



I Peter

Fearing Our Father

1 Peter 1:17-21
Study Guide

1. Read 1 Peter 1:13-21. It is one unit of thought and has to be interpreted that way. You will recall that the “therefore” of 1:13 is a transitional word that leads into a discussion of the believer’s responsibility toward his salvation (1:3, 5, 9, 10). Review in your mind what holiness is (1:16). Why does Peter bring up the believer’s relation to God as Father (v. 17)? If we are going to call God our Father, then what should be the result in our life?
2. Peter once again brings up the fact that believers are sojourners (v. 17). What has been said thus far in 1 Peter about this truth? The Father is said to “impartially judge according to each man’s work.” What kind of judgment is this (1 Cor. 11:32; 3:10-15; Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10)? Will this judgment decide the believer’s eternal destiny?
3. Look up the word “fear” in your Bible concordance. How many times in the New Testament is fear used in describing the believer’s response to God? What is the “fear of God?” Give some of the characteristics of a Christian who fears the Lord (e.g., tender conscience). How much is the fear of the Lord a factor in your own life? Do you think about how your behavior and attitudes are viewed by God? What effect does this have upon you?
4. Beginning in 1:18 with the word “knowing” Peter gives the reason why we should conduct our lives in the fear of God. What is it that we are to know? Why should this doctrinal reality affect the way we live?
5. The Christian’s way of life before conversion is said to be a “futile way of life.” What does this mean? How do you think about the meaning of your life now compared to the way you thought about it before you became a Christian?
6. It is said that Christ’s death was “foreknown before the foundation of the world” (v. 20). Jesus’ death on the cross was no accident (Acts 2:23). How should this affect the way we think about the problem of evil, and in particular the bad things that happen to God’s people?
7. Who planned our redemption? Who made this redemption a visible reality? When was the payment for sin planned? With all that is true about what Jesus Christ did for us in His death and resurrection what should be our response to Him (v. 21)?
8. You will notice that in this section (1:17-21) the basis for ethical/moral living in the Christian’s life is the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Attention has been called to this fact before. Why is this so important in our day to day lives?