

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER SERMON SUMMARY, 1/13/13

1 Peter — “Recalibrating Expectations: The Message of First Peter,” Ryan Kelly

Series: *First Peter: Between Two Worlds*

In short: God's grace transforms our expectations for this age by transforming our expectations for the next.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

1. How God's Grace Comes to Us
2. What God's Grace Means for Us
3. Why We Need to Stand Firm in God's Grace
4. How We Stand Firm in God's Grace

HELP FOR OBSERVING, INTERPRETING, AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. 1 Peter 4:12 gives us a window into the need of Peter's readers: “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” What kind of trials is Peter talking about? Why did Peter have to warn them not to be surprised?

They've been grieved (1:6); they've been spoken against (2:12); they've endured sorrows (2:19); some have been beaten (2:20); they've been reviled (3:9, 16), harmed (3:13), slandered (3:16), maligned (4:4), insulted (4:14). In short, it was a “fiery trial” (4:12).

2. In a sentence, or even a word, how does Peter correct faulty expectations for the Christian life in this world?

Peter preaches the grace of God, and that's what we need (1:10, 13; 5:10, 12). We're to set our hope in it and we're to stand firm in it. This grace comes to us through the gospel (2:24-25; 3:18).

3. What trials for the sake of Christ are common in our day and in our lives specifically? What are our faulty expectations for life in this world? How can these faulty expectations work themselves out in the way we live and in how we relate with the world around us?

Examples of wrong approaches to relating with the world: fight the world, force them to do things our way, follow the world, flee from the world, or faint and give up in exasperation. Rather, we should live faithfully as holy, happy, here, and heavenly-minded people. Peter applies this to our lives as citizens (2:13-17), employees (2:18), spouses (3:1, 7), church members (3:8), and as the distinct community of the church (4:8, 11; 5:11).

4. Where, specifically and personally, must our lives better reflect our heavenly citizenship? According to 1 Peter, what must we do to grow in faithfulness.

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

- “[in these days in the Roman world] there was a guild for almost every trade, and most people involved in any economic activity belonged to one guild or another [something like unions, but unions for buying and selling, not just unions for working like we know]. Since all the guilds had patron deities, Christian guild members would [still] be expected to pay homage to pagan gods at official guild meetings, which were usually festive occasions often accompanied with [gross] immoral behavior. Non-participation would lead to economic ostracism.” — Greg Beale