be in God. (21)
- D. Holy living is possible for us only through the ministry of God's word. (1:22 – 2:3)
 - 1. The heart purity, which enables us to love sincerely and earnestly, comes only through obedience to the truth of God's word. (1:22)
 - 2. The new birth, by which we receive God's divine nature, comes only through faith in God's living and abiding word. (1:23-25)
 - a. Our natural lives and our greatness shall all fade away like vegetation. (1:24)
 - b. God's word and the message of the gospel shall last forever. (1:25)
 - 3. The spiritual growth, which enables us to rid ourselves of the poisons of the soul, comes only through the ministry of the pure word of God. (2:1-3)
 - a. God's word can purify our hearts from all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, jealousy, and all evil speaking. (2:1)
 - b. God's word can enable us to grow spiritually, when we desire it as a newborn baby desires milk. (2:2)
 - c. God's word can enable us to grow spiritually only after we have experienced God's saving grace in Jesus Christ. (2:3)

BIBLE STUDY

The Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

Topic: Challenges of the Christian Life

Lesson #2: “Ministry & Authority”

Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 2:4 - 3:12

Key Verses: 1 Peter 2:9 & 1 Peter 2:13

I. The Challenge of Integrity in Ministry (1 Peter 2:4-12)

- A. Through Jesus Christ, we have the privilege of being God’s people & serving as God’s priests. (4-8)
 - 1. We must come to Jesus, the Living Stone, chosen by God and precious, rejected by men.
 - 2. We must become living stones, offering acceptable sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.
 - 3. We must put our trust in Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone, elect and precious.
 - 4. We must see Him as precious, while the disobedient reject Him as a stumbling block.

- B. As God’s holy priests, we have the privilege of ministering with integrity to others. (9,10)
 - 1. As holy priests we have the privilege of praying on behalf of others.
 - a. We must pray for all people. (1 Timothy 2:1)
 - b. We must pray for leaders and all persons in positions of authority. (1 Timothy 2:2)
 - c. We must pray for the salvation of sinners. (1 Timothy 2:3,4)
 - d. We must pray for the reclamation of backsliders. (1 John 5:16)
 - e. We must pray for the sanctification of saints. (1 Thessalonians 3:9-13)
 - f. We must pray for those who persecute us and mistreat us. (Matthew 5:44)
 - g. We must pray for laborers to be sent into Christ harvest. (Luke 10:2)
 - h. We must pray for all God’s people. (Ephesians 6:18)
 - i. We must pray for those who proclaim the gospel. (Ephesians 6:19-20)

 - 2. As holy priests we have the privilege of sharing with others what God has done for us.
 - a. We must share how He brought us out of darkness into the marvelous light.
 - b. We must share how He brought us from being no people to being God’s people.
 - c. We must share how He brought us from being without mercy to obtaining mercy.

- B. As God’s holy priests, we have the privilege of living with integrity before others. (11,12)
 - 1. As citizens of heaven, we must abstain from sinful desires, which war against the soul.
 - 2. As citizens of heaven, we must lead exemplary lives before those who are unsaved.
 - a. Those who are suspicious of us will observe our good works.
 - b. Those who are suspicious of us will glorify God when He comes to visit us.

II. The Challenge of Submission to Authority (1 Peter 2:13 – 3:12)

- A. As servants of God, we must submit to governmental authority for the Lord's sake. (13-17)
1. We are honoring Christ when we submit to our governmental authorities. (13,14)
 - a. God established government in order to punish criminals.
 - b. God established government in order to reward those who do good.
 2. We are doing God's will when we silence the talk of the foolish by our good works. (15)
 3. We are living as God's servants by refusing to use our freedom as an excuse to do evil. (16)
 4. We are respecting God's authority when we treat people the way He commands us. (17)
 - a. We must be concerned about the welfare of all people.
 - b. We must love our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - c. We must have reverence for God as the ultimate authority.
 - d. We must respect civil authorities, obeying them unless their requirements conflict with the laws of God.
- B. As servants of God, we must submit to authority in the workplace. (18-20)
1. We must treat our employers with respect out of our reverence for God. (18)
 - a. We must respect those who are good and gentle.
 - b. We must respect those who are harsh and hard to get along with.
 2. We will be commended for enduring mistreatment for the sake of God. (19)
 3. We will be commended for patiently suffering persecution for doing good. (20)
- C. As servants of God, we must follow Christ's example of suffering for righteousness sake. (21-25)
1. When He suffered, He did not retaliate in any way. (21-23)
 2. When He suffered, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. (23)
 3. When He suffered, He bore our sins on the cross, so we could be saved. (24-25)
- D. As servants of God, we must submit to authority in the home. (3:1-7)
1. We must treat our husbands with respect because of our reverence for God. (1-6)
 - a. Our unsaved spouses may be won by our godly attitude and conduct. (1-2)
 - b. Our inner beauty is more precious to God than our outward appearance. (3-4)
 - c. Our attitude of respect for our spouses is like that of other women of faith. (5-6)
 2. We must treat our wives with respect because of our reverence for God. (7)
 - a. We must be considerate of their needs and understanding of their differences.
 - b. We must be appreciative of their strengths and sensitive to their weaknesses.
 - c. We must treat them with respect as an equal partner, sharing God's gift of life.
- E. As servants of God, we must submit to authority everywhere. (3:8-12)
1. We must be united, compassionate, loving, tenderhearted, and courteous. (8)
 2. We must receive God's blessing by returning good for evil. (9-12)
 - a. We must do the following in order to have a full and satisfying life:
 1. We must refrain from speaking evil and telling lies.
 2. We must turn away from evil and do what is good.
 3. We must seek peace and pursue it.
 - b. We must do right in order to live under God's care & and enjoy God's presence.