

1 Peter 1:13-2:3  
Feilding Baptist  
14.6.26

### Call to Worship

Welcome to worship with Feilding Baptist Church!

Psalm 13 (NIV - UK)

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

1 How long, Lord? Will you forget me for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?  
How long will my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

4 and my enemy will say, 'I have overcome him,'  
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

5 But I trust in your unfailing love;  
my heart rejoices in your salvation.

6 I will sing the Lord's praise,  
for he has been good to me.

This might seem a strange Psalm to begin with. But here is the Psalm of a real person who isn't enjoying life, things are not going well. But, despite this, they continue to trust in God's unfailing love, they continue to rejoice in their salvation, they continue to sing praise, for God has been good to them. What a challenge to grumpiness!

Father, thank you for this time to be together for worship. Thank you that despite all that has gone on in our weeks, we can still worship, we can still be grateful, we can still praise you. Holy Spirit, please give us energy and positiveness to worship. Please warm our hearts, to be thankful afresh for Jesus. Please bless this time and space, amen.

### Message - Living Faith 2

Our living faith is a daily walk towards Christlikeness.

We return to the book or letter of 1 Peter. Martin Luther held this letter in incredibly high regard, writing that it contains all that a Christian needs to know. It's worth lingering in.

So we begin today with verse 13 which begins, Therefore... Which of course should make us wonder, what is therefore there for? What was it in those previous 12 verses that shapes what is to come next?

There were five things that stood out to me a fortnight ago:

In verse one, we are called strangers, pilgrims, God's elect, exiles. This letter was to those who were being made to feel like outsiders in their home towns. It wasn't state persecution, but rejection from neighbours and friends. These new followers of Jesus were living differently to the culture they were born into. They were not worshipping the traditional gods, but Jesus. And they were endeavouring to live like Jesus. These people were neither Jews nor Greeks, but both. So this letter should be of comfort to anyone who is being made to feel isolated because of their faith in Jesus.

In verse two the standard greeting of grace and peace is given. This wonderful mix of Hebrew and Greek that encompasses both Jewish and Greek cultures. But this greeting is different, it goes further, because Peter lavishes grace and peace on these people. Some translations have grace and peace in abundance. In fact, grace and peace is to be multiplied. It's not a one off,

but on and on, and more and more. Here is the pointer to a faith that is ongoing, and in fact growing. This faith is not a one off decision.

And we see that more so in verse three, with us being given new birth into a living hope. Not just hope, but living hope. So if there is living hope, then there must be living faith. What a profound difference!

Fourthly, in verse eight, is the reaction to Jesus that Peter has seen or heard about in these new Christians. They love Jesus! They overtly love Jesus! They are filled with inexpressibly and glorious joy! That does not sound like us! We can be so emotionless! But, we have to admit, that there are times when the reality of what Jesus has done for us does hit home, and we do experience an incredible sense of joy and relief. Then we can get so busy. Perhaps this joy is best fostered by slowing down and appreciating what Jesus has done.

And fifthly, as we prepare for verse 13, verses 10 to 12 remind us that the salvation that we have, is something that the Old Testament prophets longed to have. The people of the Old Testament longed to see Jesus, longed to see the Messiah. How fortunate are we! How different things are now because of Jesus!

So this is what has gone on before, so, now, therefore. Let's read.

1 Peter 1:13-2:3 (NIV- UK)

Be holy

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For,

'All people are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
25 but the word of the Lord endures for ever.'  
And this is the word that was preached to you.

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Well, what is this all about?!

Well, it's simply this. A couple leave university and get married. Fortunately they only studied for three years, so each have student loans of only \$30k. If they studied longer, the fees would have increased substantially. Like four years, you would be looking at \$50k each. Let's say it is, \$100k of University loan debt, and a \$20k wedding, and they want to buy a house and begin life.

So they live at home, saving for a deposit for a house. And after four more years, have enough for a deposit. After missing out on several properties, as you do, they finally get one. They

wait the usual three weeks for settlement, and get the keys, and, guess what, they continue to live with their parents!

That's what happens isn't it? No, of course not! After eight years, you just want to be in your own home, put your own pictures on the walls, do your own decorating, put the tv where you want, have your own garden! You don't get the keys and continue living somewhere else.

This is what this passage is saying. When you get the keys, (Rochie and Krief, Graham and Jean) you move in! When you become a follower of Jesus, when you make that decision, it carries on! It's a lifestyle choice.

These 16 verses outline truths about God, and some of the things that God expects of us. It's pretty simple stuff! It helps us to continue to grow our faith, grow in likeness to Jesus. Here's what you'll see if you look over these verses;

Using the NASB

v13 prepare your minds for action	in other words, don't be idle
Keep sober in spirit	not drunk
Set your hope completely on the grace	not partially
v14 As obedient children	not disobedient adults
Do not be conformed to former lusts	keep your heart and mind fixed on Jesus
v15 Be holy	not unholy
Conduct yourselves in fear	not contempt
v20 from the foundation of the world	not a new fad
v21 you are believers in God	not your former beliefs
v22 purify yourselves in obedience	not disobedience
Fervently love	not hate
Love from the heart	not out of duty
v23 you have been born imperishable	not perishable
Through loving and enduring	not temporary
Flesh like grass withers	but the word of God endures forever
v1 rid yourselves of malice etc	crave pure spiritual milk
v2 grow in respect to salvation	don't shrug your shoulders at faith
v3 taste the kindness of the Lord	Remember

Considering who God is, and what God has done for us, there are some expectations on us. Grow in respect to salvation... we see at the second to last verse.

Which puts us back to the start, to v13. All these things, this big list of behaviours, are dependent on minds that are alert and fully sober. And also on hope of grace brought to us when Jesus was revealed.

And it's necessary that grace is mentioned here. Because the danger is, for all these good things to be turned into works that we do to earn our salvation. We must keep the grace of Jesus in our minds. Now don't hear me wrong here. I'm not saying we shouldn't do anything on that list. But we are to do them in response to what Jesus has done for us.

Our hope is to be in the grace of Jesus, the undeserved favour of Jesus. We take the keys gladly, with inexpressible joy, and continue to live, growing, being thankful for the grace that Jesus gives. A better translation of v13 would be 'Set your hope full on the grace...' (Schreiner, 78). Yes! We should set our hearts and minds on the grace of Jesus!

Also in v13, may our hearts and minds be alert and fully sober! This isn't about not being drunk, but not being drowsy, about not being slack or sloppy in faith. This is a great image. Christian life is not to be laid back or passive.

In the same paragraph are the lines about being holy for God is holy. Holiness is a theme through the book of Leviticus, so a reflection of there. Again, don't get me wrong, we can't become holy by what we do! But there are standards God expects of us. We become holy by what Jesus has done and will do. We are to keep our minds holy by remembering what Jesus has done for us, not working our way into righteousness.

And may we live in grateful thanks for Jesus, who can wipe our slates clean, presenting us before God as pure followers, even though we're not. This does not mean we can continue to be proper ratbags. Again, we're to grow in respect to salvation, v3. We're to love, v22.

Oh, and note the two different types of love, the first, worldly brotherly love. Anyone can do this. But the second, that we are called to, is different, much stronger, agape love, sacrificial and unconditional love.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves, for I believe that the most important verses here are v18-19 [18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.](#)

Along with the reference to grace in v13, here is the most astounding thing. Back in Old Testament times, lambs had to be brought to the temple to be sacrificed for the forgiveness of sin. So many lambs, so much blood. But that all ended with Jesus. Jesus became the perfect, spotless lamb, dying for us, on the cross, as a sacrifice for all the wrongs in the world.

Hebrews unpacks this well, Jesus entered the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary for us (Heb 9:25; cf. 8:1-5) when he sacrificially gave up his own body (i.e., the veil of his flesh, 13:20) as our high priest once for all (9:24-25). It is by this means that he has, in fact, also granted us direct access into the heavenly sanctuary and, therefore, the very presence of God (10:19; cf. 4:14-16). (NIDNTTE Vol. 2, p. 1,078).

No amount of silver or gold, v18, could have achieved what Jesus did. That's one of the reasons the Reformation happened, because people didn't get these verses, and continued with the idea of buying their way into heaven and into favour with God. When that happens, what Jesus did becomes irrelevant. Jesus becomes irrelevant. That must not be.

So where does this leave us?

Our living hope, and living faith is a daily walk towards Christlikeness. Our goal is to be like Jesus.

Our living faith should be based on God's grace, not our works. And our holiness comes from God, not what we do. Remarkable really. So much to give thanks for.

### Benediction

Blessing IV

(based on Philippians 1:6, 9-11)

May God,  
who began the good work within you,  
continue to be at work in your life,  
bringing everything to completion  
on the day when Christ Jesus comes back again.

May your love for others overflow more and more,  
and may you keep growing in your knowledge and understanding.

Never forget what really matters,  
so that you may live a pure and blameless life until Christ returns.

May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—  
those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ—  
for living this way will bring much glory and praise to God.