LIVING IN EXILE
1 Peter 1:22-25— The Everlasting Word
February 21, 2016

...since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God. **-1 Peter 1:23**

I. AN ETERNAL GOSPEL
- The gospel does not change, nor does it die. The good news is good news for all eternity. It is the word of the kingdom of God (Matt. 9:35; 24:14; Mark 1:1; Rom. 1:16; Gal. 1:8-11; 3:8; Col. 1:4-6; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 14:6-7).
- We are born again by an eternal word/gospel. It is a living and abiding word - it cannot die (Ps. 119:89-90; Isa. 40:6-8; Heb. 4:12-13).
- The living word/gospel is what the apostles proclaimed (vs. 25; Gal. 1:11; Col. 1:21-23).

II. *CORAM DEO* - BEFORE THE FACE OF GOD
- Obedience to the truth of the gospel sets our souls apart. It naturally leads to brotherly love. It is a demonstrable love that should be seen, not just talked about (John 13:31-35; Gal. 5:22; 1 John 2:7-11).
- Our lives are lived before God. He is a holy and righteous judge. He calls us to live differently than the world around us (1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 4:13).

KNOW: The product of salvation is genuine love. Salvation is forever; the gospel we heard that led to our salvation is forever. Therefore, the love produced by it is forever as well.

DO: Love one another.

Suggested Reading:
The Mark of the Christian, by Francis Schaeffer

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 1:22-25

1. In what ways do we demonstrate love to one another in the church?
2. Practically, why does love proceed from our new birth? What is it about the truth of the gospel and the reality of the new birth that should make us more loving people?
3. What do you think is the relationship in Peter's mind between purity, obedience and love?
4. Peter speaks of being "born again." Where did he hear that concept, and what does it mean? (see John 3:1-15)
5. How do we pursue purity? Can we attain it solely by hard work and discipline?
6. How does God's word remain forever? What gives it its enduring quality?