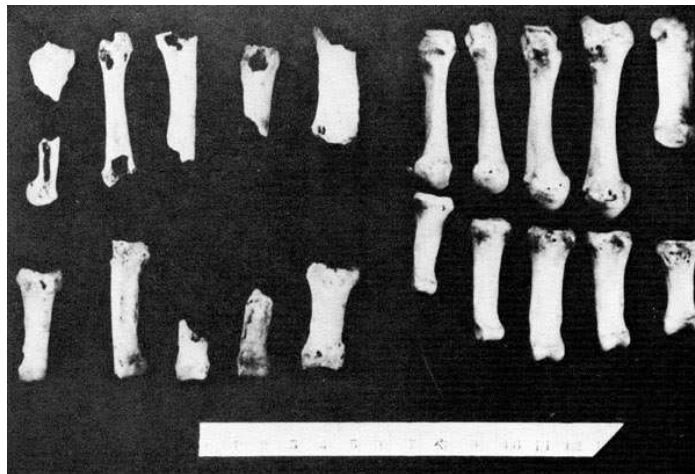


A Study of Peter's First General Letter to the Church



25A. The wooden box in which lay the human skeletal remains taken from the repository in the graffiti wall. It was overlooked for some ten years, and only an accident of fate led to its recovery.



1 Peter

Biblical Background:

Author: _____

Place of Composition: _____

Date of Composition: _____

Audience: _____

Purpose: _____



Outline of First Peter (Five Chapters)

- I. Introduction (1:1-2)
- II. Salvation: The Outcome of Your Faith (1:3-13)
- III. Holiness: Guide to Christian Purity (1:14-2:10)
- IV. Submission: Pattern for Christian Relationships (2:11-4:11)
- V. Suffering: The Honor of a Christian (4:12-5:11)
- VI. Closing (5:12-13)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (1Pe 1:1-2)

Salvation: The Outcome of Your Faith (1 Peter 1:3-13)



What is salvation? How do you know you have it? What must a person do to be saved? Do we get to keep this salvation forever?

- Anticipating Our Salvation (vss. 3-5)
 - a. What parts of our salvation are past?
 - b. Future?
 - c. Present?
- The Crucible of Salvation (vss. 6-9)
 - a. How is our faith proved genuine? Why is this important?
 - b. For what are we now joyful? What kind of joy is this? (James 1:2)
- Salvation in Prophecy (vss. 10-12)
 - a. What did the prophets want to see? Did the Prophets get a timetable for the coming Christ? (Dan 9:24-27)
 - b. In what way are the prophets serving us? (Matt 11:11 // Luke 7:28)
 - c. What difference do you see between the Spirit that animated the prophets and the Spirit that animates the preachers? (John 16:13)
 - d. Do angels not know what this salvation is? How is that possible? (Luke 2:14; Matt 28:5-7)
- Practical Anticipation of our coming Salvation (vs. 13)
 - a. What two general commands are we given in this verse? (See Romans 8:23-24)
 - b. The “Second Coming” of Christ is described in various ways in this passage. Write down the different ways it is described in the following verses:
 - i. Vs 5: _____
 - ii. Vs 7: _____
 - iii. Vs 13: _____
 - c. Did these Christians receive the promises of His coming?

How have you found your faith tested?

What effect does your salvation have on your life? Work? Family?

Holiness: Guide to Christian Purity
(1 Peter 1:14-2:10)



The World and the Church seems to have different ideas of holiness. The World looks at holiness through a lens of “clean living”, “wholesomeness” and high personal ethics. Christians in the media are usually depicted as Catholics, with rosaries and crucifixes. Yet, when Christians are asked what holiness is, it boils down to going to church on Sunday and reading your Bible, with an occasional prayer at mealtimes. What do you think holiness looks like? What does holiness mean to our personal conduct and character?

Rate yourself on a holiness scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the high end of the scale.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Outline of Section 3

- Holiness is our call from the Father (1:14-17)
 - Holiness is our redemption through the Son (1:18-21)
 - Holiness is our responsibility through the Word (of the Spirit)
 - The Word Purifies You (1:22-2:1)
 - The Word Builds You
 - From an Infant to an Adult (2:2-3)
 - From the Cornerstone to an Entire Building (2:4-8)
 - Holiness is our Distinction as His People (2:9-10)
1. What might Peter be thinking of as the “desires of your former ignorance”?
 2. What is the standard of holiness Peter recommends? Where and when does it apply?
 3. On what does God judge and how is it judged? How does “conduct yourselves in reverence” help us understand holiness?
 4. Why is it important that our redemption is by Christ’s blood, rather than silver or gold? If Christ was destined to die for man’s sin before the foundation of the world, what does that say about God’s knowledge and creation of man?
 5. How does Christ’s resurrection help us place our faith and hope in God?
 6. Why is it important that our love for “the brothers” come from a pure heart? How are our hearts made pure according to vs. 22? What does this say to Christian conduct?
 7. What is this imperishable seed of vs. 22 (see Peter’s reference to Is 40:6-8)? What is the role of “the word of God” in the process of being “born again”? What “word” do you think Peter has in mind in vs. 25?
 8. How are the list of sins in vs. 1 denials of holiness?
 9. Can a Christian grow without the Word?

10. Under the old covenant, the work of sacrifice and offerings was given to one tribe, Levi, on behalf of all Israel. Under the new covenant, who is responsible for offering sacrifices? How are these sacrifices different than the Levitical offerings?
11. How fitting that Peter (the stone) writes of the Stone, quoting from Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14. What other important “stone” passage does this remind you of? (See Matthew 16:16-18) Who are the “builders” of vs. 7? Are they the same people in vs. 8?
12. Note the contrast between the formerly chosen and the newly chosen. Peter quotes from several OT passages, namely Isaiah 43:20, Deuteronomy 7:6 and 10:15. How do these OT passages apply to God’s NT people? How did we receive this distinction as God’s chosen people?

Personal holiness isn’t just for Sundays anymore. In what ways can Christians be holy all the time?

What steps can a Christian take who wants to be holy in his conduct?

Which of these steps do you need to work on today?

Submission: Pattern for Christian Relationships (1 Peter 2:11-4:11)



Outline for Section Four

- Honorable Conduct Among Gentiles (2:11-12)
 - Submission to Government (2:13-17)
 - Submission to Masters (2:18-20)
 - Doctrine: Example of Christ Jesus (2:21-25)
 - Submission to Husbands (3:1-6)
 - Concern for Wives (3:7)
- Conduct Among Believers (3:8-13)
 - When Facing Persecution (3:14-18)
 - Doctrine: Resurrection of Christ Jesus (3:19-22)
 - Resolve to Live for God's Will (4:1-3)
 - Judgment of the Persecutors (4:4-6)
 - Living in the End-Times (4:7-11)

Peter's fourth section deals with specific issues of Christian conduct in various life situations, including work, government and the home. He also addresses our conduct when our faith is a liability, an impediment for others and how we ought to deal with it. Should we take and hide our faith so it isn't a problem? Or should we, like some, carry a wooden cross on our shoulders to openly display our faith in Jesus? What is the best way to show Christ to others in the world? Peter intends to answer many of these questions.

1. What does Peter say is a good remedy against accusations of evil? How should Gentiles respond to this?
2. What is the purpose of the ideal human government Peter describes here?
3. In what way might a Christian use his freedom to conceal evil (vs. 16)?
4. How might suffering be a good thing in verse 20? How is Christ an example for us in this?
5. How are wives instructed to deal with non-believing husbands? What does God see as beauty in a wife? Is this idea of submission better than the 50/50 ideals we often practice today? Is being a daughter of Sarah something Christian women strive to be?
6. In what way might wives be considered a "weaker vessel"? How does this square with what we are taught today by modern feminism?
7. Being involved in the local church setting can carry just as many problems as the world. How are Christians counseled to handle interpersonal conflict here?
8. In a general sense, Peter counsels Christian to abstain from _____ and pursue _____.
9. Peter's counsel on a "ready defense" actually fulfills several purposes. What are some of those purposes?
10. Who might the "spirits in prison" be that Christ preaches to?

11. How do the Flood and Baptism correspond? How does Baptism save us?
 12. If Christ died to the flesh, and we now live in Christ, how does this give us resolve to live for spiritual things?
 13. Why do the pagans get upset with us? What judgment will they be subject to? Who are those who are now dead in 4:6?
- VII. How would the end of all things be a motivation to godly living? What are some of the commands listed here? Who is the source of all these good gifts?

Suffering: The Honor of a Christian (4:12-5:11)



Outline for Section Five

- Sharing in the Sufferings of Christ (4:12-14)
- Contrast with ordinary suffering (4:15-16)
- Judgment and suffering (4:17-19)
- Example to the Elders (5:1-4)
- Humility and Resistance (5:5-9)
- Suffering as path to Restoration (5:10-11)

Why must Christians suffer? In our culture, suffering is avoided at all costs. We don't like pain, and will take medicine, exercise, spend money on ourselves and others to alleviate suffering. Suffering is not pleasant, and in a culture that exalts pleasure, suffering is the worst evil. But for Christians, we have a different take on suffering. Suffering is as the crucible of the soul. It clarifies, distinguishes, sets apart, makes holy. Historically, Christians have subjected themselves to suffering to make themselves more godly, i.e., fasting. But much of this self-inflicted suffering has been committed under the assumption that the flesh is evil, but that's not the point of suffering.

1. Looking through this text, what types of suffering does Peter list as proper reasons for suffering?
 - a. 4:13 _____
 - b. 4:14 _____
 - c. 4:16 _____
 - d. 4:19 _____
 - e. 5:9 _____
 - f. 5:10 _____
2. What kinds of suffering are improper for a Christian?
 - a. 4:15 _____
3. How does Peter recommend Christians react to suffering?
 - a. 4:12 _____
 - b. 4:13 _____
 - c. 4:16 _____
 - d. 4:19 _____
 - e. 5:7 _____
 - f. 5:9 _____
4. What promises does Peter offer to Christians who suffer?
 - a. 4:13 _____
 - b. 4:14 _____
 - c. 5:1 _____
 - d. 5:4 _____
 - e. 5:6 _____

f. 5:10 _____

5. The promise of suffering as a Christian is certain, but the promises for weathering suffering (by God's Spirit) are just as certain. From what you read here, why do you think Christians are told to suffer in their faith?
6. Special Subjects:
 - a. Judgment (4:17-18)
 - i. What do you believe this judgment is?
 - ii. Why does it begin with the house of God?
 - iii. What would be the outcome for those who disobey the gospel?
 - b. Eldership (5:1-4)
 - i. To whom is Peter speaking to in these verses?
 - ii. Peter's primary command to the elders is to shepherd God's flock, but with several qualifiers. List these:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 - iii. What does this passage tell you about the kind of leadership expected in the Lord's church?
 - c. Membership (5:5-7)
 - i. Peter's next words are to the younger men. What does he ask them to do specifically? Why do you think they needed this command?
 - ii. Next he addresses the church at large, and addresses the operative principle of church membership. What is that principle?
 - iii. How are Christians commanded to address their cares (anxieties and concerns)? How can Christians do this?
 - d. The Devil (5:8-9)
 - i. Do we have reason to worry about the Devil as a real threat? What kind of threat does Peter reveal here about our adversary?
 - ii. How does Peter recommended we deal with this threat?
 - iii. Does it help to know that others have faced this same threat?

iv. 1 Peter Chapter Five