

**“CHALLENGE TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY”  
SERMON OUTLINE FROM 1 PETER 1:13-2:3**

**Introduction**

1 Has been terrible how many natural disasters are taking place - earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, typhoons and many who have suffered lost homes and died – Global warming, ETS debate grows  
2 Emissions Trading Schemes are centre of much debate now within/betw. various political parties  
3 No-one has a definite plan about the future because mankind has no absolute control over future  
4 1:1-2 Peter wrote to **encourage persecuted Christians** scattered **throughout** the Roman Empire  
5 1:2 Each must seek to live holy lives in obedience to Jesus Christ, as enabled by the Holy Spirit  
6 Bible teaches that our Creator God has **always had a plan** in place for the world **from** all eternity

**I God’s Plan through all Eternity revealed in Bible**

**A 1:20 God’s Plan before the Creation of the World**

1 In May and June we studied “The Whole Bible in 9 weeks” and saw that  
    **a** Although there are 66 books in the Bible,                      **b** They all have the same story line  
    **c** The Bible as a whole is all about God and people    **d Peoples’ relationship** with God  
2 Despite many different authors and translations, the Bible keeps the same message  
3 Every single person born into this world, apart from Jesus, **is separated from God by sin**  
4 **Everyone is under God’s judgement** and no-one can do **anything** to **remove** his/her **guilt**  
5 1:20 **But God has a plan**, in fact he has had a plan **from before He created the world**  
6 **In eternity**, God **knows** the beginning from the end as He is not limited by the world’s time  
7 **Before world’s** creation God, the Father/Son/Holy Spirit knew man would rebel against God  
8 In the **fullness of time** God sent His Son to die on the cross to pay punishment for man’s sin  
9 Is an eternal sacrifice covering all ages, but is worked out in human history for all people, us

**B 1:18-19 Only perfect sacrifice can remove man’s guilt**

1 Great message of the Bible is self-centred man **can do nothing** to **remove** God’s judgement  
2 God **regarded** man’s **rebellion** and **guilt** through sin against Him as something very serious  
3 And **only a perfect sacrifice acceptable** in God’s eyes **could remove mankind’s guilt**  
4 1:18 **a** It was **not** with **even** the **greatest** of earthly treasures like gold, silver, **price** was paid  
    **b** But God rescued man from His judgement by the most precious thing He had to offer  
1:19 **c** God allowed His perfect Son to become the “perfect lamb without any fault, defect, blemish to pay the price for man’s sin by dying in their place as man’s substitute”  
    **d** The **fully obedient** Lord Jesus was **100%** God and **100%** man, **so He fully satisfied** God’s **demands** for **justice** on man’s sin, **rejection** of God’s **control** over their lives

**C 1:21 Our faith and hope are fixed on God alone through His risen Son, Jesus Christ**

1 1:21 To **gain** the **personal benefit** of what the Lord Jesus achieved through His death and resurrection, **each must repent** of sin, **believe** Jesus died for **personal sin**, **receive** Him  
2 By **believing** what God achieved thru’ Lord’s death/resurrection our **faith/hope are in God**  
3 We **must be grateful** to God as we think about the **great sacrifice** Jesus suffered for our sin

**D 1:22a,23-25 All who believe are born again spiritually by trusting Jesus, God’s eternal Word**

1 1:22a Whoever accepts truth of what Jesus did thru’ His death/resurrection repents, believes, he/she **is made clean, cleansed from** past sins, **washed clean from guilt** by Jesus’ blood  
2 1:23 That person is born again spiritually as (s)he **responds** to living, enduring Word of God  
3 Seed that brought about new birth **is not perishable** like human seed but God’s eternal word  
4 1:24-25 Men, grass eventually die unlike Bible promises, which will live and endure forever  
5 As people responded to the gospel, it brought a **permanence** into their lives which will **outlast earthly fortunes – will extend into all eternity without** any ending ever

## II 1:13-22, 2:1-3 Christians must live holy lives waiting for God's future rule

### A Live holy life - examples of change in thoughts, actions

- 1 1:13 "Therefore" links 1:3-12 which talks about the **living hope Christians have**, and the **need to be holy** in all they do (1:15-16) as God expected of Israel, under the Old Covenant.
- 2 When person is saved from God's judgement, **this privilege brings responsibility**
  - a God expects new Chns to **change** their way of thinking, actions to **reflect** this new relationship
  - b They need to be "**Holy People**", which means a "**Separation to God**" from sin, impurity, rather than "**separation from the world**"
  - c Become members of God's team, led by Jesus
  - d Great thing God does not expect person to do it in own strength, but **gives** each Holy Spirit
- 3 **Holy Life means** some of the following changes
  - a **1:13 A Prepared mind – Focus like predator among wild animals (Leopard)**
    - (1) Christian must decide to live in ways pleasing to God each day as taught in the Bible
    - (2) Must be **alert, mentally** prepared to **move in** the **direction** of holy living eg speak truth
    - (3) **Mind stripped for action** eg Exams, sportsperson strips off track suit, ready to run play
  - b **1:13 Be self-controlled**
    - (1) Be sober which **forbids drunkenness, so minds are clear**, able to concentrate on doing things **God's way to please** Him by **actions and words** – last of the fruit of the Spirit
    - (2) **Avoid** things that fill our minds with unhelpful things, so we neglect holy living eg TV
  - c **Look up, waiting for the Second Coming and the Return** of the Lord Jesus
    - (1) No-one knows when He'll return, but must be spiritually ready in case He returns today
    - (2) Will help to have the right attitude, set priorities/choices, that lead to living God's ways
  - d **1:17 Live lives honouring and fully respecting God**, who **will judge everyone, one day**
    - (1) Christians have a Heavenly Father to whom they can pray through the Lord Jesus
    - (2) Everyone will be judged by God 100% fairly, so be careful to please God with lifestyle
  - e 1:18-21 **Give great thanks** to God by living to please Him for all He's done thru' the Lord
  - f 1:22a **Obey truth in God's Word-1:2,14-Not just mentally accepted, but seen in actions**
    - (1) **When obeyed** it **morally** cleanses the soul of the believer, eg Hidden anger, resentment
    - (2) It **probes** believers' motives/intentions/encourages a change of direction, go God's way

### B 1:14-16 Must change within, **show family likeness to God, give up** evil preChn desires/lifest

- 1 1:14 Before person becomes a Christian, **is controlled** by **sinful, self-centred** nature  
Greed, anger, jealousy, partying, gossiping, hatred, various addictions to food, sport, money
- 2 Previously did not read and understand Bible, so ignored God and His ways in the Bible
- 3 But as Chns don't allow others to persuade you to do wrong things eg "If it feels good, do it"
- 4 1:15-16 Being God's children, believers should reveal the family likeness to God, His ways
- 5 God has given believers Holy Spirit to change from within - reflect God's nature /character
  - a Live lives of self-giving love
  - b Help those in need
  - c Be compassionate-Lockerbie bomber
  - d Forgive enemies
  - e Pray for those who persecute you
  - f **Be forgiving as God in Christ did**

### C 1:22b Love all fellow believers deeply from the heart

- 1 God's word does not give us a choice, but we are urged to serve others and seek their good
- 2 **Love** described by Peter here **comes from new birth/life** and **cannot come any other way**
- 3 1:22b uses 2 words for love a **Brotherly love**, affection b **Sacrificial love**, serving others **no matter what their response – even if they are nasty, show ingratitude or hostility**
  - c **Is costly, being prepared to go against all natural feelings** eg Moravian mishes **sold themselves into slavery, so could witness** to slaves about the great news of the gospel

### D 2:1 Therefore, get rid of harmful evil attitudes and activities towards others

- 1 **Continues on** the theme of **loving** one another **deeply** in 1:22
  - a **Malice** –desire to harm others in thoughts/deeds
  - b **Deceit** -Twist truth to trap, trick others
  - c **Hypocrisy** – cover up inner evil feelings by outer show
  - d **Envy**- resent what others have
  - e **Slander** – attacks reputation, character and dignity of others – **All very opposite of love**

- E 2:2-3 Long for** spiritual food from Bible to grow as Chn, knowing God is good, trustworthy
- 1 Christians **have a desire to read and obey God's word daily** to grow in Christian maturity
  - 2 **Long for it** as babies long for mother's milk frequently-to have similar effect on them -grow
  - 3 Chns have experienced
    - a The new spiritual birth
    - b God rescuing them from His judgement on their sin
    - c God's goodness in removing their guilt
    - d Having their sins forgiven thru' Jesus' blood
  - 4 Peter wrote at a time of politically motivated persecution, but focussed on God's goodness
  - 5 Don't focus on self-pity, disappointments/frustrations -rather focus on God's many blessings
- Roy Comrie's story about conversion of his sister's killer and Christian growth**