

“The High Cost of Commitment”
I Peter 1:17-21
May 6, 2012

As followers of Christ we have made a commitment to ...

1. Call on God as our Father – We are His children.

“And if you call on Him as Father...” (1:17a)

2. Honor Him as our Judge – We are accountable to Him.

“...who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.” (1:17b)

3. Live for Him – We have been bought with His blood.

“...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” (1:18-19)

4. Trust in Him – We surrender to Him.

“He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you, who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

Application:

1. Discuss with a friend what it means to “fear” God. What does it not mean? When you walk through your day, do you remember your accountability to God?
2. Meditate on the price God paid to have a relationship with you. Thank Him. Live for Him this week.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
"The High Cost of Commitment"
I Peter 1:17-21
May 6, 2012

1. The Christian faith is based upon a commitment to Christ. Share your journey with Jesus. When did the idea of "commitment" become clearer to you? Peter begins with the assumption that every Christ follower has "called" on God as Father. (1:17a; John 1:12) Clarify the meaning of "calling" on the Lord? (Rom. 10:13) To call on God as "Father" involves...
 - Heb. 4:16 –
 - Matt. 6:9 –
 - Gal. 4:6 –
 - Rom. 8:15 –
 - Rom. 8:16 –
 - Jn. 1:12 –
2. We not only see Him as Father but also as Judge. (1:17b) Describe the "judgment seat of Christ." (I Cor. 3:10-15; 4:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:9-10) When Peter tells us to "conduct ourselves with fear," is he telling us to be afraid of God? (Rom. 8:1; I John 4:18; Rom. 8:38-39) What does it mean, in the Biblical sense "to fear the Lord?" (Prov. 9:10)
3. Commitment to Christ also means that I will live for Him. Why should we surrender everything to Him? (I Peter 1:18) What does the Old Testament say about our need for a Redeemer? (Isa. 59:20; 63:9; Ps. 78:35; 106:10-11) Read Psalm 107 and share what the Lord delivered you from when you came to Christ. What is our spiritual need before we come to Christ? (Rom. 6:6; James 1:14-15; Gal. 3:13; Rom. 3:23; 5:12,17)
4. Why is the blood of Jesus precious? (1:19) (Also Jn. 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 2:6-8) What is the significance of Jesus being called a "lamb?" (Jn. 1:29; Ex. 12:5; Isa. 53:7)
5. A commitment to Christ means to trust Him fully –to surrender everything to Him. (Prov. 3:5-6) When did the salvation plan emerge, according to I Peter 1:20? (Also Acts 2:23) What is the significance of knowing this truth in your life? (Compare Gal. 4:4-5) What key element of the story is mentioned by Peter in v. 21?
6. What is the distinction between "faith" and "hope?" (v. 21) In whom has the Christian placed his/her hope in? (1:21) (Also Phil. 1:9-10; Heb. 2:9; I John 5:11-12)
7. Pray for one another to clearly live fully committed to the Lord this week.