

*"Through the
Eyes Of An
Apostle"*

A Study of 1 Peter



Overview

Laying the Groundwork...

Peter, the apostle is the author of this letter. As we read through this, keep in mind that he was one of the three closest to Jesus the God-Son when He walked on earth. Peter learned firsthand from his Master's teachings and shares that wisdom here with the flock in Turkey in response to Jesus' command to him to "Feed My sheep."

Also, Peter was raised as a Jew; he references the Old Testament a lot and has been given the privilege from Jesus, Himself, to discern how He Is the unveiling of the ceremony, metaphor, and history of Scripture.

The call to follow a Servant, a Savior Who was crucified to create His Kingdom is a serious one and very difficult. Peter will remind his believers of the purpose of suffering.

Peter's letter is written to encourage believers in Turkey that are suffering for their faith. He is writing to an audience of both Gentiles and Jews, free citizens, and slaves, city & country folk. At this time, Christians were targets of attack because they would no longer participate

in pagan or Jewish traditional religious practices and were blamed for several things from natural disasters to economic downturns. They were often kicked out of houses and towns, displaced by persecution, and had little security, low social status, and no protection from the government.

Read through the Gospel of Mark and Acts 1:1-12:24

What do you notice about Peter? What kind of man is he?

What do you think would be significant events in his life?

How do you see him change because of them?

Getting Started...

Read the letter that Peter has written to the persecuted Christians in Turkey.

As you read through this letter,

What themes do you notice?

What do you think Peter is telling his readers?

Are there verses that you were familiar with?

Are there verses that you look forward to learning more about?

Unit 1

1 Peter 1:1-21

*“And He said to them,
‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into*

His glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:25-27

Week 1: 1 Peter 1:1-2 Salutation

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 1:1-21.

Re-read 1 Peter 1:1-2

Read Genesis 23:4, Hebrews 11:8-10, Exodus 29:45-46, & Deuteronomy 1:29-33.

How did the Jewish readers understand Peter's words?

Read John 14:1-6, Acts 9:2, & 24:14.

How do these verses remove the veil of the Old Testament?

What does this mean for us now?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Read Romans 8:28-30.

What do you think it means that the Father worked according to His foreknowledge?

Read Romans 1:5 & 8:26-27.

What is the work of the Spirit?

Read Exodus 24:5-8, 29:19-21, Leviticus 14:1-9, Isaiah 52:15, & Hebrews 9:13-14, 12:24.

What do you think it means to be sprinkled by the blood of Christ?

Understanding the Culture

Peter ends this salutation with a Greek term (grace) and a Jewish term (peace) and asks that these blessings be multiplied for his audience.

How can they not be blessed by such an introduction!

Week 2: 1 Peter 1:3-12 Living Hope Through God's Plan of Salvation

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 1:1-21.

Re-read 1 Peter 1:3-12

In verse 3, Peter encourages his audience with the hope of a resurrected Messiah!

(Verse 12) Read Luke 2:10-14.

What do you think the angels are saying here?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8, Titus 1:2, 3:7, Romans 5:1-2, Colossians 1:27, Acts 23:6, 24:15.

How did this knowledge change the way Peter lived?

How does this knowledge change the way we live?

(Verse 4) Read Genesis 17:8, 28:4, Deuteronomy 1:8, 30:3-5, & Psalm 79:1

What was the inheritance of the Israelites?

(Verse 6) Read Deuteronomy 32:9, Jeremiah 10:16, & John 6:37, 17:6-11

How does God see us?

Read Matthew 19:29, 25:34,

What did Jesus teach Peter?

Read Acts 20:32, Ephesians 1:4, 18, 5:5,
Colossians 1:12, 3:24, Hebrews 9:15, & Galatians
4:1-7

Now that the veil is removed, what is the inheritance of those who are sanctified?

Read Romans 6:2, Galatians 5:24, Romans 14:17,
Romans 8:24, 1 Corinthians 1:18, &

(Verse 5) Romans 5:1-3, 8:28, 7:14, 8:23,

How would you explain being delivered from sin?

Some Words to Know verses 7-9:

Tested = This is a testing with an eye toward refining, means to prove, discern, discover to see whether something is worthy or not. This is a word never used of Satan as he is not interested in worth but destruction.

May be found =The verb implies that not all our testing will look alike;, means to find by inquiry, to learn, to discover

Glory = to think or recognize splendor, light, perfection; the glory of man is shifting but the glory of God is absolutely true, and unchanging. God's opinion marks the true value of things as they appear to an eternal Mind. God's favorable opinion is true glory; it is the true apprehension of God and things. His unchanging essence. Giving glory to God is to ascribe to Him His full recognition. The true glory of man is the ideal condition in which God created man. It was lost in the fall but recovered in Christ and exists as a real fact in the Divine Mind. It is the believer who waits for this complete restoration

Love = to indicate a direction of will and finding one's joy in something or someone; to love with a strong affinity, as referring to superiors, it includes the idea of duty and respect, veneration, to love and serve with fidelity. To regard with good will or benevolence. For Peter to use this word is particularly profound. John 21:15-16. We love because He first loved us. Because of this love, we are commanded to love as our Messiah loves—loving our enemies, to do whatever is necessary to turn them to Christ, but never adopt their sins as a means of befriending them. The day is coming and the goal of our faith will be realized. Our eyes will behold the One we trust and love because of His love for us

*As gold being refined by fire through a crucible
to purge it of dross,
so our faith is through the crucible of
suffering.*

Read John 16:31-33

What did Peter learn from Jesus about suffering?

(Verse 7) How do Romans 8:17-23, 2 Timothy 2:10-13, James 1:2-4, Psalm 66:10, & Proverbs 17:3 amplify our understanding?

Verses 10-12 describe some very heady implications for us to delve into...

Imagine what this would be like for Peter—he had grown up hearing the readings from the prophets.

He is the first human to acknowledge that Jesus is the fulfillment of these prophecies.

What are some Old Testament verses that might have prompted Peter to make such a strong proclamation?

What are some Old Testament references quoted by Jesus in the Gospels?

Read 1 Kings 17:1, 18:17, 19:2, Jeremiah 15:10, Matthew 21:35-36, 23:31, 37 & Acts 7:57

What is the fate of one who is faithful to proclaim the Word of the Lord?

Why do you think Peter would comfort his readers with this reminder?

(Verses 7 & 11) Read Isaiah 9:6, Zephaniah 13:8, Malachi 3:1-2, Isaiah 40, Isaiah 42, Psalm 2, 45, 72, 110. Isaiah 35:1-10, 40:3, 10, 30, 60:1, 20, Zachariah 14:16

What is Peter telling his readers about glory?

Peter saw this very glory in the face of his
Master -
the Son, the Suffering Servant, the longed for
Messiah!

Read Mark 9:2-8

What was his response?

Why do you think this is important for Peter's readers to hear?

Why is it important for us to know this?

Week 3: 1 Peter 1:13-21 Hope of Holiness; the Lifestyle of Salvation

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 1:1-21.

Re-read 1 Peter 1:13-21

Some Words to Know verses 13-21:

Holy = set apart, consecrated, understanding of chaste, pure, with emphasis on devotion, set apart from a common use to a sacred one.

Empty = vain, fruitless, worthless, like chasing the wind, building a house on sand, or pursuing your own shadow- used of an idol or idolatry, the vanity of idols.

It is only **after** Peter shares the excitement and joy of the glory of the revealed Messiah,

that he begins to give his readers some direction.

(Verse 13) Read Exodus 12:11 & Luke 12:35

What do you think Peter understood what it means to be ready?

What are things that might intoxicate or dull your mind that distract you from being ready?

(Verses 15 & 16) Read, Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2, Deuteronomy 14:2, & Deuteronomy 7:6-8

Why do you think it is important to know that God Is holy?

What does it mean to "be holy" as He Is holy?

(Verses 18 & 19) Read Isaiah 50:8-9, Romans 3:20-31, 5:1-2, 9-11, 19, 8:33-34, 10:8-11, & 1 John 2:1,

What does it mean to be justified?

(Verse 14) Read Exodus 19:5, Deuteronomy 11:13, Isaiah 50:10, Romans 6:12-17, & Acts 5:1-11

Why do you think it is important to Peter to use the term "children of obedience"?

(Verse 17) Read Psalm 62:11-12, Romans 2:6, 13-16, 14:2, 2 Corinthians 5:10, James 2:18, & 1 Corinthians 2:11-15,

How do these verses complement the previous ones?

(Verse 17) Read Matthew 12:35-37, 25:14-30, & John 3:36

What did Peter learn from Jesus and explain this to his readers?

(Verse 14) Read Leviticus 18:1-5 & Deuteronomy
12:29-32

*What were some of the patterns that the
Israelites were to break free from?*

*What are some patterns that we are to break free
from?*

Read Deuteronomy 32:21a, Jeremiah 8:19, Proverbs
4:11, Ezekiel 7:19, & Zephaniah 1:18

How does God describe sin?

(Verse 18) Read Leviticus 25:25, Ruth 2:20, 3:9,
4:3, & Isaiah 41:14, 43:14, 44:24, 49:7

*What did Peter know from the Old Testament about
sin?*

(Verse 18) Read Mark 10:45
What did he learn from his Teacher?

Read Acts 8:18-23
How did learning this impact Peter's ministry?

Read 1 Timothy 2:6, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Titus
2:14, & Revelation 5:9
How does knowing this change the way we live?

Such things are impossible for us to break free
from; we are powerless to defeat sin, we can
never pay
The debt incurred. Verse 19 starts with the
wonderful word, "But"...

(Verses 14 & 19) Read Exodus 29:1, 20-21, Leviticus
1:3, 10-11, 3:1, 6-9, 17:11, 22:17-21, &
Isaiah 53:7

*What was the purpose of the lamb without
blemish?*

Read Genesis 22:8, John 1:29, Mark 14:16, 22-24
*What did Peter learn about the lamb without
blemish?*

(Verse 20) Read Acts 20:28, Romans 3:23-25, 5:9,
Revelation 5:6, & Hebrews 9:11-14, 18-25, 10:29,
11:28, 13:20-21

How do these verses amplify our understanding?

Read Luke 23:46-49, 24:1-12, Acts 1:6-11

How do you think Peter's eyewitness account of these events lends credence to these words, *"Who through Him are believers in God, Who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory so that your faith and hope are in God."*?

Unit 2

1 Peter 1:22 - 3:7

"And calling the crowd to Him with His disciples, He said to them, 'If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.'" Mark 8:34

Week 4: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3 A Life of Loving One Another

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 1:22-3:7

Re - Read 1:22-2:3

(Verse 22) Read John 14:6, 15-21, 16:13, & 17:17

What did Peter learn from Jesus about truth?

Read Romans 1:1-6, 10:16-17

How does Paul amplify this understanding?

(Verse 22) Read John 13:34, 1 John 4:11-12, Romans 12:9-10

Peter and John, who heard this command from their Master in His time in flesh took this command very seriously. Paul also treats it with great respect. What does this look like in our lives?

(Verses 24 & 25) Read Isaiah 40

What is the prophet, Isaiah, telling the nation of Israel?

Read Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 1:76

How does Peter understand Isaiah 40 and use these words to bring comfort to his readers?

To love as Peter's Master - and ours - loves is impossible. How could we hope to be holy?

(Verses 1:23 & 2:2) Read Psalm 33:4-6, Isaiah 55:10-11, & 2 Timothy 3:14-17

What is it that will change us more into a people that reflect His heart?

Some Words to Know:

Evil = wickedness as an evil habit of mind and heart. The word does not depict action but simply thinking about it.

Deceit = to bait, as in a trap. Fraud, guile, deceit.

Hypocrisy = to play the part of the actor. Hypocrisy corrupts the conscience like nothing else can. It averts holiness to ceremonial and substitutes rules for love. Hypocrisy has its eyes on man and not God.

Envy = Pain felt, and malignity conceived at the sight of excellence or happiness. This word expresses the opposite of the love that desires someone's best in that it desires the person's downfall by preferring the advancement of self.

(Verse 2:1) Why do you think that Peter stresses "put these things away"?

Have you put them away? Why or why not?

Week 5: 1 Peter 2:4-2:10 Submission Brings God Glory

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 1:22-3:7

Re - Read 2:4-2:10

Some Words to Know:

Rejected = to reject as the result of examination and testing of one's qualification for an office; to put out of office or place

Cornerstone (verse 2:6) extreme corner; not only sustains the whole structure of the church but unites Jews & Gentiles into one mystical building. Chief cornerstone Hebrews 12:2, First one situated and all other stones aligned to it. 1 Kings 5:17. The foundation stone is precious because it is labor intensive in preparation Zachariah 4:7. One stone in a quarry was 69 feet x 12 feet x 13 feet. Once the large foundation stone was in place, the rest of the building is determined. Isaiah encouraged his people to build on the Lord Himself. Ties back to "living stone" to emphasize that God set His cornerstone in place by the resurrection.

Cornerstone (verse 2:7) head corner. The corner of the building. Psalm 118:22. This stone not only unites and strengthens the whole building but is the very summit of it. If it falls, it will grind people to powder. This word is not like cornerstone; it refers to the inner corner or private place.

Stumbling = the trigger of a trap on which the bait is placed and which when touched by the animal springs causes it to close in entrapment. This word always reflects the conduct of the

person in the trap. It produces certain behavior which could lead him to ruin.

Destined = to put in place, proper placing, assign or appoint

Mercy = To have compassion, not merely a feeling for the misfortunes of others involving sympathy, but an active desire to relieve those miseries and extend help for the consequence of sin.

(Verse 4-7) Read Psalm 118:21-23, & Isaiah 8:11-17, 28:14-18

How did the Old Testament Israelites understand these verses?

(Verse 7) Read Matthew 21:33-44

Jesus used a parable to explain these verses. How did He explain them?

(Verse 4) Read Acts 4:8-12

How did Peter explain His Master's teaching?

Read Ephesians 2:19-22 & Revelation 21:14

What else do we learn about this stone?

(Verses 7 & 8) Read Revelation 6:15-17

What happens to those who reject the cornerstone?

God does not leave to chance who will be part of the unique household; the priesthood.

(Verse 9) Read Psalm 106:4, Deuteronomy 32:9, 1:16, 24, 31, Leviticus 9:5, & Isaiah 49:16

What does it mean to be loved by a Holy God?

Read Exodus 23:23-24, Malachi 3:17

How does this help us understand what Peter is saying?

Read Exodus 19, Judges 5:8, Amos 3:12, 4:11, Micah 7:18, Zechariah 12:8, Ezekiel 34:11-31

How would you describe the history of Israel?

Read Mark 1:11, Luke 12:32, John 10:27-29, 17:2, & 9-10

How does Christ unveil these verses?

(Verse 9) Read Romans 5:6-11

How does this affect us?

Read Romans 9

How would you explain this passage?

Read Deuteronomy 7:7, 10:14-17, Hosea 11:1-4, & Jeremiah 31:2-3

What was God's criteria when He chose His people?

(Verse 9) Read Exodus 19:1-6, Isaiah 62:12, & Revelation 1:4-6

What do we learn from these verses?

Read Psalm 50:4-5, 107:22, Hebrews 13:13-16,
Romans 12:1 & Philippians 2:17

What worship is required from a priest of the Most High God?

(Verses 9 & 10) Read Isaiah 8:21-9:2, 42:6-9, Matthew 4:16, John 1:4-5, 8-9, Acts 26:18, Ephesians 5:8, 1 John 1:5-2:2

What does it mean to be called out of darkness into the marvelous light?

Read Matthew 5:14-16

How did Jesus explain what this looks like to Peter?

How does this look in our lives?

**Week 6: 1 Peter 2:11-2:12 Submission Is A
Witness to the World**

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 1:22-3:7

Re - Read 2:11-2:12

(Verse 11) Read Genesis 23:4, Leviticus 25:23, 1
Chronicles 29:15, Psalm 105:12, Acts 7:5, &
Hebrews 11:9-13

What does it mean to be an alien and a stranger?

Read Isaiah 60:21, 65:17-18, Hebrews 11:13-16, 2
Peter 3:13, & Revelation 21:1-2, 27

Where is our citizenship?

Read John 17:1-26

What is Jesus saying in His prayer?

(Verses 11 & 12) Read 1 John 2:15-17 & Romans 12:2

How are we to live as we await our true kingdom?

Read James 4:1-6, Galatians 5:16-26

What does winning the war with the flesh look like?

Read John 15:18-27

How did Jesus prepare Peter?

Read Acts 4:7-31

How did this impact Peter's life?

Understanding the Culture

Peter tries to prepare his audience as well. We know from other writers of the era that Christians were often despised. Tacitus remarked that Christians were loathed for their "abominations." Suetonius approved of Nero's persecution of Christians and described them as "A class of people animated by a novel and mischievous superstition."

(Verse 12) Read Luke 23:2, John 19:12, & Acts 16:19-24, 19:24-29

What are other reasons that Christians were hated?

Read Matthew 7:21-23, 25:31-46, & Luke 19:41-44

What did Peter learn from Jesus about the Day of Visitation?

Read Matthew 5:14-16

What did Jesus explain our conduct is to be like?

Are there any changes that the Holy Spirit is prompting you to make?

Week 7: 1 Peter 2:13-2:17 Submission to Earthly Authority

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 1:22-3:7

Re - Read 2:13-2:17

Some Words to Know:

Submit =to place in order.

Slave = to be in the position of a servant and act accordingly, to be devoted, to do what the occasions demands. Bound to the one he serves, this word implies obedience and devotion. Infers a minister or attendance at an oriental court.

(Verses 13 & 14) Read Psalm 72

What did David pray for his son, Solomon?

How do you see this Psalm point to Christ?

Read Matthew 20:20-28 & John 13:3-17

What did the King teach Peter about His Kingdom?

(Verses 13-15) Read Romans 13:1-7, Titus 3:1-8

How are God's people to relate to the kingdoms of this world while waiting for the King's return?

Understanding the Culture

Remember what the governmental structure looked like in Peter's time. Rome ruled.

Peter had seen soldiers take things from his people, many of the religious rulers of his synagogue tortured and crucified his Master, the Jewish tetrarch tormented Him, and the Roman governor washed his hands of Him. The Emperor at the time was Nero, who flaunted decadence and cruelty at his court and tortured and killed Christians for his pleasure.

Peter is not telling them to do everything Nero says - they are not to worship him.

But they are to honor him.

How is your heart doing in honoring your God-given leaders?

(Verses 16-17) Read John 13:3-20

How did Jesus use His freedom?

What did He teach Peter about this freedom?

Have you ever been tempted to use your freedom as a cloak for evil in your heart?

Peter's Master is our merciful Master!
Write out a prayer of confession and repentance
and savor His great gift of forgiveness.

**Week 8: 1 Peter 2:18-2:25 Submission To
Earthly Masters**

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 1:22-3:7

Re - Read 2:18-2:25

Some Words to Know:

Unjust = crooked, bent, warped as if dryness in a wood, perverse. The emphasis is on the moral bankruptcy of this master.

Grace = commendable, causes joy, pleasure, gratification, favor, acceptance for a kindness granted, a favor to one without expectation of return, the absolutely free expression of the *chesed* of God to men finding it's only motive in the bounty and benevolence of God.

Understanding the Culture

Slaves were people captured in wars, kidnapped or born into slavery.

Some sold themselves or their children in order to survive.

Some were slaves in mines, roving ships and others.

Some were doctors, teachers, musicians, or artists.

Slavery was not based on race, and many slaves were even more educated than their masters.

But it was still slavery, subject to abuse.

They had no legal rights and could be abused, sold, raped, and branded.

They could be manumitted, but that was not common.

(Verses 18-20) Read Ephesians 6:5-9, Colossians 3:22-25, 1 Timothy 6:1-2, Titus 2:9-10, & Philemon

How was the Gospel expressed through the tragedy of slavery?

(Verse 21) Read Mark 10:42-45

What is Jesus' perspective on slavery?

How could He ask that we serve this way?

(Verses 22-24) Read Leviticus 17:11, Jeremiah 11:18-23, Psalm 22, 69, & Isaiah 52:13-53:12, & Deuteronomy 21:22-23

What specific things do these verses describe?

Read Matthew 16:21-23 & Mark 8:31-33

How might have Peter originally understand these verses?

(Verse 22-24) Read Mark 14:24, Luke 22:1-23:47, John 19:1-5, & Matthew 27:32-54

How did Peter see Jesus fulfill these verses?

Read, Acts 5:30, 10:39, Galatians 3:13, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:21-26, 5:9-11, Ephesians 1:7-10, Colossians 1:21-23, Hebrews 9:22, 13:12, 1 John 1:7, & Revelation 1:5

What is the New Testament understanding of this incredible gift brought by suffering?

(Verse 25) Read Psalm 119:176 & Ezekiel 34:1-24
What do these verses describe?

Read Luke 15:4-7 & John 10:11-18
How did Jesus explain these verses?

Read John 21:15-19
How did this teaching affect Peter?

Read Acts 14:19-22
How did the Gospel affect Paul's ministry?

Read Romans 6:15-23, 8:15-18, Philippians 1:29,
& 1 John 2:6

*What does our slavery look like through the lens
of the Gospel?*

(Verses 19-20) Read Luke 6:32-33, Matthew 5:10-12,
43-48 & Matthew 16:24-26

*What did Jesus teach Peter about being a
disciple of a Suffering Servant?*

*How might this encourage a slave in Peter's
time?*

How does this change the way that you walk in the footsteps of your Master?

Week 9: 1 Peter 3:1-3:7 Submission In A Household

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 1:22-3:7

Re - Read 3:1-3:7

(Verse 3:1) Read Genesis 1:26-27, Galatians 3:28, & 1 Corinthians 11:11-12

What do we learn from these verses about men and women?

Read Genesis 2:5-8, 15-25

What were the God-given roles to the man and to the woman?

Read Genesis 3:1-21

Sin has entered the world and changed things, but does it change God's original design for marriage? Why or why not?

(Verses 3:1-2, 4-6) Read Titus 2:3-5, 1 Timothy 2:8-15, 1 Corinthians 7:3-4, & Colossians 3:18-19

What does submission look like in marriage?

What would be wrong reasons to submit?

Read Ephesians 5:22-33 & 1 Corinthians 11:3

What is the mystery of marriage?

Read Isaiah 61:10, 62:5, Matthew 9:14-15, 25:1-13, Mark 2:19-20, & Revelation 21:1-2

What do we learn about Jesus in these verses?

How does it amplify our understanding of marriage?

Understanding the Culture

Peter is not the only one to comment on the fashions of the day.

"The attendants will vote on the dressing of the hair if as if a question of reputation or of

life was at stake, so great trouble she takes in the quest of beauty; with so many tiers does she load with so many continuous stories does she build high on her head. She is as tall as Andromache in front, behind she is shorter. You would think her another person." Satire 6, Juvenal

(Verse 3) Read Proverbs 31:10-31 & Isaiah 3:16-24.
What is similar about the women in these verses?

What is different?

Understanding the Culture

Peter reminds the women in his flock to fear God more than their husbands. To grasp the implications of that command, we must understand that at that time, a woman was to take on the religious duties that served her husband's god.

She was to worship as he commanded. Peter encourages women to respect, serve, and model the gentle spirit that reflects Jesus in the hope of winning them over, but she may not forsake the one true God. By not participating in household worship or taking part in idolatrous festivities, she would know that

there was a strong possibility that her husband could divorce her. By law, he would have to return her dowry, but she would either be returned to her father's house or on her own. She would not be allowed any contact with her children.

This is a woman at this time had counted the cost indeed.

(Verse 5-6) Read 1 Corinthians 7:16, 9:19-23

Why is it important to walk in the footsteps of our Master in marriage?

Read Genesis 18:12

Why do you think this is the verse that Peter uses to commend Sara's respect for her husband?

Read Genesis 12 & 20

Was Abraham always worthy of respect?

Why would Sara still show him respect?

How do these verses encourage you in your marriage?

Are there changes the Lord is calling you to make?

Unit 3

1 Peter 3:8 – 4:19

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad.”

Matthew 5:11-12

Week 10: 1 Peter 3:8-3:17 Suffering Evil For Good

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 3:8-4:19

Re - Read 3:8-3:17

Some Words to Know:

Gentleness = meekness, but not as man's outer disposition. It is an inwrought grace of the soul and the expression is primarily toward God. It is that attitude of spirit that we accept

God's dealings with us as good and do not dispute or resist. It is the middle standing between two extremes - getting angry or not getting angry at all. This person gets angry at the right time for the right reason in the right measure. It is a condition of mind and heart that demonstrates gentleness, not in weakness, but in power. This quality trusts God to do the work of changing attitudes and is a balance born in strength of character.

Conscience = to be aware of, an abiding awareness of one's inner nature to one's own conduct in a moral sense. The faculty of the soul which distinguishes between right and wrong and chooses right. Not merely an intellectual consciousness but moral contemplation. Conscience is a faculty more than mere understanding. It is a sentiment that discerns good and bad. Liberty and boldness that comes before living before a Holy God in purity.

*(Verses 10 & 12) Read Psalm 34
What is David saying here?*

What is Peter trying to communicate with his use of this Psalm?

(Verse 14) Read John 16:33

What did Jesus warn Peter and the disciples?

What does this mean for us?

(Verses 9-17) Read Isaiah 50:7-9

What is Isaiah saying here?

Read Luke 9:51-55

How did Jesus fulfill this verse?

How did He respond to Peter's friends' request?

(Verses 8 & 9) Read John 13:34-35

What did Jesus teach Peter and the disciples?

How does Peter explain this teaching to his readers?

(Verses 8 & 17) Read Philippians 2:1-8

How does Paul expand upon this teaching?

(Verse 5, 8, & 9) Read Matthew 25:35-40

How does Jesus expect His family to treat each other?

Read Hebrews 2:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, 1
Corinthians 12:26, Ephesians 4:1-3, Philippians 1:27
& Colossians 3:12-15

How do these verses amplify our understanding?

(All verses) Read Romans 12:9-19

*How specifically are you called to be different than
the world?*

Are there any of these "marks" that you struggle with?

Read Matthew 11:28-30, Ephesians 4:32, & Hebrews 4:15
What do we learn about our Savior in these verses?

Write a prayer of confession and repentance and ask the Holy Spirit to change you.

(Verses 9-11) Read Matthew 5:10-12, 5:44, Luke 6:27-36, & Luke 23:32-34
What did Peter learn from Jesus?

Read Romans 5:6-11

Who were the enemies?

Why do you think it is important for us to love them?

Read Acts 20:17-24 & Ephesians 4:1-4

How does Paul respond to his enemies?

How does this change the way you interact with the people that the Lord brings into your life?

(Verses 14 & 15) Read Isaiah 8:12-13

Why would Isaiah's words bring comfort to his audience?

How does Peter expand on these verses?

(Verses 14-17) Read Psalm 118:6-9, Numbers 14:9, 2 Kings 6:16, & Psalm 56:1-4

What do we learn from these verses?

Read Luke 22:54-62

Although Peter knew these same Old Testament verses, how did he respond?

Has there been a time you were more afraid of man than of God?

What do you wish you had done differently?

Read Acts 4:13-20 & 5:29-33

What changed for Peter?

How might knowing this encourage his readers in their faith?

How does it encourage us?

Read Acts 7

What was Stephen's defense?

What did Stephen pray?

Read Acts 26

What is the impact of Stephen's prayer?

What is Paul's defense?

What was Festus's response?

What was Agrippa's response?

What is your defense?

Read John 17:14-21

Who is Jesus praying for?

How did this change the way Peter lived?

How does this change how you live?

Week 11: 1 Peter 3:18-3:22 For Christ Suffered & Is Now Exalted

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 3:8-4:19

Re - Read 3:18-3:22

(Verse 18) Read Exodus 29

How did the Jewish people of Peter's time understand these verses?

Read Hebrews 10:1-18

How does this understanding unveil the meaning of Exodus 29?

Read John 1:14, 5:21, 1 Timothy 3:16, & Romans 5:1-8

How would you explain this in your own words?

Martin Luther called 1 Peter 3:19 "A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament so that I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means." I would like to share my understanding and why I believe this is what Peter is saying. For other perspectives, please see appendix at back of book.

Word to Know:

Long suffering = self-restrain before proceeding to action; the quality of one who is able to avenge himself, yet refrains from doing so.

(Verses 19-20) Read Genesis 6:9-7:24

How did Peter understand these verses before he met his Master?

Read Matthew 24:36-40

In what context did Jesus refer to them?

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12

What did Peter mean in verse 11?

How does that tie into this verse?

Read 1 Peter 4:6

What do you think Peter is saying here?

Read 2 Peter 2:4-5

How does Peter describe the fallen angels?

How does Peter describe Noah?

In verse 21, Peter speaks of the correspondence
of baptism to Noah's flood,
and how it is a picture of an "appeal of a good
conscience".

(Verse 21) Read Hebrews 9

*How do these verses amplify our understanding of
Peter's words?*

Read Romans 6:1-11, Titus 3:4-7, & John 16:7-10

What do we learn from these verses?

(Verse 22) Read Psalm 110

What is the Psalmist saying?

(Verse 21) Read Matthew 22:41-46 & Matthew 26:63-64

How did Peter hear Jesus apply this Psalm to His teaching?

Read Hebrews 10:12-13, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, & Ephesians 1:15-23

How did other Holy Spirit inspired New Testament writers apply this Psalm?

How does knowing this encourage our willingness to suffer?

Week 12: 1 Peter 4:1-4:11 Death to the Old Life & Living for God's Glory

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 3:8-4:19

Re - Read 4:1-4:11

(Verses 3, 4, & 7) Read Leviticus 18

How did Peter understand worship of the Most High God from these Scriptures?

(Verses 1-4) Read 1 John 2:15-17

What is John's warning here and why?

Understanding the Culture

Orgies were a time of religious observance often with riotous conduct.

It was believed that these festivals were necessary to maintain society by appeasing the local gods,

and considered a civic duty to participate.

There was much suspicion, resentment, and blame that would fall on Christians who refused to take part in them.

(Verses 3 & 7) Read Romans 13:11-14

How did Paul understand these things?

(Verses 1, 6-7) Read John 5:19-47

What is Jesus teaching in these passages?

How does Peter extend that application to his readers?

(Verse 7) Read Titus 2:11-12

How does Paul amplify this understanding?

(Verses 7-8) *What does this mean for us?*

(Verses 1-2, & 7-11) Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 & Romans 6:1-14

What does this look like in your life?

(Verses 1-2) Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Ephesians 6:10-18, & 1 Thessalonians 5:8

How can we be prepared?

(Verses 1-2, & 11) Read John 3:16-21

What is Jesus teaching His disciples here?

How does Peter explain this to his readers?

Some Words to Know:

To Love **Fervently** = intense word, as if stretched out, extended

Love **Covers** = envelops as a bark which protects and wraps around the tree. Envelops as skin, shell, or plaster.

(Verse 8) Read Matthew 22:37-40 & John 13:34-35
Jesus gives specific commands; what are they and why are they important?

(Verses 8-11) Read 1 John 4:7-5:5 & Ephesians 3:14-19
How does this work?

(Verse 8) Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8
What does this kind of love look like?

(Verse 11) Read Matthew 24:3-13

What does Jesus warn His followers to guard against?

(Verses 6-11) Read Hebrews 10:23-27

What direction does the author of Hebrews give his audience?

Read Matthew 18:21-35

What question did Peter ask?

What answer did his Master give?

How did this impact his letter?

How does this impact us?

(Verse 10) Read Genesis 39

How would Peter's understanding of Joseph as a steward be unveiled by Jesus's teaching?

(Verses 1-2, 7-11) Read Luke 12:35-48

What more does Jesus teach Peter about being stewards?

(Verse 6) Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

What does Paul remind us of being stewards?

Read Romans 12:3-8 & Ephesians 4:7-16

Who does God give His gracious gifts to?

What are they to be used for?

How do you steward your gifts to encourage and love your brothers and sisters?

How are you blessed by your brothers and sisters as they use their gifts to serve and encourage you?

In verse 11, Peter bursts forth with praise to the Master whom he walked with.

We have seen other authors of Scripture, emboldened by the beauty, power, majesty and love of their God do much the same.

As you close this week out, write a prayer thanking God for his goodness and glory in your life.

Week 13: 1 Peter 4:12-4:19 Consolation of Suffering

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 3:8-4:19

Re - Read 4:12-4:19

(Verse 12) Read Psalm 66, Zechariah 13:8-9, and Proverbs 27:21

What did Peter know of the Lord's purpose in testing?

(Verse 13) Read John 9:22, 12:42, & 16:2-4

What danger was Peter aware of during his Master's time on earth?

(Verses 12-13, & 16) Read John 15:18-25, 16:33,
Matthew 5:10-12, 10:16-25, & Mark 13:5-13

*How did Jesus prepare Peter and His disciples
for God's testing?*

(Verse 13) Read Mark 14:66-72

How did Peter respond to this testing?

Read John 21:1-19

How did Jesus respond to Peter?

Read Acts 5:40-41

How did Peter respond to this testing?

What do you think made the difference?

Words to Know:

*(Verse 13) **Be glad** = Exult, leap for joy, to show one's joy by skipping, ecstatic joy and delight*

*(Verse 15) **Meddler in Affairs** = another's superintendent or overseer, an inspector of foreign or strange things, one who busies himself with things that should not concern him.*

(Verses 13, 16, & 19) Read 2 Timothy 2:10-12, Romans 8:16-17, James 1:2-4, 2 Corinthians 1:5-7, & Philippians 3:10-11

How would you explain how a Christian is to suffer?

What are specific changes you will make when you face suffering?

Understanding the Culture

Peter mentions theft and murder not because he expects that his flock would be guilty of such crimes but because they are crimes that faced the death penalty—the penalty a Christian might face at that time.

*(Verse 15) Peter also refers to a “meddler”.
When was a time you meddled?*

What was the outcome?

How do you think the Spirit would have directed you differently through the use of Scriptures?

Understanding the Culture

(Verse 16) At this time the word "Christian" was used contemptuously. Christian was spat out as an epithet. The Roman suffix "ian" was often used of a slave owner (ie a slave of Gaius would be Gaiusianus). That is the implication in the New Testament.

The apostles called themselves slaves Romans 1:1, James 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1, Jude 1, Revelation 1:1.

(Verse 16) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:11-13, & 1 Timothy 5:13

How then, are we to live our lives in a way that glorifies our God?

(Verse 17) Read Malachi 3:1-14
What is the prophet saying here?

(Verse 17) Re-read 1 Peter 2:9, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Ephesians 2:19-22, & 1 Timothy 3:15
Who is the temple?

(Verse 19) Read Matthew 7:13-14 & Luke 13:24-27
(Keep in mind the word, "narrow", is a verb.)
What is Jesus saying?

Understanding the Culture

Peter uses the word "entrust" which meant to make a deposit. Someone in Peter's world that was undertaking a journey would deposit his wealth with a neighbor while he was gone. Naturally, he would want to know his neighbor's integrity before doing so.

(Verse 19) Read Psalm 10:14

What is the Psalmist saying?

(Verse 19) Read Luke 23:46

How did Jesus model this for us?

Read Acts 7:59-60

How did Stephen emulate his Savior?

How do these verses encourage you to entrust your soul to God?

Unit 4

1 Peter 5:1 – 5:14

*“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter,
‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’
He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love You.’
He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’”
John 21:15*

Week 14: 1 Peter 5:1-5:4 Submission of Elders to Christ

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 5:1-5:14

Re - Read 5:1 - 5:4

Read Exodus 3:16-18, 12:21-28, 18:24-26, & 24:1-11

What were some of the duties of the Elders during the Exodus?

Read Deuteronomy 27:1, Joshua 20:1-4, 1 Samuel 8:4-5, 2 Samuel 5:1-3, & 1 Kings 20:7-8

What are other Old Testament duties of the Elders?

Read Matthew 15:2, 16:21, Luke 7:1-5 & 20:1-2
What were the duties of the Elders during Jesus' time on earth?

Read John 21:15-19
What is the call that Jesus has on Peter's life?

How are ways that he has fulfilled this calling?

Read Jeremiah 3:15 & 23:4
What promise was Peter aware of?

Read Titus 1:3-9 & 1 Timothy 3:1-7

What are God's standards for a man to be an Elder?

Read Acts 20:28-32, 1 Timothy 5:17-20, 1

Corinthians 6:1-7, & James 5:14

Compare the duties of the Old Testament Elders with the New Testament Elders.

Read Ezekiel 14:1-11, Isaiah 3:14, 1 Timothy 6:3-10, 2 Corinthians 2:17, & James 3:1

What is an important task that an Elder must oversee?

What does this look like?

What is the warning for an Elder?

Read Isaiah 24:23 & 2 Timothy 4:8

What is the blessing for a faithful Elder?

What specific ways can you encourage your Elders?

Read Hebrews 13:7-9 & 17

What specific ways do you bear the imprint of your Elders?

How would the Lord have us respond to our Elders?

Why?

How does this change the way you live out your calling?

Week 15: 1 Peter 5:5-5:7 Submission of Congregation to Elders

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 5:1-5:14

Re - Read 5:5 - 5:7

Words to Know:

Subject = to place in order, subjugate, place in submission

Oppose = to arrange in battle order, set an army against

Understanding the Culture

Peter tells his audience to "clothe themselves" in humility.

The word he uses refers to a long white apron or outer garment that was worn by slaves. This would have been the garment that Jesus would have girded himself with when He washed His disciples' feet.

(Verses 5-7) Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10

What is this song about?

Who fulfilled this in the Old Testament?

(Verses 5-7) Read Luke 1:46-55

How does Mary's song unveil Hannah's song?

Read Isaiah 57:15

What is the prophet saying to his audience?

Read Philippians 2:5-11

How did Jesus model this for us?

Read Luke 18:9-14

How did Jesus explain humility to His disciples?

(Verse 7) Read Psalm 37:5-7, Psalm 55:22-23, & Matthew 6:25-34

How would you explain "casting" your cares on the Lord?

Read Matthew 10:26-31

What did Peter learn from Jesus?

How does this affect his readers?

How does this affect you?

Week 16: 1 Peter 5:8 - 5:11 Submission to God Through Suffering

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 5:1-5:14

Re - Read 5:8 - 5:11

Words to Know:

Sober-minded = watchful, circumspect, refrain from abuse of alcohol that leads to intoxication

Alert = to watch, refrain from sleep, attention to God's revelation and knowledge, mindful of danger

Resist = literally stand-against

Steadfast = stable, firm, solid, immovable, solidity in the very mass and body of the things itself

Restore = put a thing in it's proper condition, establish, set in order, make perfect, join together

Confirm = strengthen

Endured = accomplishing, perfecting, process of accomplishment.

Strengthen = setting firmly for stability and to establish, fix

Establish = foundational, lay a foundation, grounded, confirmed, ground securely

Read Genesis 3:1-5, 14-15, John 8:44, 2
Corinthians 4:4-6, 11:3, 12-15, 2 Timothy 2:24-
26,
& Ephesians 2:1-3

Who is our enemy and what are the characteristics we see?

Read Job 1:9-2:7 & Zechariah 3:1-9
What is Satan doing to these men?

How are we like him?

Read Luke 4:1-3
What more do we learn about our adversary?

How did Jesus handle him?

(Verse 8) Read Luke 12:35-40, Matthew 24:42, 25:15, & 26:38-41

How did Jesus prepare His disciples?

Read Mark 14:34-38 & Matthew 26:40-41

How did Peter respond?

Read Luke 22:31-32

How does Jesus help Peter?

How might this have encouraged Peter's audience?

How does this encourage you?

Read Isaiah 14:12-21, Luke 10:18, John 12:31-32,
Matthew 12:28-29, Romans 16:20, & Revelation 9:1
What do we know is Satan's fate?

Until then---

Read Ephesians 6:10-18
What have we been provided with for protection?

Read 1 John 4:1-4, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, 2
Thessalonians 3:3, & Romans 8:31
*What specific ways can we rest in Jesus'
triumph?*

Read Psalm 73:23-26 & John 17:22-24
What are these verses saying?

*How do they shape the way you are living your
life?*

Week 17: 1 Peter 5:12 - 5:14 Final Words

Read the complete passage 1 Peter 5:12-5:14

Re - Read 5:12 - 5:14

Read Acts 15:22-40, 16:19-29, 17:4-15, 18:5, & 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2

What more do we know about Silvanus?

Read 2 John 1

Who do you think the "she" is in both letters?

Read Acts 12:12-25, 15:37-39

What do we know of Mark?

After studying this letter...

What themes became apparent to you?

Why do you think this was important for Peter to write to his readers?

Did you learn about the verses you wanted to know more about? How so?

How has reading this letter changed your understanding and worship of the Lord?

Appendix

Interpretations of 1 Peter 3:19

I.

Origen (*Lived 185-254 A.D.*)

Jesus descended to hell and preached to spirits who perished in the flood of Noah's time. Jesus proclaimed the Gospel to the dead to give them one more opportunity to repent

Zodhiates

We can look back to 3:18 for context -He put to death the flesh but made alive in Spirit = 1 Corinthians 15:45, 49. It seems that Christ's resurrection that is the source of spiritual, we will receive new bodies. The first Adam was a living soul. The last Adam was a life-giving Spirit 1 Corinthians 15:45. Peter is not saying that Jesus' body died but that the spirit lived. He is saying Christ died a natural physical sphere of existence and that He was given life as to the spiritual sphere of existence and that He was given life as to the spiritual sphere of existence. Christ was not disembodied a death but has risen to life on a new plane Romans 14:9

2 Corinthians 13:4, 1 Timothy 3:16. This verse explains 1 Peter 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:10. He was raised = rules out descending into the underworld by a disembodied soul. His death was physical but the resurrection was in the realm of the spiritual by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 1:34. The Christ Who rose spiritually in which = could be directly related to the spirit or in what time. If it is the latter, it had to take place before the resurrection and could have been before Christ appeared to disciples. If former, then it leads to the Spirit of Christ in Noah as Old Testament people possible.

II.

Augustine

Christ preached in the spirit through Noah as Peter said that Christ preached through Old Testament prophets. This would be a case in point. The spiritual prison of the people of that time are now spirits in prison. God's patience is now seen in withholding judgment until the right time. 2 Peter 3:9. When the ark was built, it was for humans, not demons. The patience was directed to Noah's generation to whom

Noah preached righteousness 2 Peter 2:5. Disobey = unbelief 1 Peter 2:7-8, 3:1, 4:17.

Wayne Grudem's translation,

"He went and preached to those who are now in prison when they disobeyed formerly when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah." This supports the view that Christ preached through Noah as He did through Isaiah.

Edmund Clowney -

The shift is that the spirits are now in prison = the dead as in 1 Peter 4:6. In both cases Peter is referring to people in times of their present state. How? God's interventions in the Old Testament were described as His coming or going. Genesis 3:8, 11:7, 18:21 and to Christ as the Rock following Israel in the wilderness. 1 Corinthians 10:4 is sort of like, "He went and told them..." The spirits now in prison were those who heard what He preached and were disobedient. What was preached is identified 2 Peter 2:5 where the word stem is the same in "Noah, a preacher of righteousness proclaims God's righteousness and therefore of the need for repentance." That message was addressed through Noah to the disobedient sinners during their lifetime. There is no second chance for salvation after death and there is no universal salvation.

Thomas Schriener

The important thing is that Peter, in this whole passage, continues to reassure Christians that they must endure suffering and persecution by reminding them that Christ has conquered—by the power of the resurrection and has prevailed to bring them to God. The devil still prowls like a roaring lion 5:7, but he cannot destroy those whose refuge is in Christ. Peter is reminding them of the suffering believers of the

period before the flood. The power of evil was great in those days and the number of the elect was few. But God was in control and He withheld judgment then, as now, to display His long-suffering grace. But judgment DID come, and only Noah and his family were saved from that evil age by the judgment of the waters of the flood. The flood was provisional and the deliverance of Noah was a "type" of the final and full salvation of Jesus Christ. The doom of death suffered pictures the doom that Christ suffered for us. By the power that He was put to death in the flesh, he was made alive by the power of the Spirit. It was in that power that He preached through Noah to those disobedient brought eternal condemnation. It is the same power that saves us. Those who reject the Gospel will be under the judgment that will come when He returns. But those who are united to Christ are saved by the same promise that delivered Noah and his family. Those who oppose Christ's message will be defeated Colossians 2:15, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8.

III.

Dummelow

The spirits are fallen angels that Jesus proclaims His victory and their doom. As He ascends into heaven, He confronts the principalities and powers showing His victory over them.

Martin Vincent

Could be fallen angels 2 Peter 2:4-5, Jude 6, the Book of Enoch = not Scripture, but Peter would be familiar with them. Enoch is quoted in Jude. The fallen angels and the offspring were viewed as the instigators of lawlessness in the

antediluvian world and could be seen as those who disobeyed. With this understanding, Peter is saying Christ's mission transcends the journey that tradition ascribed to Enoch. Enoch was sent by God to tell the rebellious angels they are doomed. They ask Enoch to petition God to cancel their sentence but God replies to Enoch, "No." Enoch goes to tell them, but as he nears Mount Hermon, they are engaged in sin. In describing Christ's victory in 3:22, that meaning is possible. Christ is the true Enoch, He walks with God, and is taken up to be with the heavenly Father. It was not Enoch who confronted, but Christ who confronts angelic and demonic forces. But Enoch takes place in the days of Jared, Noah's father, not Noah. 1 Enoch 21:1-2, 22:1-14, 7:1-3, 18:3-6, 6:1-10:3, 106:13-15, 13:10, 10:13

E. Blum

Christ's proclamation and the victory of judgment over evil angels Genesis 6:1-4. He did not descend to hell but had victory over evil angelic powers. Satan's confinement Revelation 20:7, 18:2, Evil angels imprisoned = 1 Enoch 10:4, 15:8, 10, 18:12-14, 21:11-10, 67:7, 2 Enoch 7:1-3, 8:3 = standard Jewish understanding

