

A Reader's Guide to Discipleship©: Readings in the New Testament

2009

The sufficiency of the scriptures for all things pertaining to life and godliness
(II Tim 3:16)

I Peter: Fulfilling God's promise to be a blessing to the world by living confidently in the gracious plan of God

I. God is revealing His promised salvation as planned 1:3-13

- A. We can have complete confidence in God's plan 1:3-5
- B. We can have joy even in our present sufferings since this too is God's plan to purify our faith 1:6-9
- C. We can be grateful that we are in a time of hope as revealed to the prophets 1:10-12

II. But we must live in light of God's promised salvation 1:13-21

- A. Conforming mind, will, and emotions to God's promise 1:13
- B. Being holy as He is holy 1:14-16
- C. Sojourning in fear of God not aimless traditions 1:17-21

III. And we must live in light of the Word 1:22-2:10

- A. It is the incorruptible seed of the Word that produces love 1:22-25
 - 1. by purifying us 1:22
 - 2. by living in us 1:23-25
- B. It provides the nourishment we need to grow 2:1-3
 - 1. we must give the Word a chance to take root by laying aside self-centred behaviours 2:1
 - 2. be hungry for the Word like newborns 2:2-3
- C. The Word directs us to Jesus as the foundation for the building of a new people of God 2:4-10
 - 1. Jesus, the living stone, chosen by God to be the cornerstone of a spiritual house 2:4-8
 - 2. called to proclaim His praises as the people of God 2:9-10

IV. By doing so we give testimony to the nations as the people of God 2:11-4:6

- A. Honourable conduct 2:11-12
- B. Honouring the institutions of man as servants of God 2:13-17
- C. Servants following the example of Jesus in submitting to their masters 2:18-25
- D. Honourable marriages 3:1-7
 - 1. wives submitting with the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit 3:1-6
 - 2. husbands partnering with their wives (note husbands should honour their wives and take the time to understand them) 3:7
- E. We are called to be a blessing to the nations even though persecuted 3:8-22
 - 1. by showing brotherly love 3:8-12
(note in the process we receive blessing)
 - 2. by living in meekness and with a clear conscience in suffering 3:13-22
- F. Trials prepare us to live for the will of God and makes the world accountable 4:1-6
 - 1. following the example of Jesus who suffered for us 4:1-2

2. the ways of the world are a waste of time 4:3-4
3. the world will not understand what we do but will be judged by the standards we set 4:5-6

VI. Closing encouragement to live in light of the world to come 4:7-5:11

- A. Nearness of the end of history should motivate us to love fervently 4:7-11
- B. Suffering for God's glory as the end approaches brings blessing 4:12-19
 1. We should expect persecution 4:12
 2. but this persecution brings glory to God as we share in the sufferings of Jesus 4:13-16
 3. we should be confident in God's judgements 4:17-19
- C. Humility in relationships 5:1-9
 1. elders should shepherd as humble examples 5:1-4
 2. Younger people should submit to elders 5:5
 3. all should be clothed with humility 5:6-7
- D. The spiritual battle for God's glory 5:8-11
 1. vigilance in resisting the devil 5:8-9
 2. called to pass through suffering to glory 5:10-11