

## The Difference Jesus Makes (1 Peter 1:13-2:3)

Are you ready? There is a new future filled with favor beyond your wildest imagination that awaits you. A new identity filled with purpose and meaning that is yours to walk out. A new promise established by God himself that is yours to rest in and return to again and again. What difference should all of this make?

### 1. The difference a new future makes (1 Peter 1:13)

Hope = confident expectation. Your present trial might be dark but your future is bright.

What are you looking forward to? What are you longing for? Is there an "I can't wait" attitude in you as you consider the future? 1 John 3:3; Colossians 3:4

This involves "*preparing your minds for action*" or lit. "*girding up the loins of your mind*"

Luke 12:35-37

= A way of life shaped by hope in Jesus.

Ready to receive what God has.

### 2. The difference a new identity makes (1 Peter 1:14-21)

In light of who you are (who you've become) - in light of this new identity you have through Jesus don't live (act; behave) like you used to. Romans 12:1-2

= A way of life shaped by God's *character* (who he is).

Ready to reflect who God is.

V16 God is holy (other). V17 God is just (right in all his ways). VV18-21 God is loving.

Ransomed = "*redeemed; rescued; bought out / bought back*" Mark 10:45

Language reminiscent of the Passover lamb in the story of Israel's exodus out of Egypt.

Helping the church understand who they are. Helping them see Jesus as the true Passover lamb and what that means for their life.

### 3. The difference a new promise makes (1 Peter 1:22-2:3)

Peter uses a farming illustration about seed that perishes and seed that doesn't. Isaiah 40:6-8

In our insecure and unstable world, we have a new promise (in Jesus) – one of permanence and power – producing a new lifestyle in those who embrace it.

If we choose to hold onto love we'll have to let go of the things found in 1 Peter 2:1.

2:2-3 Milk is a metaphor for the word / the new promises found in Jesus (the gospel).

It's yours to rest in and return to again and again.

= A way of life shaped by God's word.

Ready to give love.

**QUESTIONS** (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. What are you looking forward to? Is anything coming your way that makes you say "*I can't wait!*"
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13-21. What does Peter say we should *set our hope fully on*? (look forward to!)
3. This involves "*preparing your minds for action*" or lit. "*girding up the loins of your mind*" which means what? Consider Luke 12:35-37 as another example
4. Peter says not be "*conformed to the passions of your former ignorance*." What motivation in VV14-21 does he give us to live differently than we lived before? See also Romans 12:1-2
5. In what ways is God's character: his holiness, justice and sacrificial love a motivation to live a holy life? How is God's character influencing (shaping) your behavior?
6. What does "ransom" mean? What did Jesus ransom us out of? And into?
7. Read 1 Peter 1:22-2:3. Peter uses a farming illustration about seed that perishes and seed that doesn't and quotes Isaiah 40:5-8. What is the "imperishable seed" and what does it produce?
8. In our insecure and unstable world, we have a new promise (in Jesus) – one of permanence and power. Describe the lifestyle it produces in those who embrace it? See 1 Peter 1:22 and 2:1-3.

Pray for a lifestyle (individually and corporately) that will reflect the new future, new identity and new promises we have in Jesus.