

Living in a Hostile Culture.

(1 Peter 1:13-25.)

The Church first started in Jerusalem (in Acts 2), and spread to different parts. Many went as missionaries like Paul and Peter to preach the Gospel. And others were scattered out through persecution because of their faith. Here Peter mentions 5 cities where the believers were scattered: "Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia". The early Christians are now in a surrounding culture that is anti-Christian.

Peter's message to them is about "Christian presence in a hostile culture". Here are some of his practical suggestions.

(1) Ready Your Minds.

- "Be sober minded": not intoxicated or influenced by the culture and trends around you.
- The Word of God is a prominent theme in 1 Peter. This "Word" is addressed to three different people in different times. (1) **First: to the OT prophets.** What did they do with it? They studied it carefully. The OT prophets were led by the Spirit of God, but they also studied the prophecies very carefully (1 Peter 1:10-11). They knew what they were talking about. (2) **Second: to the early church believers** (non-Jews included). They studied it, and by AD 62, they were familiar with OT imageries and prophecies. Peter could write in the same language and imagery and expect them to understand. (3) **Third: to us today:** Peter expects the same diligence from us: Read. Understand. Obey. Our minds are refreshed by truth and our souls are purified by obedience to this truth.

(2) Remember Your Worth.

How much are you worth? We are worth the Precious blood of Jesus. (1:18)

The world will weigh you and declare your worth each day. "You have been weighed and found wanting". But if you are born again and washed by the blood, your worth comes from the Cross and not the world. Don't live in the alternate false reality that the world imposes on us. But live with the reality of God's Word and the value of the Cross.

(3) Remember Your Calling

- **Calling to Holiness.** The early Christians are in a pagan setting. One might think that in a setting like this, the standard of holiness can be lowered. No. God does not lower the standards.
- God is impartial and will judge impartially according to each man's deeds (1:17). He will not let you go for a misdeed just because you are a Christian. You will be saved, but you will have to face the consequence. Therefore, fear God.
- **Holiness is not essentially external difference.** Externally the believer and the non believers may look the same, and even share similar values. Peter does not say "do not be like the Pagan", but he tells them "Do not be like what you were before". The comparison is with their own past and how they have progressed from it. Comparing with neighbour will bring pride and will lower the standards of God.
- Meditate on the holiness of God Himself. Because God is holy, we who believe in Him can also be Holy through His Spirit who lives in us.
- You are also called to Love others. (1:22-23). Our souls are purified by love and obedience to the truth (1:22).

(4) Remember Your Time (v.24)

- By nature we are degrading in mind, body, memory, looks, etc. We are going down.
- The Word of the Lord remains forever. If this word remains in us, we will rise with Christ on the last day and be renewed. This is the ultimate hope with which Peter is strengthening the believers.

- Pastor Kedo Peseyie



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD
AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

City Church

SUNDAY SERVICE

- Leader : Maa Imsong
- Speaker : Pastor Kedo Peseyie
- Ushers : Robert Debbarma & Imlisanen Lonkumer
- Keyboard : Shin-Jung Mijito

Call to Worship Praise & Worship

Reading : Psalm 146

Mass Prayer

Offertory & Announcement

Hymn No.10 : Holy, Holy, Holy

Message

Hymn No.156 : There Shall be Showers of Blessing

Benediction



PRAYER

- Pray that as we start a new year 2018, each of us will remain faithful to Christ and be truthful in our private and public lives alike.
- Pray for the leadership in City Church, the fulltime staff, deacons and other committee members that we may serve and worship Christ with love, diligence and sincerity.
- Pray for our public leaders in the government, politics and administration, the NBCC and other church organisations, that the fear of God and love for people may prevail.

PSALM 146

Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord, my soul.
I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.
When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.
Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
He remains faithful forever.

He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,
the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but He frustrates the ways of the wicked.

The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord.

Sunday, January 7th, 2017

Tithes: ₹ 51,880 Offering: ₹ 13,100 Mission: 4,000 Nagamese: ₹ 33

Thanksgiving: ₹ 5,000 Total: ₹ 74,013

citychurchkoh@gmail.com, Facebook: "City Church Kohima".

Contact: 0370-2242687/ 8131862333

Notes:

Information

- There will be Deacon Board meeting today after the church service.
- All Committee members Orientation and prayer on 21st January after the church service.
- Sunday school class shall resume from 4th February.