

FOCUS MATTERS

what REALLY matters

1 Peter 1:1-9, ESV – Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of April 19, 2020

1 Peter 1:1-9

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend we were reminded that what we focus on matters. According to 1 Peter 1:1-9, what should we focus on? How do we do that?

2 When focusing on grace and peace, which of the two is more difficult for you? Explain.

3 Why is it important to focus on future outcomes and not on present trials?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *Titus 3:4-7, ESV* – ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

4 According to the passage above, describe God's motivation in changing us? How are we "saved"? What does it mean to be justified by His grace?

5 What does it mean by the washing of regeneration (rebirth) and renewal by the Holy Spirit? How have you experienced this in your own life?

6 When we become heirs with Jesus, we are adopted into a new family. What does this new family look like? What do we receive as heirs? How does this lead to peace?

B **James 1:2-4, ESV** – ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Isaiah 48:10, ESV – ¹⁰ Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.

7 Looking at the passages above, what is the purpose of trials and afflictions?

8 How can focusing on future outcomes help us to react appropriately to current trials and afflictions?

9 Three key words in this passage are joy, perseverance, and maturity. What is the connection between these key aspects of the Christian life?

TAKING IT HOME

What we focus on matters to God. We can focus on circumstances and problems or we can focus on Jesus and the grace and peace that comes from Him. Where is your focus right now? Are there any trials that you are in the midst of, that are keeping you from focusing on Jesus? Share with your group or accountability partner and pray for a faith that is focused on Jesus and not on trials.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Romans 8:17-18
1 Corinthians 3:13
1 Corinthians 15:20
Ephesians 1:3