

What is the Gospel According to Peter
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What Is the Gospel According to Peter

1 Peter chapter two, I want to share with you something that you might consider very simple, very basic, the simplicity that is in Christ. I want to talk about the gospel and I want to talk about what is the gospel and if I had a title for this, I would call it, "What is the gospel by Peter and by Paul". I want to share tonight Peter's explanation of what the gospel is. You know there are a lot of things that we are involved in, there are a lot of things that we do, there are a lot of things that we minister. There are a lot of things that we are about that aren't necessarily the gospel, they are results of the gospel, or they are things that surround the gospel, but they are not the true, the heart of what the gospel is. A lot of Christians don't know that, I mean we can be involved in healing, we can be involved in deliverance and all of those things are good and wonderful. And I suggest if they are needed we do that. I have no problem with that. Some people say, "Well you preach Christ and Him crucified and you don't preach anything else." Well we have a bible school, we have a church, the kids in the bible school they need to be prayed for when they're feeling sick. IF they need the Holy Spirit we need to lay hands on them and they receive the Holy Spirit. There's almost nothing that is normally comprehended in functioning as a minister that we don't embrace. But we don't call that the gospel, we call that the results of the gospel. We call that gifts, gifts of the Spirit or we call it what it is. To really understand what the gospel is, we have to go to the Word of God. We have to ask the men who were initially released to preach the gospel and who really understood it and who God decided and chose and said, "I am going to use this man" in this case Peter. And the next time I share "this man" in that case Paul, and share as if they were here, "Now what is it, where is the real emphasis?" The good news is even though they're not here, the Word of God is here! And we can trust the Word.

Always Check the Scriptures

I'm going to share from a couple of places, scriptures you may be familiar with. I believe I'm going to share something slightly different then you may have heard, many of you maybe have heard that, but slightly different. And I'm going to ask you to do something. I'm going to ask you not to believe anything I tell you, except that you check it out in the Word of God and make sure that what I say lines up with the Word of God and if it doesn't then forget anything that I say. But I also want you to check and see if what I'm saying really is what the Word of God is saying without any mirrors or slight of hand or anything, if it's just flat out what the Word of God is saying and then is what the Word of God is saying, is what Peter is saying, is what Paul is saying, is it different, even slightly then what we have laid hold of. And then the final conclusion would be, if what is being shared is the Word of God, if it is the gospel, if it is the truth, and if our understanding has been slightly off to allow the spirit of God to begin to, and I will tell you this, simply focus down more on Jesus instead of us. and really hone our ears, and hone our vision to see.

There's Always More In Jesus

I know when I first got saved and I know some of you guys in the program here, probably had some questionable backgrounds. I did. Probably worse then most of you, you look at me and you might wonder, but I actually had some B.C. days, "Before Christ". I got in trouble with the law, I got

two felonies, I did drugs, I sold drugs, I was a bad man. But what I want to tell you is that Jesus is the answer and not just Jesus the savior that we understand, but the fulness of the Gospel as God understands. And we need to quick trying to take things as we understand and always be open to how He understands it and that will open us up so much bigger, and wider, higher and further that we'll never get bored with Jesus! I didn't say you would never get bored with religion. Because I'm already bored with it! I was two weeks out of salvation and bored with religion, but I was never bored with Jesus. And I never have been, if it's the real Jesus. Not just the Jesus that somebody preaches or presents but the real Jesus, the living Jesus and that's really what we want to talk about right now, the real Jesus. The living Jesus, the one that will not just put you on a rock, will be the rock of your life. I was thinking about it as we flew in, I looked out and as far as you could see there were houses all around as we were coming into the airport and as far as you could see, sand. And I thought, "These people are building on sand! You're supposed to be building on a rock, what are you doing?" Spiritually Jesus is that rock and He's not going to be moved, even if you're moved if you're still on Him you'll be OK. We'll explain that as we go.

The Word of the Lord

1 Peter 1:24-25 "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

First of all if you've been having a problem with drugs, all flesh is like grass. And it's going to fade away, it's like vapor and it's going to fade away, it's going to pass away, but the Word of the Lord is going to endure forever. In other words, it's not just a high, it's the Most High! But I didn't come here to talk to you about drugs. I came here to talk to you about Jesus. Here Peter begins to speak and he begins to address something. First he talks about how flesh is like grass, and flowers are like the glory of man that fades away. And then he says, "*But the Word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you*". Peter is telling us specifically, not generally, he's saying specifically, "This is the word of the Lord that is preached unto you by the gospel." So he's telling you three things there:

1. Here is the Word of the Lord
2. Here is what we preach
3. Here is the gospel

We're Looking for God's Truth, not Ours

That's what we're digging around in the scriptures for, we're looking for treasure, we're looking for truth, we're looking for reality. We're looking to hear from God, we're looking to hear from God's reality. We're not just asking for an explanation, we're not just asking a man to give us an explanation, we're looking at what the Word of God says. It's interesting that he uses this because he says in the middle of verse twenty-five, "This is the word, this is the word". I want you to notice that that same little phrase is used in verse twenty-three, "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God,*" now drop down to *1 Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word,"*. We're finding a context here. Do you understand? When it starts crossing verses and chapters and stuff like that, and he's consistently using a phrase, then you can be sure that he's not changing the meaning as he moves from verse to verse, he's sticking within a context. He's sticking

with a meaning and trying to convey something. Now that right there is where we miss God many times. We have an explanation of what it means when it says, "Preaching the word of God". And we apply that those verses as we read it instead of finding the context and exactly what God means. I mean I do it, you do it, we all do it. We all come with our pre-conceived ideas when the Word of God speaks to us, most of the time we apply it to something we already know, instead of opening it up and say, "Here's how much I know, a bean's worth, and you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the length and the breadth and the height and the depth, and your ways are not our ways. You are so much above our ways, so Lord instead of me trying to figure out what you're saying by what I know, let me figure out what you're saying about what you know. Open me up, expand me to see your heart and your meaning of things. And let me see it from you instead of just a book or a man or whatever."

that OK? Because the Lord's understanding is so beyond ours. Much of ours is based on earth, and us, and circumstances and how it relates to me, when He has things that relate to you, not in you, but you as related in Him, His view of you in Christ, His view of you in oneness with Him instead of you in view of how good you did this week. Where you get down on yourself or you view yourself based on your understanding and your experiences. If we had a globe and we put you on there, you wouldn't even be able to see you. If the globe was this big around, we wouldn't even be able to see you. But our little life is everything! No, we've been singing it, we've been saying it, now we're preaching it: it's not about you. It's about Him, and you're included, but only in oneness in Him. God is trying to shake us up and He's trying to break us out of a religious teaching and motives. He's trying to bring us from this single entity comprehension into the fulness of the resurrected Christ, which we are part of, we are the body of the resurrected Christ! If you just look here and say, "I am the body of the resurrected Christ", mostly what comes out of you is not the resurrected Christ, it's you. You're going to have to get your view off of yourself and onto Him but to see Him in that view is going to take the Holy Spirit and He's going to have to make a break with your life and open up your eyes to your life which is Christ. That is not always an easy process.

Man Put in Verses and Chapters

Peter says, "*But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*" This Word is what is preached. Now we want to find out, "What are you saying? What is the Word that you preach? Where is it in these scriptures that we can find exactly what it is?" If you look to the next verse, which by the way, when the writers originally wrote this, Peter originally wrote this, and when Paul originally wrote this, he didn't put in chapters and verses. Men came later and put that. So there really is no chapter two, verse one when Peter's writing, it's just the next sentence. That makes a difference, we think we moved to a new chapter, but really you just moved to the next sentence. Let's just catch the flow of what he's saying. In chapter two, verse one, he says, "Where for," he could not possibly be about to describe what "this word that we preach as the gospel is" by using the word "wherefore". The word "wherefore" is the result of something not the exact thing. "So and so happened, wherefore this happened." So anything that is in chapter two, verse one is describing the word that he preached. It is describing the results of the word that he preached. Where do we find it then? You have to start backing up. Staying with the context, staying within the scriptures, but asking God to open the eyes of my heart. Great song, isn't it? How about if we just lived that way? How about if we were the song? How about if we sounded like a beautiful song to the heart of the Lord because we walked in such a manner that said, "open the eyes of my heart" constantly.

Born of Incorruptible Seed

You begin to find this word, what he calls the “gospel” in verse twenty-three. There he says, “Being born again.” Well we know the gospel is being born again, right? Let's look at that a little closer, it says, “being”, -ING. That is not past tense, -ING, is an ongoing thing. Some of you remember that in school when they taught you grammar. “*Being born again*”. Paul talks about “*knowing*” the Lord, “*being born again*”. And not just that, but he specifically lays down what the new birth is to him. “*Not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible.*” He's not saying the new birth is simply being saved from Hell, he's not saying the new birth is simply being saved from punishment from your sins. He says the new birth is a seed which is not you at all because he is described as incorruptible seed. Now there is corruptible seed and there is incorruptible seed. As I look around the room I think I spot several corruptible seeds, in fact the whole room is that. You are corruptible. You say, “No I'm not, I'm committed”. We'll get into that later. But I don't want to jump you too fast. You are corruptible. If God put you in just the right situation you'd crack. Everyone of you, nobody is strong enough to stand, nobody. And that's exactly what he says in the next verse, “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass,*” There is no hope for you, your glory appears for awhile, you do good for awhile. Everybody can do good for awhile. Everybody can give it your best shot, but man at his best is altogether vanity. He's saying, “You're not born again of corruptible seed”, your new birth is not you made better, because you made better is still corruptible because that's what kind of seed you are and you will fail. You might do good for awhile. You might glory out and bloom a little bit, and everybody say, “Oh look they're blooming! Oh look, there's fruit! Oh look I see fruit coming out of them!”

We Were Meant to Contain the Seed

This very next verse which is part of the gospel, “*For all flesh*”, notice the word “*all*”. That's you and that's me. We are corruptible seed and if build our salvation, if we build our new birth, if we build our Christian life, if we build our walk on us, I've got news for you, you're going to fail, I'm going to fail, all will fail. But he's not saying, “I'm not basing it on me, I am corruptible seed and I'm like all flesh, and I won't base it on me, I'll base it on precious Jesus up in heaven who will guide me and help me.” That's not what he's saying. Seed is meant to be put in the ground, in the dirt. Is that right or wrong? How many of you throw seed up in the air and watch it bloom out. You don't do it. How many of you throw it up to heaven and it sits on a throne? You don't do that, you put it in the dirt. John 12:24 “Jesus said, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it dies it brings forth much fruit.” Also Galatians 3:16 says, “That the promises of God were not unto Abraham and his seeds, as of many,” he literally says, “the promises of God were to Abraham's seed”, and he says, “which seed is Christ.” It's not to you, not to you, not about you, I don't know how many ways we can sing it to say it's not you, it's not me, it's to the seed because He's the only one who is going to bring forth the right fruit consistently over long term. And He'll do it in your dirt. By the way you don't just have dirt, you are dirt. Man was made from the dust of the earth, that's what we are. We were made to contain. We have this treasure in earthen vessels, you can't get away from it. We were meant to contain the seed of God, and He would bring glory to God. There is a glory, we will have a glory. There is a glory of the flesh when it does real good and presents a good picture and blossoms out and looks real good, but it always fades, and it always fails. You can just mark it, sooner or later, and the good news about this is that if there was somebody in this room who didn't believe that, then that's fine, praise God. I would just like to pray for you right now. “Oh Lord show them the truth.” Is that OK? Can I just

pray that over you? And you know what that means don't you? He's going to show you that you're going to fail miserably. He's going to show you that. And you need to know that. You need to know that part of the gospel is that it's not a corruptible seed, it's about an incorruptible seed.

Jesus Walked As a Man to Show Us How

Christ is not corruptible, they tried to corrupt Him. You try to bribe Jesus, He doesn't go for it! Can you see it? "Well how much do you got there?" Can you see Jesus doing that? "How much is that? Kick that up a couple of thousand dollars and maybe I'll go for it." Can you see Jesus doing that? He doesn't care about that. That's what the devil did, "look all the Kingdoms of the world I will give you." The problem was he couldn't get to Jesus because Jesus' heart belonged to the Father. He always referred back to the Father. He didn't say, "No, I'm committed!" That's what we say. But Jesus when He walked the earth as a man, He walked correctly, not like us. He walked correctly as a man. He showed us how a man should walk. When they came up to Him and said, "Where did you get these wonderful words?" He said, "The words I speak are not my own, they are the Father's." When they saw Him do a miracle, they said, "Oh what a wonderful miracle!" He said, "The works I do are not my own. They are the Father's in me. The Father who is in me doeth the work. Not the Father in heaven." God is not saying, "I'm going to watch over your life Jesus and I'm going to do some real special stuff from heaven." No! See, Jesus was walking as a man to teach us to walk as God's men, if you will. The true way of saying it is the "new man". That new man is the body of Christ. He didn't make a new man. Then you would have to make new women, and new children. It's not men, it's not women, it's not children, it's not a bunch, it's ONE new man, and you are members of that body, that man, that resurrected man. That's who you are. The body of Christ, the vehicle of the seed of God.

This is just an explanation for, "and this is the Word that we preach. This is the Word which by the gospel we preach. This is the gospel that we preach, Christ in you the hope of glory." Not Christ in heaven, not Christ in our midst, Christ in you is your hope for living gloriously. And if it's not Christ, it can be good for awhile. We have had several different programs and we saw people come and go. Inside in that program, there's love and there's fellowship and there's an atmosphere of Jesus. So the guys get strong, and they start feeling good. They get off drugs, and they get off this and that, and they say, "I can do it, I love Jesus, I'm going out there!" And you say, "NO!!!" "But I know I can, I feel better, I feel strong." And they get like three steps out the door and they're already off. I'm telling you the truth, right now the environment is saving you, but the environment is meant to last until Christ is formed in you. Not just He comes into you, formed in you. Paul prayed that Christ be formed in Christians. You ask, "where is that?" Galatians 4:19, Paul is praying for the churches of Galatians and he says, "I travail," has anybody ever heard about travail in the church? Anybody ever heard about travail in prayer? Has it ever been applied to Christ being formed in anybody? Most of the time it's some sort of hebe gebe where people shake and carry on, it's some "we're going to birth something." The thing that needs to be birthed is Christ in the church. "We're going to birth some new ministry or we're going to birth this or that." The scriptures never say that. You show me somewhere and I'll come back up here next time and I will repent and I will show everybody that I'm a big idiot. Well I am a big idiot, I can tell you that right now. The only thing I've got going for me is Jesus.

The Life We're Called to Live is Christ

Some people have spent their lives as intercessors that travail in birth would hate me for what I just said! But I'm not trying to hurt their feelings, I'm not trying to cause problems. I'm trying to find

the truth of the Word of God and let us live according to it and not make up fables. And that is a fable if it's not in the Word of God and how is it that God wants His Son formed in us and we're traveling about everything but that. "I would do better if you traveled so that angels were around me all the time and the Holy Spirit slapped my hand every time I shouldn't." But that's not the life that we are called to live! The life we are called to live is Christ. Christ in you the hope of glory. Christ in you is the hope, not Christ with you. Not Christ "riding" you. Mounted up there saying, "Go this way, go that way." That's not it. He wants to live on the inside of us, because He is incorruptible. You are corrupted and He's not trying to make corruptible seeds better. He's trying to form the incorruptible seed in us so we can overcome by Christ. Everybody is wanting to overcome but few people want to do it by Christ. "If that means, He increases and I decrease, then I don't know if I want this gospel! It's not as fun as the other one! I mean the other one God is for me, and He's looking out for me!" We call Him Lord, but we're the Lords and He is the servant. "Oh Lord, put angels over my car while I travel, and deal with my boss who's giving me a hard time and oh Lord straighten this person out, and oh Lord!" He's the servant, you're the Lord! You're the one making all the calls. Back in history there were lords that were treated that way by their servants.

The Nature of Victory

I'm telling you this thing was meant to be Christ being formed in us and that become not He give us the victory, Him give us the life, the nature of victory which is Christ in you, your hope, my hope. So Peter is expressing that to the ones that he is writing to here. And he's saying, "We are in a process of continually being born again into the fulness of the reality of Christ. He is increasing, we are decreasing, there is a process where we are knowing, we are growing up into Him in all things." We're not just growing up. We're not just growing, that's not what this scripture is talking about. 1 Peter 2:1 "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word". What Word? Just scripture, no, what word? The Word that He referred to in verse twenty-five, the Word that He referred to in verse twenty-three, he hasn't left the context. The Word is that Christ is the incorruptible seed and you are the corruptible seed, and all flesh will fail. And so receive this Word of Christ being formed in you and grow into that! Paul put it another way, "to grow in the image of Christ", in Romans eight, and also Galatians four, "to grow in the image of Christ." In other words, this Christianity is not about us, it's about Him. Not only that, but the gospel according to Peter, the "gospel", that puts it on a whole other basis. "Well brother Randy you can come in here and teach that and I can add that to all my other stuff." Anybody hear what I said? That's what we think. "Oh this is great stuff, this bears witness, this is really the Lord, I'm going to add this to all my other stuff."

Way back when Christianity was getting persecuted and finally Constantine turned the whole thing and said, "We'll make Christianity the state religion." They had this big building called the Pantheon and in it they had sculptures and paintings and everything, of all the different gods. And the Greeks were trying to get all the gods on their side. So they made this big building dedicated to all the gods, and they'd have a sculpture and they would have a painting and you could walk around and look at all the gods. "Over here's Zeus and over here's Thor, and here's this and that, and the more gods we get in here the better off we're going to be, because that way we'll be covered. Here's the god of heaven, here's the god of insects, we don't want any god upset with us so let's get them all in here." So they came to the Christians and said, "Can we add Jesus to the Pantheon? We'll do a little sculpture or something and we'll put him in there. This will be a great honor and people will come in there and see that He's a god and will begin to honor Him more." and they said, "No way. Unless you take

everything else out and put Him in, we're not putting Him in." You see we've got all of these teachings, and all of these things that have become God to us. But they're not God, they are things about God, they are manifestations of God. But God is God and that is Christ in you. Not just in your heart somewhere, but no influence, Christ as life. Jesus said, "I have come that you might have blessings." No, "I have come that you might have gifts." No, "I have come that you might jubilee, jamboree, hot digit y-dog worship service." Nope. "I am come, I am here that you might have life. And if you don't life, if you simply got salvation from Hell, from the life that is sitting on a throne somewhere, you still don't have the life that I came to give you." the writer of Hebrews addresses that when he says, "This thing is no longer after the order of carnal commandments, but after the order of a new and living way." Praise God!

Commandments don't shape you up. They may shape you up for awhile. But if we put a sign over there, "Do not touch the thermostat." Three or four of you would be over there messing with it! That's the way we are. We did that in our church once. I'm the Pastor of the church and we had people griping, some say it's too cold, some say it's too hot. So I just said one Sunday morning, "How many of you feel that the church is too cold?" And about a third of them raised their hand. "How many think it's too hot?" And a third of them raised their hand. I said, "How many of you think it's just right?" And a third of them raised their hand. I said you can't please everybody. Everybody must please the Lord. Everybody must come to the life of Christ, and Christ will please the Father because if you don't do that, we'll try to please our own flesh. Like I said, you make it a rule that you can't touch the thermostat, some of you will go over there just because it says you can't. Because that is the way human nature is, it rebels against that. Some of you men wonder why you have problems with your wives, you're always telling them what to do. You're always ordering them, that is a good way to get a backlash. There's a whole spirit to everything that is to be done, and that spirit is Christ, the life of Christ, the nature of Christ being formed in you.

Paul's talking about growing. There's another word. We read these scriptures right here in First Peter, we read those scriptures and you know what we think about? We think about learning how to operate in more gifts, we think about learning more bible scripture. That's not what he's talking about. He's talking about growing in the incorruptible seed. He's talking about growing in the knowledge that all flesh is grass and the glory of the flesh is going to fall, grow in the knowledge a little bit of that and you'll be real hungry for Jesus! You grow in the knowledge of how flaky you are, Jesus' life will look a lot nicer! You'll say, "I think I like this better than that try harder stuff." What the church has turned into Avis rent a car, "We try harder." No, this whole thing is based on growth in the seed and a recognition, a shaking, that God from the very beginning wasn't saying to Abraham's seed, calling it Isaac and everyone after Isaac, that you guys are going to be what it's all about. He says in Galatians three, sixteen it's going to be about the incorruptible seed and everyone of you will be filled with Him so that Christ will be all and in all. Is that in the Word of God? You bet it is. Well that's just a doctrine and a teaching if we can't make it real in our lives, practical. "Well Christ is all and in all." That's a good thing to shout during a preaching service, everyone shouts, "Amen!!" and he turns and says, "How practical is that in your lives?" "Not at all! But I like shouting at stuff!" You see guys on TV shouting, "Jesus is Lord!" And they're all shouting, you people didn't know that? Did that just dawn on you? That's settled, that's good, let's gain some more ground in Christ. Everybody keeps shouting the same thing over and over for the next five hundred years! Christ being formed is what Paul was praying is growth. That's growth.

Peter is praying and Peter is saying, "Be just like a newborn babe and desire the sincere milk of

the Word.” And he's already told you what that Word is, it's the Word of the gospel which we preach. The incorruptible seed being formed in you. Have we jumped context or changed anything? No, we've stayed right exactly with what the Word of God is saying and we ought to answer for what the Word of God is saying. This is the final say. That's why I say not to believe what I'm telling you! Do not believe me, I could be the flakiest guy in the world, I could tell you all sorts of stuff. But if this is what the Word is saying then believe the Word, that's the bottom line. And so he is saying, “Grow”, but don't just say, “Yes, I'm a Christian and I'll come to special Sunday School class and learn how to grow in the gifts, or learn how to grow in the knowledge of the scriptures.” That's not what he's saying at all. More like a newborn baby that wants milk, have you ever heard one? Do they say, “Wah, I'd like a little milk here.” No. It's (screaming) and if you don't do something (screams louder). It gets rather irritating, it makes you want to do something. Peter is saying, that ought to be your passion. It ought to be a passion to have the incorruptible seed formed in us! Here's what we see in Christianity, “I want my way, I want to be blessed, I want to be healed, I want this, I want that.” That's not what he's calling for. He says, “I will not be satisfied until Christ be formed in me. I want more of Jesus, He must increase I must decrease! Jesus I can't live without you, Jesus, ever!”

Do We Believe in Commitment or the Incorruptible Seed?

Why is Peter putting it this way? Why is he saying it like this? I will tell you exactly why. You want to see it? Turn with me to John 13:36-38 *“Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterward. Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.”* Here is a brother that believes in commitment. At this stage he does not believe in the incorruptible seed, he believes in commitment to the incorruptible seed, to follow him. At this stage he doesn't know the things that he's going to be teaching later on, that he's going to be pointing to people, that he is going to have a passion for. He doesn't know it at this stage. Right now he's just a young buck. He's got zeal. He loves Jesus, “I'm going to go for God. I'm going to live for God. I'll die for God! I love God, God is everything to me! Jesus!!!” Anybody ever been there? Me too. And he believes it's about him. He believes his corruptible seed is going to get strong. He believes his corruptible seed is going to get committed. He believes his corruptible seed is going to get better. He's deceived. He is going to fail. Jesus didn't even say, “Oh, Peter, gosh, there, there. You'll find out later.” Jesus said, “Today, not once, three times your incorruptible-ness is going to manifest. You are going to get afraid of what people are looking at. They're going to say, are you one of them? And you're going to say 'No! I'm not with him! I don't even know him!' You're gong to curse me, you're not going to stand up for me because corruptible is corruptible.” Now this is Peter writing this later on and he said, “I'm telling you the gospel that we preach is not commitment, it's not stronger Christians, it's not better, it's not more bible, it's not more gifts, it's Jesus formed in us and we've got nothing! I'm warning you!” Can you see Peter? I mean he knows, he really knows. He knows more then anybody. He really knows. So he's not playing games, he's not playing preacher, he's saying, “I'm saying God allowed me to write this letter and let it go down to every generation that will come to hear the heart cry of a man who has discovered two things. One is: I'm totally corruptible and so are you! The second thing is: Jesus isn't and He's supposed to be formed in us as life.

I would believe a man like that. But we never look at it like that we just read through it. “I'm going to read First Peter, reading from First Peter chapter one. Being born again not of corruptible seed, but by incorruptible by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” And we all say, “Yes”

as we look heavenward. The seed is not up in heaven, He's in you. The victory is the seed in you, not just a helper on a throne. It is Christ being formed as a life and as a nature who will overcome our corruptible-ness. And God will be at work in your life to show you that you are not the one. They came to John and asked, "Are you the Messiah? Are you the one?" "I am not the one." He knew something about this. He did not say, "Well, I'm kind of the one. He's my cousin." He didn't go there. He said, "I am not even worthy to untie his shoes. What? O generation of vipers!" he said to them. "Looking anywhere but Jesus, thinking anybody is better, or is the one, He is the one!" And "the one" must be formed in us.

You can go through the bible, you look at Isaiah, he came to this place. "I am a man of unclean lips, woe is me." The first five chapters of Isaiah, you read through it. He's the mighty prophet, he's the big shot. He's the know-it-all, he's the strong man of God. "Woe unto you that drink red wine, what it will do to you. Woe to you..." Has anybody ever heard this sermon before? On TV or something? "Woe unto you!" Woe? What do you mean woe? Woe unto you, that is who you are! You'll probably end up doing it. You say, "No, I'm going to be a good girl." All I have to say is, "Good luck." We had three children, three daughters. And I'm telling you I saw how bad the world is, I saw the peer pressure. It occurred to me the other day the advantage of being a hundred and four years old, there is no peer pressure. I saw my daughters in all these situations, and another fact I don't have to worry about: I'm not going to die young. And my wife and I said I want my kids to live for God. I said we can't give them the regular stuff because how many pastors before us, how many Christians before us gave their kids the regular stuff and generation after generation after generation, how many will it take until we figure it out? Something is wrong. It's the truth. I said it's got to be Christ formed in these kids or we have got nothing. They will be corruptible seed and if we teach them how to goody-goody they'll be Pharisee corruptible seeds. If they tow the line they are still corruptible, they're just Pharisees. And they'll point at everyone else and say, "I have done right, I have done good. You're bad, you're evil." That's not the Lord either. But by Christ being formed in them, He's not corruptible and He can make it.

Peter is passionate because he knows the truth, he knows it personally. He knows that "there is no hope for me." Imagine before he denies Jesus three times, "Peter, I'm going to give you a prophetic word. You have the potential of denying me three times. Now that you have this prophetic word do everything you can not to fulfill the prophecy." We think if some prophet teaches us everything that's going to happen then somehow we are safe. You can know exactly what is going to happen and still succumb to it. A corruptible seed can hear all of this stuff and say, "Oh I want to do that, I'll look out for that. I won't take the mark. I won't do that." You will do that! You're going to starve, your kids will starve, you won't be able to buy anything, everybody will hate you, you'll be an outcast. "OK, could you put it in faded ink so it doesn't look so strong." My point is this, the answer is not by understanding prophecy and getting into prophetic truth, the answer is to get into Christ. Does that mean that there isn't prophecy? Yes. I might even prophesy before this thing is all over. I might even give a word. I'm capable of all sorts of weird stuff. But Christ is still the foundation on which everything is built. If you don't lay that foundation then when the storm comes, everything is going to cave in if it's not on the right foundation. That is the whole point. It's not that those things aren't true, it's not true that they don't have a place, they do have a place, give it their proper place. But let's not put it in the place of Jesus. Let's not put a prophetic teacher on the throne where the Lamb should be sitting. Am I right or wrong? That is an abomination. Something else is sitting there. It shouldn't be sitting there. Jesus, but not just Jesus, but Jesus as the life. Because in the book of Revelation, that temple, that city, that New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ where the Lamb is sitting on the throne inside of her. The New Jerusalem is called the Bride of the Lamb, which is the Church. It's a picture. It's just like everything else that's in there.

It's a picture to help us understand something. The Lamb must be enthroned in us and have transparent walls so that....(tape cut off)