

Lesson 20: 1 Peter

Key Verse: 1 Peter 1:13 “Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

The book of the Bible that we call 1 Peter is a book about hope, the living hope that comes through God’s grace. In Mark 14:29-31 we read about Peter emphatically insisting that he would never deny Christ even if he had to die for him. That very night Peter denied Christ three times just as Jesus had said he would. Luke 22:61 adds an interesting fact: “The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.” The Greek word in this verse carries the idea of interest, love, or concern. Jesus looked at Peter with grace. After Jesus’ resurrection from the dead we learn in John 21:15-19 that Jesus restored Peter and commissioned him to full-time ministry. Jesus restored him three times once for each of the times Peter denied Him.

Peter, who was in Rome at the time, wrote this letter in A.D. 65 to the churches in Bithynia, Pontus, Asia, Galatia, and Cappadocia. Official persecution from the Roman Empire had begun and Peter told these churches not to be surprised by it. (1 Peter 4:12). The first Christians being mostly Jews met in the temple areas and the Roman government accepted and approved Jewish worship but when it became evident that Christianity was not a part of Judaism, the Roman government decided to put a stop to it. Nero introduced official persecution of Christians and the other emperors continued the practice. Nero blamed the fire of Rome in July AD 64 on the Christians. Nero was responsible for the deaths of Paul and Peter.

Peter wrote this letter to give hope and encouragement to these Christians who were suffering persecution as were all other Christians at that time. In order to glorify God in times of suffering we have to depend on God’s Grace. God’s grace enables us to endure suffering and turn trials into triumphs. Suffering itself does not automatically bring glory to God. Suffering can cause some believers to bring shame to the name of Christ. The word grace is used in every chapter of this book. The Greek word for suffer “pascho” is used twelve times in this book. Silas was the scribe for this letter from Peter and he carried the letter and read it to each of the churches.

Day One: Chapter One

Prayer: Holy Father in heaven, as I begin this study of your word cause me to keep my focus on You so that my attitude will be centered on your glory. Give me insight so that I may draw closer to You through the study of this book. Amen

1. How did Peter refer to his readers? V. 1 What did he mean by this?

2. We have been chosen by God, set apart by the Spirit, and purchased by the blood of the Son. V. 2 Describe what each of these statements mean to you. _____

3. How is our inheritance described? V. 4 _____

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Focus on our key verse. Some translations state: “gird up the loins of your mind” and comes from the Greek word “anadzonnimi”. This word was used to describe men who wore long robes who before taking a long journey or running in a race would gather up the loose robes and tuck them up under their girdle or belt. This enabled them to run or travel without tripping up on their own robes. Of course Peter is referring to our minds not our clothing. At the Passover meal Exodus 12:11 God instructed the people to tuck their cloak into their belt and be ready to move. The Jews continued this practice at Passover. This is an example of how we should keep our minds – focused on God and ready to move up to heaven.

4. What steps can you take to ensure that all the loose ends of your thinking are submitted to the word of God? 13 – 15 _____

5. What is reverent fear? V. 17 _____

An example of how our mindset affects our actions comes from Genesis 12 and 13. Abraham had his eyes of faith on the heavenly city which kept his focus off worldly real estate. Lot was focused on worldly pleasures and gradually moved into Sodom.

Day Two: Chapter Two

Prayer: Holy God our heavenly Father give us a hunger for Your true spiritual milk so that our appetites increase as we study Your word. Amen!

The believers during this time were constantly confronted with the low standards of the times when carnality and sensuality were celebrated as it is now. Peter gave instructions to help them. In some translations the word “beseech” is used in verse 11. The people of that time knew that word in a way that we don’t grasp. To them it was like a flashing beacon that immediately got their attention. The word alerted them that the message to follow would require discipline on their part.

6. What characteristics are we to lay aside? V. 1 & 11 _____

7. What is meant by a “living stone”? 4 – 8 _____

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8. What are the qualities of Christians? 9 & 10 _____

9. To what authorities are we to be submissive? 13 – 17 _____

10. Why is Christ precious to you? _____

Day Three: Chapter Three

Prayer: Father we acknowledge You as Creator of the universe. You instituted marriage between man and woman. Your plan was perfect. Help Christians wives and husbands submit to your plan. Amen!

In the early church, when a man became a Christian, he usually would bring his entire family into the church with him; as in Acts 16:29-33: the story of the Philippian jailer. However when a woman became a Christian she usually came alone. Under Roman law a husband had absolute authority over all members of his household. Peter’s message was particularly written to women who had come to know Christ and their husbands had not. If they became Christians while their husbands did not, they had taken a bold, unprecedented step. In many ancient cultures, wives could not decide for themselves. They were under their husbands’ absolute power.

11. How are wives to act towards their husbands? 1 – 6 _____

12. How are husbands to act towards their wives? 7 _____

13. How are we to live? 8 – 12 _____

14. What can you do to be prepared to give answers? 15 & 16 _____

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Day Four: Chapter 4

Prayer: To the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who suffered for us we come in humble thanks. When we acknowledge how Christ suffered for us we realize that our mere sufferings are nothing. Help us to stand firm in any suffering we experience so that You may receive glory. Amen!

15. What should your attitude be toward suffering? 1 _____

16. Why do some people think Christians are strange? 4 _____

17. We have each been given gifts, how are we to use them? 7 – 11 _____

18. How are Christians to react to suffering? 12 – 19 _____

Day Five: Chapter Five

19. How are elders, shepherds, (ourselves) instructed to serve? 1 – 3 _____

20. Who is the Chief Shepherd? 4 _____

21. How are young men to act? 5 _____

22. Why should Christians be humble? _____

23. Who seeks to devour us and how are we to react? _____

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Prayer: Father, you are the God of all grace. We thank you that through Christ you have promised to make us strong, firm and steadfast as we journey through this world. All power is Yours for ever and ever. Amen!