

BORN AGAIN TO LOVE AND LONG

Sunday, August 31, 2025 – 1 PETER series – msg 12 – Pastor Ben Nistor

1 PETER 1:1–21

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 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.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Messages 1–7

- First Peter was written to provide hope 'elect exiles' who look to Jesus's death and resurrection as evidence of God's promises FULFILLED (vs 1)
- The doctrine of election is amazing because God decides to love us (vs 1–3)
- The Old & New Testaments show the reality of persecution. Throughout Jesus's and the apostles' teachings and history, we see reality and types of persecution (vs 6)
- Because God causes us to be born again, He deserves our glad worship (vs 3–5).
- God glorifies himself and brings us joy through TRIALS (vs 6–7).
- Faith and love go hand-in-hand when it comes to salvation (vs 8–9).

MESSAGE 8

- In verses 3-5 Peter declares to them Salvation's FUTURE REWARD.
- In verses 6-9 Peter acknowledges Salvation's PRESENT TRIALS.
- In verses 10-12 Peter declares Salvation's GLORIOUS PROPHETIC PAST.
- GOD has used the PROPHETS, faithful MISSIONARIES, the HOLY SPIRIT and ANGELS to bring us a salvation.

MESSAGES 9–11

- Peter uses the word "Therefore" to highlight what Christians should do in light of the beautiful truths of verses 3–12.
- Christians should SET THEIR HOPE FULLY on God's grace (vs 13).
- Christians should be HOLY in all their conduct (vs 15).
- Christians should CONDUCT THEMSELVES WITH FEAR (vs 17).
- These commands are fully empowered by God's salvation in Jesus Christ (vs 18–21).

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, **love one another earnestly from a pure heart**, **23** since you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24** for

*“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.”*

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

2:1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

2 Like newborn infants, **long for the pure spiritual milk**, that by it you may grow up into salvation— **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

How does a person become ‘born again’?

A person becomes born again through the living and abiding word of God (vs 23)

‘Word of the Lord’ ‘truth’ ‘seed’ ‘good news’ ‘pure spiritual milk’

A person becomes born again through the great mercy of God (vs 3)

*‘According to his great mercy, he has caused us **to be born again** to a living hope’*

What does a ‘born again’ person do?

1) Born-again Christians love one another earnestly from a pure heart (vs 22).

Through this means: Having purified your souls...

How? by your obedience to the truth

Unto/for what? for a sincere brotherly love.

Reason: since you have been born again,

Clarification: not of perishable seed but of imperishable, → being ‘born again’ has no expiration date

How? through the living and abiding word of God

Implication: So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

2) Born-again Christians long for the pure spiritual milk, which is God’s word (2:2)

Comparison: Like newborn infants

Why? that by it you may grow up into salvation

Condition: if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Some Realities

- 1) The act of loving one another earnestly and purely is impossible without God’s new birth.
- 2) The act of loving one another is a sign of Christian growth.
- 3) Longing for the pure spiritual milk of God’s word is vital for Christian growth.
- 4) Longing for the pure spiritual milk of God’s word is a major test for new birth.