1 Peter - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 2, Thoughts

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1PE 1:13

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you.

1 Peter 1:13

Another way of saying this is to “prepare your minds for action”. When a soldier girded on his sword he was getting ready to go out and fight. So we are to prepare for action. We are to be self-controlled. We are to keep our hope for the Lord’s coming alive in our thoughts and hearts. Our thoughts are easily distracted and changed. Let’s make an extra effort to keep them under control and think about Jesus and His coming again. Today is the day when most of the world celebrate the birth of Jesus - His first coming into the world. Many of them are not ready for His second coming - and it’s almost here!

CareLines: Volume 3, Testing

1PE 1:7

The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth . . . might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:7

God says that the trial of our faith is precious to Him. How it must have pleased God as he watched Job’s faith tried and proven by fire! The trials that you endure prove the reality of your faith. That is why God not only allows those trials but values them. Job did not realize that he was being tested, but we know from Scripture that the eye of God is upon us during our trials.

CareLines: Volume 3, Redeemed

AUGUST 16

Redeemed . . . with the precious blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18

There is nothing as precious as the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The biblical principle is that “without the shedding of blood is no remission” for sin. The shedding of animal blood in Old Testament times satisfied God temporarily, but it didn’t permanently cleanse from sin. The only permanent, eternal solution for man’s sin problem is the shed blood of the Lord Jesus. Are you redeemed?

CareLines: Volume 7, Redemption

Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . . but with the precious blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18-19

Silver and gold are the trading standards of today’s society. But with God they won’t work. Our salvation cannot be, nor could it ever have been, bought with money. Redemption for us was accomplished at infinite cost - the shedding of the blood of Christ on Calvary’s cross. As it says in Hebrews, “By His own blood He entered in once into the holy place.” Access to God is through the cross. Money is not required.

CareLines: Volume 7, Inheritance

An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:4

We have a wonderful future to look forward to. Our eternal inheritance has some special characteristics. First, it will not decay or corrode. Second, it is perfect and cannot be defiled. Third, it won’t disappear - on its own or through unscrupulous dealings. And, lastly, it has our name

with the word “RESERVED” on it. Jesus paid the price for this inheritance and it became ours as soon as we trusted in Him as our Saviour.

CareLines: Volume 7, Christ

Unto you therefore which believe He is precious.

1 Peter 2:7

You can talk about any topic with the world and evoke a response. You can even talk about God and find them willing to talk “religion.” But the mention of Jesus separates the believer from the unbeliever. To those who believe, He is precious. For many who do not believe, He was just another religious leader, a good man. Without Christ we would have nothing. He gave His life to redeem us. He indeed is precious.

CareLines: Volume 7, Example

Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example.

1 Peter 2:21

We all like to have examples to follow. Jesus left us a perfect example of total selflessness. He always gave Himself for others. He wants us to follow His steps. He wants us not only to follow but also to be an example to others so that they too will want to follow Him.

CareLines: Volume 7, Malice

Wherefore laying aside all malice . . . desire the sincere milk of the word.

1 Peter 2:1-2

To have malice means to have a vicious character—to want to harm others. The Christian is expected to be gentle and kind and full of good works. When we think of the good we can do for others, malice will have no place. Let us practice what Peter suggested and put aside malicious thoughts and think about the Scriptures instead.

CareLines: Volume 7, Guile

Wherefore laying aside . . . all guile . . . desire the sincere milk of the word.

1 Peter 2:1-2

Guile is deceit. The Scripture says that the human heart is “deceitful above all things.” So our natural (unsaved) personality has built into it the ability and inclination to be deceitful. We need to be especially careful that we don’t practice deceit, but rather desire God’s Word and the purity that is found in it.

CareLines: Volume 7, Hypocrisy

Wherefore laying aside. . . hypocrisies. . . desire the sincere milk of the word.

1 Peter 2:1-2

My dictionary of New Testament words defines hypocrisy as “play acting.” An actor is one who plays a part that is someone else - not him. So we too can play the part of a devoted Christian on Sundays, but during the week we run with the world and join in their activities, “acting” like one of them. Each of us needs to be ourselves, to be real - not acting a part, but being the real part.

CareLines: Volume 7, Envy

Wherefore laying aside. . . envies. . . desire the sincere milk of the word.

1 Peter 2:1-2

Envy can really damage your personal happiness. It makes you think about yourself and how less fortunate you are than others. We must not be envious of others and their abilities, their possessions or their friends. Instead, let us enjoy the Lord and His presence in our life, His Word and His love. Then envy will fall away and what others have won’t really matter.

CareLines: Volume 7, Evil Speaking

Wherefore laying aside. . . all evil speakings. . . desire the sincere milk of the word.

1 Peter 2:1-2

The last enemy that not only destroys others but our own enjoyment of the Lord is evil speaking -character assassination - putting others in a bad light so that people think more of us than them. Let our tongues speak words that would edify and build up. We need to make it a special matter of prayer that the Lord would control our thoughts and our tongues so that we act, think and speak as the Lord did.

CareLines: Volume 7, Growth

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

1 Peter 2:2

A baby should grow. If it doesn't, we know there is something wrong and so we take it to the doctor. A Christian should grow too. If we see no spiritual growth, then we know there is something wrong. Perhaps it is because there is malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy or evil speaking still unjudged in the Christian's life or heart. These things stunt spiritual growth and there will be no fruit for God.

CareLines: Volume 2, Value

1PE 3:3-4

Whose adorning. . . let it be. . . a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

1 Peter 3:3-4

A man bought a picture at a rummage sale for $5.00 because he liked the frame and wanted to use it. When he removed the picture, underneath was an original copy of the Declaration of Independence, worth 1 million dollars! Sometimes we cover up the beauty of Christ with a poor exterior. Does my life show that Jesus lives in me?

CareLines: Volume 3, Courtesy

JUNE 16

Be courteous.

1 Peter 3:8

Go on, open the car door for her - it's not sissy, it's considerate. Stand up on a crowded bus and offer the lady your seat. Say "Excuse me!" when you accidentally bump into that older brother at meeting. Say "Hello!" to that old, frail sister who doesn't walk as fast as she used to. Say "Thank you!" when someone shows you a kindness. Hold the swinging door so that it doesn't slam in the face of the person behind you. These seem to be little things, but they make the day go better for others. Be courteous. God expects you to, especially to members of your own family.

CareLines: Volume 7, Hope

Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

1 Peter 3:15

Meekness should mark every believer. So should hope. The Old Testament saints had the hope of an eternity with God and that's what sustained them. How much greater should our hope be when the Lord Jesus promised that He would come again and receive us unto Himself. The hope of the Lord's coming is what makes the Christian's life worthwhile.

CareLines: Volume 2, Persecution

1PE 4:16

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed.

1 Peter 4:16

In Acts 5 the apostles preached even though they had been told not to. They were arrested, questioned, beaten, and told not to preach again. It says in verse 41 that “they departed . . . rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.” That’s suffering as a Christian - something not to be ashamed of. May we be like those early Christians.

CareLines: Volume 2, Self-Control: 1

1PE 4:4

They think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot.

1 Peter 4:4

I was always amazed at college, and when I taught at college, to see the number of young people that partied and drank alcohol, and to see the disastrous effects of it. Alcohol impairs your self-control, sometimes to the point of unconsciousness. And when you’re out of control guess who takes over? Right! Satan - getting you to become involved in all kinds of shameful behavior. So although the world may think it strange that you don’t join them, may even laugh at you, stand firm. Enjoy the Lord and His love. Never mind the riotous living of the world. It was this that took away everything that the prodigal son owned. (Read Luke 15:11-16.)

CareLines: Volume 3, Gift

MAY 21

If any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth.

1 Peter 4:11

God has given you an ability in something. Each of us has been given a different gift or area of service. It doesn’t matter what that ability is. Use it. Don’t go beyond the ability that God has given. Just use it in the sphere where the Lord makes you feel comfortable. Some of you are good at visiting the sick and other shut-ins. Some can preach the gospel. Some can explain the Scriptures well. Some can relate to young people. Some can witness one-on-one with total strangers. Just remember to use what God has given you and don’t step beyond your gift until God makes it clear that He has other things for you to do.

CareLines: Volume 2, Problems

1PE 5:7

Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.

1 Peter 5:7

Recently the brother of a friend of mine had an argument with his girlfriend. He was very distraught and, not knowing Jesus, he had nowhere to turn - so he turned a gun on himself. He recovered but he still has a great need - Jesus. If you belong to the Lord then you know One who will help you with your problems like no one else can. Won’t you ask Him to help you? He cares!

CareLines: Volume 3, Vigilance

AUGUST 19

Be sober, be vigilant; because . . .

1 Peter 5:8

Sober means self-controlled. Vigilant means watchful. Why do we need to be this way? Because Satan is trailing us everywhere we go, waiting to pounce. Any drop in the vigilance or self-control and . . . WHAM . . . down we go. In these days of permissiveness and a non-caring society, we need to be extra careful not to get caught by the archenemy of our souls. WATCH OUT!

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