

***“ . . . and thoughts that go bump in the night.”***

**Holiness**

Review of 1 & 2 Peter

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*Notes from Dr. Bruce Bickel's teachings on 1 & 2 Peter, October 2014 – April 2016*

**1. God's sovereignty and submission**

1.1. “The sovereignty of God is His right to rule. He is sovereign for His glory and our good ... There are three applications: 1) God is in control of the world events and can be trusted. 2) We can rest in God's timing; God knows the best time to send help. 3) Obedience is evidence of our trust in God.” *12/12/14*

1.2. “We submit for our protection ... ‘Christ left us an example...’ (1 Peter 2:21). *1/16/15*

1.3. “Meekness is living under the power of God ... Submitting to others means we are ultimately submitting to God ... ‘Entrusting to Him Who judges ...’” *1/23/15*

1.4. “Do I believe that God is bigger than my boss? ... Transition from feelings to thinking.” *1/23/15*

1.5. “Jesus entrusted Himself to God, but He submitted Himself to men.” (1 Ptr 3:1-6) *3/27/15*

**2. The Gospel**

2.1. “The Holiness of God, the Sinfulness of Men, and the Person and Work of Christ.”

2.2, “The Gospel is the Glory of God in the face of Christ.” *12/12/14*

2.3. “Whoever begins with God's grace, ends up with God's glory. (Ezek 36:22-26).” *10/2/15*

**3. The Church, the Body of Christ**

3.1. “There are five things we need to work on in the Body of Christ: 1) harmony, 2) sympathy, 3) brotherly love, 4) compassion and 5) humility.” *4/17/15 & 4/24/15*

“**Harmony** is not uniformity. It's cooperation in the midst of diversity.”

“**Brotherly love** is ‘I'm in Christ and you're in Christ, and we have the same Heavenly Father.’”

“**Compassion** means being full of pity for those who are suffering.”

“**Humility** is seeing that which is perfect and knowing I can't achieve it ... ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit ...’”

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3.2. “Satan attacks the Church, corporately by: 1) **Heresy**, a distortion of the truth; 2) **Apostasy**, a denial of the truth; 3) **Divisions**, arguing over the truth.” 8/14/15

**4. The Christian: the World, the Flesh and the Devil**

4.1. “You are born a slave of Satan and bound (to him) by your birth ... You are reborn as a slave of Christ. Now you belong to God, and you no longer have rights, but responsibilities.” 10/16/15

4.2. “We are ‘Outsiders’; don’t live as “Insiders’ ... Deny yourself (**self denial**); Take up your cross (**self-sacrifice**); Follow me (**self-submission**) ... We gave up our rights when we trusted Christ.” 1/9/15

4.3. “If ‘Insiders’ accuse us and they are right, we need to listen to them.” 1/9/15

4.4. “The world rejects authority for personal fulfillment ... The believer accepts authority for personal responsibility.” 1/16/15

4.5 “Gratitude is one of greatest defenses against the pollution of the mind.” 6/4/15

4.6. “Being **different** is the consequence of regeneration ... Being **different** may lead to persecution ... In America, we are opposed, not persecuted. We aren’t persecuted because we’re not **different**.” 6/24/15

4.7. “Personally, Satan attacks the mind, the experience and practice with deception and accusation.” 9/4/15

4.8. “Satan goes after the weak, the young and the separated.” 8/14/15

**5. Maturing in Christ**

5.1. “Salvation is instantaneous, but righteousness takes time ... Be patient.” 1/15/16

5.2. “If you love life, then control your tongue, do good, seek peace (1 Ptr 3:10f) ... Maintain holy relationships, then give a defense for the hope that is within you ... The Word becomes flesh when we maintain holy relationships.” 5/8/15

5.3. “When we focus on the pleasures, possessions, power and prestige of the world, we are most vulnerable.” 5/8/15

5.4. “A sign of spiritual immaturity is the inability to receive strong doctrine.” 1/15/16

5.5. “You don’t have to live like you used to ... Don’t let the sins (of the past) come back to haunt you ... God is always putting us in the position to walk by faith.” 6/12/15

5.6. “‘Without faith it is impossible to please God’ (Heb 11:6) and without faith you will not be obedient.” 9/4/15

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5.7. “Before you can stand before Satan, you must bow before God.” 9/4/15

5.8. “Returning evil for good is Satanic; returning good for good is human; returning good for evil is Divine.” 6/24/15

5.9. “Knowledge of God is a **gift** – a **revelation** – not a **discovery**. Therefore, it generates **gratitude** ... It’s not about what I know, but what I show.” 8/25/15

5.10. “How are you conformed to the image of Christ? Suffering and Grace ... 1) He **supplies** that which is **missing**; 2) He **solidifies** that which we already **have**; 3) He **strengthens** that which we are **using**; 4) He **settles** that which we **will use**.” 10/2/15.

5.11. “‘Make every effort ... Be all the more diligent...’ (2 Ptr 1:5, 10). Crowd every moment with continuous effort ... 1) View the economy of your time as a **precious treasure** ... 2) **Avoid procrastination** ... 3) Human effort is **indispensable**, but it is **inadequate**.” 11/20/15

5.12. “Lord, spur us not to waste time ... Time can’t be stored-up for future use ... Time is not yours to dispose of as you wish; it’s a talent.” 3/4/16

5.13. “The purpose of God’s delay is to **show mercy to the Elect** until they are converted and to the Church ... How much more should we bless Him for His delay.” 3/18/16

5.14. “What is my response to God’s delay? For the unsaved, repentance. For the saved, rejoicing.” 3/18/16

5.15. “Repentance is fleeing from God’s wrath. In Christ, God has provided a ‘City of Refuge’ (Num 35:11) where a person can find safety from the Avenger.” 3/18/16

**6. Suffering, Persecution and Opposition**

6.1. “It’s not the person who initiates who has the power, but the one who responds “ 1/23/15

6.2. “Make up your mind: you’re not going to give them what they stimulate in you.” 4/24/15

6.3. “We may be hurt by the world, but not harmed ... Goodness robs the world of any legitimate reason to treat us poorly.” 5/8/15

6.4. “God delivers a man **out of** his trials, but not **from** them” 2/12/16

6.5. “In our your human nature, you can’t graciously suffer injustice ... We learn to suffer unjustly out of reverence for Christ ... Christ knew in advance there was no human rescue for Him ... that they would free Barabbas, but not Him. Yet He suffered graciously.” 2/6/15

6.6. “In suffering, don’t think about the consequences. But meditate on the cross: Suffering Servant, Savior.” 2/6/15. “Get your mind off your sufferings and put it on Christ’s sufferings.” 6/4/15

6.7. “The sufferings we are going through are evidence of God’s love.” 8/28/15

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6.8. “When a bone is broken and reset, it is stronger ... Suffering is God’s way of restoring us.”  
10/2/15

**7. Humility**

7.1. “They that know God can only be **humble**. They that know themselves cannot be proud.”

7.2. “The **signs of humility** are: 1) A proper estimation of my own **relative importance** (Rom 12:3); 2) A low estimation of my own **knowledge** (*‘The man who thinks he knows ...’*); 3) A correct estimation of my own **moral condition** (1 Cor. 15:9 ... 1 Tim); 4) A knowledge of my constant dependence (*‘Whoever humbles himself will be exalted ...’*)” 8/28/15

7.3. “‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ ‘Opposes’ is a military term. God draws up his armies – sets Himself in battle array – to oppose our pride.” 8/28/15

7.4. “God humbles us through **persecution, circumstances and sufferings**. ‘My power is made perfect in weakness.’ (2 Cor 12:9).” 8/28/15

**8. Witnessing**

8.1. “The most compelling argument is a holy life. Others may disagree with your argument, but they can’t criticize your life.” 5/15/15

8.2. “Jesus doesn’t want people talking for Him who haven’t first trusted Him.” 5/15/15

8.3. “You must be prepared to give an answer, therefore: 1) think through the answer; 2) answer clearly; share to the point of understanding, not agreement; 3) answer intelligently; make it reasonable; 4) answer personally.” 5/15/15

8.4. “Peter describes how to witness ... Doctrine precedes conduct, and conduct precedes conversation.” 1/22/16

8.5. “When you witness, you will always be one of these: a seed planter, a waterer or a harvester.” 1/22/16

8.6. “Take a person to the source of your testimony ... Let them argue with Jesus, not you.”  
1/22/16

**9. God’s Will**

9.1. “If you want to know God’s will in your life, look **backwards** to see what’s He’s done ... remember the **mercies of God**.” 6/4/15

9.2. “You don’t find God’s will; you are found **in** it. His will is, ‘who you are, where you are.’ ... God’s will is not an ‘it’, but a ‘you’” (Rom 12:2) 6/12/15

9.3. “In God’s providence, He will not take me one second too soon or let me live one second too long.” 11/6/15