

Jesus First - Nothing Greater Than Jesus

I. Where Do You Start?

- A. "I"
- B. "You"
- C. "We"
- D. Start with God * 1 Peter 1:3, (The Message & ESV)

II. How Excited Are You?

- A. The next 10 verses are one sentence in the original language of Greek
 - 1. This would be called "gushing forth praise"

III. Salvation Matters! * 1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV)

- A. Remember The Power of Election
 - 1. According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope
- B. The resurrection is central to our hope *1 Peter 1:3 (ESV)
 - 1. Can Christianity have a dead Jesus?
 - a. There is only one faith that has a perfect, very much alive, resurrected Savior for all humanity.
 - * 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (ESV) / * 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (ESV)
- C. Confidence in eternity gives us courage *1 Peter 1:4-5 (ESV)
 - 1. It's all about you.
 - 2. It's not about you.
 - a. It is God's power that is holding you.

IV. The Crucible Isn't Fun, But Necessary *1 Peter 1:6-7 (ESV)

V. There Is Blessing In Believing * 1 Peter 1:8-9 (ESV) / * John 20:28-29 (ESV)

VI. God's Got A Plan *1 Peter 1:10-12

VII. Working It Out

- A. How can you start with God more in your life?
- B. What is your story of salvation? Tell someone your story this week.
- C. What suffering are you experiencing now? Are you willing to surrender yourself to Jesus to allow him to do His work in you?
 - 1. Everytime you feel yourself grasping your struggle, open your hands, palms up and say aloud, "Jesus, I surrender to you." Take a deep breath. Let it out slowly.

* 1 Peter 3:15, (NIV84)