

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I thought it might be helpful to put some home Bible Studies on our church web page each week, using the Epistle Lesson (more or less) for the upcoming Sunday. Mull over the questions in your mind, perhaps write down answers and thoughts in a journal.

Bible Study for April 20 - 26, 2020

Background on 1 Peter

Because 1 Peter is used as the epistle lesson throughout this year's Easter season, it is important to know something about the background of this book, especially as we are going through such unusual times for the church and the world. It is believed that the book was written for believers in what is now modern day Turkey at a time when the persecution of Christians was on the rise. In July of A.D. 64 the city of Rome caught fire, burning out of control for 3 days and 3 nights, demolishing much of the city. Because it was initially believed by many that Emperor Nero was somehow responsible (he did have a passion for building and rebuilding), he turned the blame to a new struggling group of people, the Christians, and outlawed the practice of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. Believers therefore needed words of encouragement and hope in difficult times, so Peter often reaches back to the past in order to confront the realities of the present with words of hope and promise.

Read: 1Peter 1:13-23 (feel free to re-read it again if you feel the need)

Questions:

What did you do as a child that got you into real trouble?

See if you can figure out the 5 commands Peter gives us in verses 13-15. Using them, how would you define the word "holy"?

Looking in verses 17-21, what reasons does Peter give for these commands?

How does Peter's call to holiness challenge you at home? Work? Community?

In terms of time, effort, and money spent, which comes first for you: perishables or "forever" items?

Under stress, what helps you to set your hope fully on the grace of God, rather than rely on your own wits to solve a problem?