

1 PETER CHAPTER 1 – Greeting to the Elect Pilgrims; A Heavenly Inheritance; Living Before God Our Father; The Enduring Word

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION:

Persecution can cause either growth or bitterness in the Christian life. **Response determines the result!** The Epistle of Peter is the fulfillment of the commission given to Peter by Christ in Lk. 22:31-32. Compare 1 Pet. 1 with Jas. 1:1. Peter was a minister of the circumcision (Gal. 2:9), so he writes to the dispersed Jews (1:1). He is the apostle of hope: 1:3,7,9,12, 3:9-15; 4:13; 5:4. Like Paul, Peter sets forth the doctrines of grace. There are a number of parallels in his letter to the words of the Lord recorded in the Gospels; also there are resemblances between the language of this Epistle and the speeches of Peter in Acts.

First Peter was written from Babylon (5:13). Geographical notations in 1:1 agree with Babylon as the center of writing; however, many understand the name to be a symbol of Rome. The letter is addressed to Hebrew Christians (cp. 4:3 with 1:1), with wider application to all believers in Christ.

The purpose of the Epistle is exhortation and testimony. The key thought is the suffering of the Christian. Peter pleads for steadfastness in time of suffering. In the light of the believer's hope in the resurrected Redeemer. The Epistle is full of exhortations to godly living, and is replete with quotations from and allusions to the OT.

First Peter may be divided as follows:

Introduction, 1:1-2.

Christian Suffering and Conduct in the Light of Complete I Salvation, 1:3-2:8.

II Christian Life in View of the Believer's Position and the Vicarious Suffering of Christ, 2:9-4:19.

III Christian Service in the Light of the Coming of Christ, 5:1-9.

Conclusion, 5:10-14.

1 Peter 1:1-12

OUR IMPERISHABLE INHERITANCE

Scattered strangers! The designation is true of us all. Note the reference to the Trinity involved in the opening sentence. Our inheritance is prepared and kept for us, as we for it. We who believe may count on the guarding power of God. Not till our spirit is joined to a perfected body in the presence of Christ will our salvation be complete.

Trial is manifold. There is more or less of it in every true life. The best diamonds take longer in cutting and polishing. But, after all, compared to the eternity before us, it is but short-lived, and there is a needs-be for all. Hope in 1Pe 1:3, faith in 1Pe 1:7, love in 1Pe 1:8, blend in the joy that is unspeakable and full of the glory which is as yet hidden.

Notice that the prophets, angels and apostles are represented as deeply interested in that glorious salvation which God has declared unto mankind in the gospel, and by which we have been redeemed.

1 Peter 1:13-25

REDEEMED AND PURIFIED

The appeal for a holy life is enforced by considering the great cost of our redemption and the great hope which is opened before us. Ours must be the girded loins, lest our desires trail after forbidden things, or be sullied by the mud on the road. We must be holy, as God is: and this can be realized only when we allow God, by His Holy Spirit, to pour Himself into our natures. There is no fear like that which love begets. We do not fear God with the fear of the slave or felon, but with the fear of the love that cannot endure the thought of giving pain to the loving and loved. Who can think of returning to Egypt, when such a Passover lamb has redeemed us! Our redemption was not an after-thought with God. It is part of an eternal plan; let us not get entangled in the meshes of mere earthly ambition. Notice the familiar combination of faith, hope and love, 1Pe 1:21-22. But these graces are only indigenous in those who have been twice born by the Spirit through the Word.

OUTLINE OF FIRST PETER

INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

A. The author (1:1a)

B. The addressees (1:1b-2)

II. CANTICLE OF PRAISE (1:3-12)

A. The new birth (1:3b)

B. The living hope (1:3c)

C. The glorious inheritance (1:4)

D. The omnipotent Protector (1:5-12)

III. CONDUCT BEFORE GOD (1:13-2:12)

A. Holiness (1:13-16)

B. Love (1:17-25)

C. Growth (2:1-8)

D. Praise (2:9-12)

IV. CONDUCT BEFORE MEN (2:13-4:19)

A. The Christian and his government (2:13-17)

B. The Christian and his business (2:18-25)

C. The Christian and his family (3:1-7)

D. The Christian and his society (3:8-22)

E. The Christian and Christ's example (4:1-19)

V. CONDUCT IN THE CHURCH (5:1-11)

A. Conduct of the pastor (5:1-4)

B. Conduct of the people (5:5-11)

VI. CONCLUSION (5:12-14)

Barbieri, Louis A.. First & Second Peter- Everyman's Bible Commentary



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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

1 PETER CHAPTER 1 – Greeting to the Elect Pilgrims;

1Pe 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

1Pe 1:2 elect (to be picked out, chosen) according to the foreknowledge (before the foundation of the world) of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling (application) of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace (unmerited favor) to you and peace be multiplied.

A Heavenly Inheritance;

Born Again to a Living Hope

1Pe 1:3 Blessed (eulogize, well-spoken of) be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection (His tomb is empty!) of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pe 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled (including you) and that does not fade away (never grow stale or old, never lose joy- He is infinite!), reserved in heaven for you,

1Pe 1:5 who are kept (military guard) by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Pe 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

v. 1 This epistle, probably written around 64-65AD – Nero launched his wave of severe Christian persecution in October 64AD pilgrims - parepidēmos, chosen sojourners staying for a while, settled down, sown as a covert operation, in a strange or foreign place addressed to primarily Jewish and some Gentile believers in general, who are strangers in every city or country where they live, and are dee-as-por-ah, Dispersion, that is, (specifically and concretely) the (converted) Israelites resident in Gentile countries: - (which are) scattered (abroad).scattered through the nations.

v. 2 These are to ascribe their salvation **to the electing love** of the Father, the redemption of the Son, and the **sanctification of the Holy Spirit**; and so **to give glory to one God in three Persons**, into whose name they had been baptized.

v. 3 Hope, in the world's phrase, refers only to an uncertain good, for all worldly hopes are tottering, built upon sand, and the world's hopes of heaven are blind and groundless conjectures. But the hope of the sons of the living God is a living hope; not only as to its object, but as to its effect also. It enlivens and comforts in all distresses, enables to meet and get over all difficulties. Mercy is the spring of all this; yes, great mercy and manifold mercy. And this well-grounded hope of salvation, is an active and living principle of obedience in the soul of the believer. The matter of a Christian's joy, is the remembrance of the happiness laid up for him. Eph.2:7

v. 4 It is incorruptible, it cannot come to nothing, it is an estate that cannot be spent. Also undefiled; this signifies its purity and perfection. And it fades not; is not sometimes more or less pleasant, but ever the same, still like itself. All possessions here are stained with defects and failings; still something is wanting: fair houses have sad cares flying about the gilded and ceiled roofs; soft beds and full tables, are often with sick bodies and uneasy stomachs. All possessions are stained with sin, either in getting or in using them. How ready we are to turn the things we possess into occasions and instruments of sin, and to think there is no liberty or delight in their use, without abusing them! Worldly possessions are uncertain and soon pass away, like the flowers and plants of the field. That must be of the greatest worth, which is laid up in the highest and best place, in heaven. Eph. 1:13-18

vs. 5-6 Happy are those whose hearts the Holy Spirit sets on this inheritance. God not only gives His people grace, but preserves them unto glory. Every believer has always something wherein he may greatly rejoice; it should show itself in the countenance and conduct. The Lord does not willingly afflict, yet His wise love often appoints sharp trials, to show his people their hearts, and to do them good at the latter end. Cf. 2 Cor. 4:17-18

v. 1 1 & 2 Peter are written to Christians in great suffering. Where do you turn to when you are going through great difficulties? As you read these two epistles, **consider the possibility of our handling Christian persecution.**

v. 2 Do you see yourself an elect one according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus? Do you accept the mystery of our finite mind versus the infinite mind of God? Remember how Jesus camped on Nicodemus' decision- “you must be born again” for salvation in John chapter 3? Why is the order of grace and peace important?

v. 3 How thankful are you to the Lord for the living hope through Jesus conquering dearth, that we believers have? The fact of resurrection will not let a person go. We are drawn to the truth of resurrection by the Spirit and Jesus standing along side of us! Do you know that you have everlasting life now, from this time on?

v. 4 Can you imagine the awesome blessings awaiting every believe in heaven? Can you be written out of this inheritance? That the inheritance is bot incorruptible and does not fade away? Do you realize that you will never be anything but miserable with being a part of the world.

v. 5 Are you aware you are kept for heaven's reward, as well as the reward of heaven being kept for you? “*who are kept*” - Are you overestimating spiritual warfare by Satan? How much do you worry about the future?

v. 6 Are you rejoicing that you are preserved unto glory by the power of God through faith for your salvation ready to be revealed in the last time? Do you know that all the trials here on earth are only for a little while?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

1Pe 1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

1Pe 1:8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

1Pe 1:9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

1Pe 1:10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,

1Pe 1:11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

1Pe 1:12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire (lust) to look into.

v. 7 Gold does not increase by trial in the fire, it becomes less; but faith is made firm, and multiplied, by troubles and afflictions. Gold must perish at last, and can only purchase perishing things, while **the trial of faith will be found to praise, and honor, and glory.**

v. 8 Let this reconcile us to present afflictions. Seek then to believe Christ's excellence in Himself, and His love to us; this will kindle such a fire in the heart as will make it rise up in a sacrifice of love to Him. Thomas? *John 20:29 ... "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

v. 9 And the glory of God and our own happiness are so united, that if we sincerely seek the one now, we shall attain the other when the soul shall no more be subject to evil. The certainty of this hope is as if believers had already received it.

vs. 10-12 Jesus Christ was the main subject of the prophets' studies. Their inquiry into the sufferings of Christ and the glories that should follow, would lead to a view of the whole gospel, the sum whereof is, That Christ Jesus was delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification. God is pleased to answer our necessities rather than our requests. The doctrine of the prophets, and that of the apostles, exactly agree, as coming from the same Spirit of God. The gospel is the ministration of the Spirit; its success depends upon His operation and blessing. Let us then search diligently those Scriptures which contain the doctrines of salvation. **Wow, the sure word of prophecy -more sure than eyewitness or spiritual experiences!**

v. 7 Do you see the genuineness of your faith as being more precious than gold? Do you believe that when trials cannot drive you from your faith, it proves that you're really saved – that trials really reveal whether or not one is saved? Are you thankful that trials also purify you? Is the face of Christ seen in your life as you become more and more Christ like? vs. 8-9 Do you see how your love for Christ will see you through all trials? Do you love Christ? Have you seen Him? Do you notice the “now” in this verse? What does that mean with regard to the timing of your receiving eternal life?

vs. 10-11 Do you really appreciate how that now during the Second Covenant, we have seen the things that the prophets in the OT could only dream of – His grace coming to us through His death and resurrection from the dead?

v. 12 Can you imagine the awesome position, living between the first and second coming, we now have that the prophets in the OT could not yet see – things which angels desire to look into?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Living Before God Our Father; - Called to Be Holy

1Pe 1:13 Therefore

gird up the loins of your mind,

be sober, and

rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1Pe 1:14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

1Pe 1:15 but as He who called you is holy,

you also be holy in all your conduct,

1Pe 1:16 because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

1Pe 1:17 And if you call on the Father (the Living God!), who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear (awe);

1Pe 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct (tradition – no life, no grace, no Jesus!) received by tradition from your fathers,

1Pe 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish (acquired) and without spot.

1Pe 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

1Pe 1:21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

vs. 13-14 As the traveler, the racer, the warrior, and the laborer, gathered in their long and loose garments, that they might be ready in their business, so let Christians do by their minds and affections. Be sober, be watchful against all spiritual dangers and enemies, and be temperate in all behavior. Be sober-minded in opinion, as well as in practice, and humble in your judgment of yourselves. A strong and perfect trust in the grace of God, is agreeable with best endeavors in our duty.

vs. 15-16 Holiness is the desire and duty of every Christian. It must be in all affairs, in every condition, and towards all people. We must especially watch and pray against the sins to which we are inclined. The written word of God is the surest rule of a Christian's life, and by this rule we are commanded to be holy every way. God makes those holy whom He saves. We're to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

v. 17 Holy confidence in God as a Father, and awful fear of Him as a Judge, agree together; and to regard God always as a Judge, makes Him dear to us as a Father. If believers do evil, God will visit them with corrections. Then, let Christians not doubt God's faithfulness to His promises, nor give way to enslaving dread of His wrath, but let them reverence His holiness. The fearless professor is defenseless, and Satan takes him captive at his will; the desponding professor has no heart to avail himself of his advantages, and is easily brought to surrender.

vs. 18-19 The price paid for man's redemption was the precious blood of Christ. Not only openly wicked, but unprofitable conversation is highly dangerous, though it may plead custom. It is folly to resolve, I will live and die in such a way, because my forefathers did so.

vs. 20-21 God had purposes of special favor toward His people, long before He made manifest such grace unto them. But the clearness of light, the supports of faith, the power of ordinances, are all much greater since Christ came upon earth, than they were before. The comfort is, that being by faith made one with Christ, his present glory is an assurance that where he is we shall be also, Joh 14:3.

v. 13 Can you see how this verse shows Christians how to live even in the face of persecution? He's coming back! Are you ready for His return?

v. 14 How important is your obedience in not conforming, not compromising, yourselves to the former lusts?

vs. 15-16 How “set apart” are we in all our conduct? How susceptible are you to the fear of man, during persecution?

v. 17 Do you really fear God more than fearing man? Are you thankful that you don't have responsibility for any sin of your ancestors?

v. 18 How important is it to you that you were redeemed not with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ? Is your life characterized by aimlessness? By traditions from your fathers?

vs. 19-20 How thankful are we for the redemption by the precious blood of Christ? Wow, foreordained before the foundation of the world!

v. 21 Do you realize the privilege we have to walk with God?

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The Enduring Word

IPe 1:22 Since you have purified your souls (believing) in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love (unhypocritical) of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

IPe 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

IPe 1:24 because "ALL FLESH (corruptible seed) IS AS GRASS, AND ALL THE GLORY OF MAN AS THE FLOWER OF THE GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND ITS FLOWER FALLS AWAY, IPe 1:25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD (incorruptible Seed) ENDURES FOREVER." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

vs. 22-23 The soul must be purified, before it can give up its own desires and indulgences. And the word of God planted in the heart by the Holy Spirit, is a means of spiritual life, stirring up to our duty, working a total change in the dispositions and affections of the soul, till it brings to eternal life. A Spirit filled Christian is one whose life is marked by following the leading of the Spirit!

v. 24 In contrast with the excellence of the renewed spiritual man, as born again, observe the vanity of the natural man. In his life, and in his fall, he is like grass, the flower of grass, which soon withers and dies away.

v. 25 We should hear, and thus receive and love, the holy, living word, and rather hazard all than lose it; and we must banish all other things from the place due to it. We should lodge it in our hearts as our only treasures here, and the certain pledge of the treasure of glory laid up for believers in heaven. *But the word of the Lord endures for ever,....* Though men die, and ministers of the word too, and everything in the world is uncertain, unstable, fleeting, and passing away, and whatever change has been in the ordinances of divine service; yet the word of the Lord, the Gospel of Christ, is settled for ever, and will never pass away: *this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.* This is the apostle's application of the passage in Isaiah, showing that the word of the Lord there is the same with the Gospel preached by him, and the other apostles, at that present time; and is no other than that good tidings Zion is said to bring; see [Isa_40:9](#) the selfsame Gospel the Prophet Isaiah preached the apostles did, though with greater clearness, and more success; see [Rom_10:8](#).

v. 22 How is your love for one another? How fervently is that love? How fervent is your love for the unsaved?

v. 23 How appreciative are you for your second birth? What has been accomplished in our being born again?

vs. 24-25 His word endures forever! How sure is the fact that one day we will be in heaven? As sure as God's word!

AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN - Charles Wesley/Graham Crusade Choir

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Savior's blood!
Died he for me? who caused his pain!
For me? who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

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