

# FULL <sup>OF</sup> HOPE, FAR <sup>FROM</sup> HOME

Study in 1 Peter

**Sermon Title:** *“Born Again Unto Love”*

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 1:22-25

Pastor for Preaching & Worship, Chris Fritz / Sunday, March 27, 2022

## INTRODUCTION

Note: Verse 22 describes love as the fruit, the result, the outcome of our new birth (our life in Christ) while verses 23-25 explain some of the mechanics and details surrounding our new birth. This is important because we must ultimately see the FRUITS of verse 22 as flowing from the life-giving-Gospel ROOTS of verses 23-25.

Note: Peter places verse 22 AFTER describing *our redemption* in Christ (verses 18-21) and BEFORE explaining that *our new birth* is based NOT in ourselves but IN GOD, in His word (verses 23-25).

## I. VERSE 22 - BEAUTIFUL, LIFE-ALTERING, GOSPEL FRUITS

### 1) THE CONDITION - *“Having purified your souls...”*

Note: While the Gospel IS Good News, it also calls for (even demands!) action on our part!

*James 4:8-10; 1 John 3:2-3 -*

### 2) THE CHANNEL - *“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth...”*

Note: God’s word (the truth) is NOT a cold, boring, sterile “manual for life”; rather, it’s a priceless treasure, a revealing of God’s character and nature, an unfolding of God’s glory, a powerful tool in the Holy Spirit’s hands to make us more and more like Jesus!

*Psalm 119:105; Psalm 119:11-12; Psalm 119:67-68 -*

### 3) THE CONSEQUENCE - *“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love...”*

Note: Having a purified soul results not just in love for God but in love for our church family!

*Philippians 2:3-5 -*

**4) THE COMMAND - “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.”**

Note: Start loving one another... and don't stop! Like Christ, love to the furthest limit!

*1 Peter 1:22; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 Peter 5:14 -*

**I. VERSES 23-25 - MIND-BLOWING, LIFE-GIVING, GOSPEL ROOTS**

1) “*You have been...*” This is another “perfect participle”, describing PAST action that has ONGOING benefits and effects in the present and on into the future!

2) The word (“logos”) of God, which is a reflection of God Himself, is “living” (life giving) and it is “abiding” (enduring forever; always relevant and applicable)!

*John 1:14; Romans 10:17 -*

3) The Word of God stands in STARK CONTRAST to our fleshly, fading existence!

Note: While our earthly life is short, temporary, and fading, OUR NEW LIFE (remember, Peter is writing to those who have been “born again”) IN CHRIST IS NOT!!! In Christ we’ve been given ETERNAL LIFE along with “*an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.*” (1 Peter 1:4)

4) ALL of Scripture IS Good News because a) it reveals God, b) it is the instrument God uses to bring about new birth, and c) (from beginning to end) it unfolds God’s story of redemption!

*Revelation 19:10; John 5:39 -*

**Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...**

1. How is the truth of verse 22 supported and produced by the powerful realities explained in verses 23-25? (How does the fruit of verse 22 grow from the root(s) of verses 23-25?)
2. According to verse 22, how are souls purified?
3. What does Peter say about being “born again”? What details does he give? What instrument does God use to bring about new life in Christ?
4. What does Peter teach us and remind us about the word of God? What is it? By contrast, what are we like? What Old Testament Prophet does Peter quote? Why?