

15. Does this mean that we will just be bodiless spirits in heaven?
What does Paul say on the matter in 1 Corinthians 15.40-44?

16. We will see next week how Peter goes on to talk about the trials Christians can face (v6) and verse 5 seems to be leading us into that. How does what is said in verse 5 help us to persevere through trials in what it says about God and about us?

Pray

Give thanks for opportunities we have as individuals and as a church to tell others the good news about Jesus. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work that people might be born again and believe the gospel.

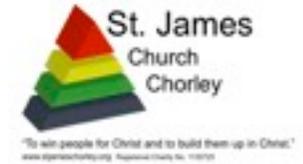
Pray for the impact of and follow up to the Diocesan Crossroads mission and that churches will recognise that we are called by Jesus to open eyes so that people may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God and receive forgiveness and new life through faith (Acts 26.18).

Pray for the new term in our school and our church groups for young people and particularly for Hannah James as for the time being she takes on leading the Wednesday parent and toddler group. Pray also for our need for more helpers with our various groups.

*David Phillips
September 2016*

1 Peter

Week 1 : New Life



A Christian Described

1. After Jesus there is more said about Peter in the gospels than any other person. Do you have any favourite passages or incidents involving Peter?

2. Many people seem to relate to Peter, why do you think that is and is it something you find yourself?

3. How would you describe a Christian?

Read 1 Peter 1.1-2

4. Peter is writing to Christians, what expressions does he use to describe what a Christian is and what do they mean?

4a. Notice that Peter writes about God the Father, the Spirit and Jesus Christ. What does he say about the work of the Father in a Christian? What does this imply about whether the initiative for salvation comes from us, or from Him?

4b. What is said about the work of the Holy Spirit? Do you think you are getting holier?

4c. What is said here about our relationship to Christ?

New Life

Read 1 Peter 1. 3 & John 3.1-8

5. Peter and Jesus talk about being born again but some people don't seem to like this idea, why do you think this is and what does it mean to be born again?

(Some Bibles have a footnote saying this could mean 'born from above', which is a possible translation but in v4 Nicodemus clearly understood Jesus to mean being born a second time so 'born again' is a a better translation.)

6. What does Peter say about how we are born again and how does this compare with what Jesus said?

7. What do both of them show about where the initiative for salvation comes from?

8. Nicodemus was confused and Jesus took the opportunity to explain to him what he must do. What does Jesus go on to say a person must do in John 3.16?

9. If a person is born again by the work of God the Holy Spirit and are saved by believing in Jesus, do others have any part to play in how someone is saved?

10. If you are born again, what things changed in your life when you came to faith in Christ?

Present and Future Blessings

Read 1 Peter 1.3-5

11. In v3 & 4 what two things are we said to be born again "to".

12. Is salvation pie in the sky when you die, or steak on your plate whilst you wait? Based on what Peter writes here how do you think he would answer that question?

13. Peter speaks about "a living hope" in verse 3. There are several such combinations of words in this letter which are not found elsewhere in the New Testament. What does this particular combination emphasise about the nature of Christian hope?

14. What particularly does Peter say about our future blessings? What is the significance of the words "imperishable", "undefiled" and "unfading"?