

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

James 1:1-12

HOPE AND HOLINESS IN A HOSTILE WORLD

1 Peter 1:1-2; 5: 12-14

Main Thought: Even though we live in a world hostile to Christianity, believers can live in hope and holiness.

1. _____ ON 1ST PETER (1 Peter 1:1; 5:12-14)
 - 1) Meet the _____ – Peter
 - 2) Meet the _____ – Christian in N. Asia Minor
 - 3) The _____ – Living for Christ in a Hostile World.
2. CHRISTIANS LIVE IN A _____ WORLD. (v 1)
3. WE CAN LIVE WITH _____ IN THIS _____ WORLD. (v 1-2, 3)
 - 1) We have been _____ by God.
 - 2) We have been _____ by the triune God.
 - 3) We enjoy God's multiplied _____ and _____.
4. WE CAN LIVE WITH _____ IN THIS _____ WORLD. (v 2)
 - 1) Through the sanctifying _____ of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2) Through our ongoing _____ to Christ.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2; 5:12-14.

2. Who wrote the book of 1st Peter? What do you know about his life (or what can you learn about his life) from the Gospels and the Book of Acts? Where is he writing from (see 5:13)?

3. To whom is Peter writing this letter? How does he address them?

4. What does it mean to be God's elect or to be chosen by God? (See also John 6:41, 44; 15:16; Eph. 2:1-5)

5. What does it mean to be strangers or aliens in the world?

6. Why was Peter in a unique position to write to believers about how to live for Christ in a hostile world?

7. Can you give some examples of how the world is hostile to Christianity today? Why is this? Can we expect the world's view of Christianity and its treatment of Christians to change?

8. How is the Trinity involved in our initial and ongoing salvation?

9. What does the sprinkling of Christ's blood over us signify? (See Exodus 24:3-8; Hebrews 9:19-28)

10. Peter writes "grace and peace be yours in abundance" in verse 3. What grace and peace is he talking about? How do we obtain it? (See Eph. 1:1-8; 2:8-9; John 14:27; Phil. 4:6-8) What is the result of experiencing it? How are you aware of God's grace and peace on a daily basis?

11. What encouragement do you find in these initial verses of 1st Peter to help you live with hope and holiness in a hostile world?