

Sermon Study Guide – April 16th, 2023

Today's Focus: "Honest-to-Goodness, Predictable Peace..."

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ What is peace? What does today's theme imply about peace? Is it something "predictable" (i.e. easy to find) in our world?
- ◆ God often speaks about peace and promises it to his people. How does he give peace to us? How does God define peace, and how does it differ from how we may define peace?

2) Today's Message: 1 Peter 1:1-9

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

Answer the following questions as you follow the sermon...

1. God promises Peter's listeners peace, but what would their lives look like? (*Hint: this is similar to the disciples in our Gospel.*)
2. What do we mean when we say we look for peace on a *horizontal* level, and why is it so hard to find?
3. How does God offer us peace on a *vertical* level, and why is that so much more predictable?
4. Why can you be at peace... even if your life isn't peaceful?
5. How can we capture some of God's peace here on earth, "horizontally"?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *review* Jn. 20:19-31, Ac. 2:14-32 **Thursday:** Jeremiah 6

Tuesday: *review* Psalm 16 **Friday:** 1 Peter 3-4

Wednesday: John 14 **Saturday:** *read/review* 1 Peter 1:1-9