

Live Your Lives as Strangers

1 Peter 1.17-25

Peter was neither overwhelmed by the glory and the majesty of the Roman empire, nor threatened by the power and fury of the emperor; and he didn't want the Christians to be either. Peter's approach to life and death, power and glory, pain and suffering, success and failure was governed by a special set of values which he endeavored to teach the believers in the Roman provinces. We need to notice several important things concerning values.

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For,

*'All men are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever.'*

And this is the word that was preached to you.

There Are Certain Things That Must Be Pointed Out

- *Things aren't always as they appear – 1 Peter 1.17.*
- *The things that we see are bound by time – 1 Peter 1.18.*
- *The traditional norms that are handed down to us are often suspect – 1 Peter 1.18.*
- *Present time stands in opposition to eternity – 1 Peter 1.20.*
- *Spiritual experiences are indeed the reality – 1 Peter 1.23.*
- *Mortal men are finite creatures – 1 Peter 1.24-25; Isaiah 40.6-8.*
- *Cultural glories are also finite and passing – 1 Peter 1.24-25; Isaiah 40.6-8.*

There Are Certain Things That Need to Be Understood

- *We Need to Understand the Fatherhood of God – 1 Peter 1.17-21.*
- *We Need to Understand that Christ is the Savior – 1 Peter 1.17-19.*
- *We Need to Understand the Brotherhood of Believers – 1 Peter 1.22-23.*

There are Certain Responsibilities We Must Undertake

- *The first task in value building is the development of a reverent life-style – 1 Peter 1.17.*
- *The second task is the development of a confident attitude – 1 Peter 1.21.*
- *The third task is developing a fervent relationship – 1 Peter 1.22.*

D. Stuart Briscoe. *When the Going Gets Tough*. Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1982.

Norman Hillyer. *New International Biblical Commentary: 1 and 2 Peter, Jude*. Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA, 2002.

I. Howard Marshall. *The IVP New Testament Commentary Series: 1 Peter*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1991.