**I Peter 1:22-25**

 ***The Word In Troubled Times***

Introduction

1. Why is the Word for troubled times?

2. I Peter 1:22-25 give four reasons why it should be:

Why is the Word for troubled times?

**I. THE POWER OF THE WORD 1:22a, 23a**

 ***A. The Transformation***

 *“Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth.” “Since you have in obedience to the*

 *truth purified your souls.”*

1. **Respond** *In obedience to the truth*

**\***To get results we must do what it says.

**\***This begins at salvation, but this flows throughout the Christian life.

**\*Do what the Word tells you to do when the Word tells you to do it!**

 **2. Relate** *You have purified your souls.*

 *\*Having purified* looks back to a specific past experience that has a present result.

 \**The impact of that cleansing extends beyond mere external separation from*

 *heathen worship and habits to the abandonment of false principles and beliefs,*

 *and evil desires and passions.*

 *\**They put themselves under the authority of the Word. There was a practical

 application of truth to daily living, and moral purity was the result. The word of

 God will change your life!

 ***B. The Truth*** *the Word of God*

**1.** What is your authority?

 **2.** There are absolutes. **God is truth. What God says is absolutely true!** If I could

 have one wish for God’s people it would be that all of us return to the Word of God.

 **This Book has the answers!**

1. The Bible is the authority, the final resting place of our cares, our worries, our burdens, our tragedies, our sorrows, our surprises.
2. **Truth: God’s Book is God’s voice.** (Psalm 119:81-92)

There are two types of truth: Absolute Truth (God’s Truth) and Relative Truth (man’s opinions, ‘facts’ and beliefs) *“But truth, real truth, truth you can rely on, truth that will never turn sour that will never backfire, that’s the truth of this Book. That’s what this Book is about. That’s why this Book provides us with the constant and the needed crutch.” Swindoll*

1. What does it take to make us free? **Truth!!**

 ***C. The Transaction 23a***

 *Being born again...by the Word of God* or *You have been born again.*

1. *Having been born again* began at a certain point in time. Everyone is not a believer. This *born again* had some lasting results (v. 3).
2. What does it mean to be saved? Salvation occurs when divine life is implanted. This new birth comes through the living, abiding Word of God.
3. Have you been born from above? Was there a time in your life when you surrendered to Jesus Christ? Have you ‘received’ Him? As Jesus said to Nicodemus: *You must be born again.*

Why is the Word for troubled times?

**II. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WORD 1:22b**

What flows from a heart that has been cleansed by the Word? ***Love!***

There are two Greek words here used for love: *brotherly love…agape love*

 *Brotherly love* flows naturally from *Agape* self giving love that comes from God. God is

 love and the Holy Spirit produces this in the heart of the surrendered, controlled believer.

 *Love* is a fruit of the Spirit.

1. ***The Marks of Love***
2. *Unfeigned* is without hypocrisy. This *brotherly (the word is gender neutral) love* is to be without hypocrisy. In ancient times actors would put on a mask to play many different parts of a play. ***Drop the mask…***stop playing a part.
3. *Pure heart* is a heart that has been cleansed by the Word in obedience through the Holy Spirit.
4. *Love (agape) fervently* is ‘at full stretch’. We see this as track sprinters lean at the wire. We visualize this with a stringed instrument as a violin string is stretched tighter to produce a higher pitch. This *love* will cost you something. It will take you out of your comfort zone.
5. ***The Mutuality of Love***

*Love one another…*this love splashes over on everyone!

1. **Love is Conditional…**it must be intentional.
2. **Love is Commanded…**this is not optional.

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**III. THE PERMANENCE OF THE WORD 1:23b-25a**

1. ***The Permanent Product***
2. *Being born again…not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible…*God does the planting!
3. To me the *seed* is God’s divine nature implanted in every believer.
4. *Whosoever is born of God does not habitually practice sin; for His seed remains in him, and he cannot practice sin, because he is born of God. (I Jn. 3:9)*
5. That is why *in Christ we are a new creation…old things pass away and all things become new.* This *seed* is not subject to corruption or decay!
6. ***The Permanent Producer***

*By the Word of God*

1. **The Continuation** This Word *lives and abides forever*

**\***This Word is living. It imparts life. This Word actively possesses life!!

**\***This Word *Abides…*It is enduring (forever). **It is intended for all periods of time. It is never obsolete or irrelevant. It is never to be superseded by human philosophy. It possesses the character of its Author**.

 **2. The Contrast** *For* **24** is a quote from (Is. 40:6 and 8)

 \**The grass withers…*he speaks of the temporal of the temporary. All that is born

 of perishable seed withers and falls, but the Word…

 \*The glory of man is included…all that man has: ***Then What? ...So What?***

**3. The Conclusion 25a**

 **\****The Word of the Lord endures forever.*

 *\**In v. 23 Peter used the Word of God. Here he uses *the Word of the Lord. Lord*

 was the standard designation for Jesus Christ. He here highlights the deity of

 Jesus Christ. God and Jesus are equal. He also shows the Word of God and the

 Word of the Lord are identical.

 \*When you are reading the Word of God…Jesus is speaking to you!!

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**IV. THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD 1:25b**

1. ***To Start Life***
2. The Word the Apostles preached was the Good News of Jesus Christ…the death, burial and resurrection and by believing you can have life!
3. *Unto you* is a continuation from v. 12.

 ***B. To Sustain Life 2:1-3***

***Only two visible things are eternal (lasts forever): People and the Word of God!***