

Food for Thought

For the week of January 5, 2014

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. As we start this new sermon series, we learn of Peter's desire to give new hope to believers who were fearful after Paul's death. Following Peter's example, what guidance do the following Scriptures give to continue bringing people the message of new hope?

Romans 8:18

Isaiah 40:30-31

Psalms 31:23-24

2. 1 Peter is a book about "surviving the storms" of life. How do the following verses depict God's protection over us and how might that be an encouragement during "the storm?"

Psalms 84

Psalms 91:1-4

Psalms 119:114

3. As we start a brand new year there's an opportunity to refocus, recalibrate, and proactively think about what we want to strive for moving forward. As you read the following verses, take some time to think about what (if any) changes you'd like to make in 2014.

Ephesians 4:22-24

Philippians 3:13-14

Colossians 3:15, 17

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Romans 8:18

Present Suffering and Future Glory

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. *[NIV]*

Isaiah 40:30-31

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint. *[NIV]*

Psalms 31:23-24

²³ Love the Lord, all his faithful people!
The Lord preserves those who are true to him,
but the proud he pays back in full.

²⁴ Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord. *[NIV]*

2. 1 Peter is a book about "surviving the storms" of life. How do the following verses depict God's protection over us and how might that be an encouragement during "the storm?"

Psalms 84

For the director of music. According to gittith. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord Almighty!

² My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

³ Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka,

they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
⁷ They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.
⁸ Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.
⁹ Look on our shield, O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.
¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.
¹² Lord Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you. *[NIV]*

Psalm 91:1-4

¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
² I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
³ Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. *[NIV]*

Psalm 119:114

¹¹⁴ You are my refuge and my shield;
I have put my hope in your word. *[NIV]*

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Ephesians 4:22-24

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. *[NIV]*

Philippians 3:13-14

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. *[NIV]*

Colossians 3:15, 17

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *[NIV]*