



GLC PRESENTS:
▲BOOK STUDIES

1 PETER

CHRIST OUR HOPE

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1 PETER: CHRIST OUR HOPE

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THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

Christ our Hope

INTRODUCTION

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:1a)

In the summer of 64 AD a fire broke out in the merchant area of ancient Rome. The fire quickly spread across the narrow streets and wooden houses and burned fiercely for six days. Finally it was stopped only to have it suspiciously flare up again in other locations.

Out of Rome's 14 districts only 4 remained intact after the fire. Three were burned to the ground and the other seven were left with only a few buildings intact. People were furious and scared, not only were their homes gone but their gods and goddesses had proved themselves powerless to stop the fire. The Great Temples of Jupiter and Luna were gone, the Ara Maxima and the Shrine of Vesta burned. The economic losses were staggering but the religious loss was felt just as strongly as their own idols and deities became victims of the fire as well.

The people of Rome were enraged believing that their Emperor was to blame. Nero's lust to build new things was well known and having run out of space many believed that he had ordered the fires started while he was in Antium about 35 miles away, to clear space for new building projects. A rumor started that upon his return to the city he went to his private stage and sang about the burning of the ancient city of Troy while Rome itself burned.

While it is difficult to prove exactly what happened all those years ago, we do know one thing for sure, Nero needed to redirect the people's rage somewhere else and he chose the Christians. They were already hated because of their association with the Jews and their refusal to accept the Emperor as a god. Many false rumors had been circulated about them and they were generally despised as the message they preached caused great division in every area of society. This made the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ an easy target.

There has always been opposition to the gospel and minor persecutions had broken out in various places but nothing on the scale of what was to come after July 18th 64 AD. Following the fire in Rome Christians throughout the Roman Empire were hated, humiliated, hunted and executed for their faith in Jesus Christ. This great period of persecution would continue in varying degrees for well over 200 years. Christians were burned alive, crucified, thrown to wild beasts, tortured, raped and sold into slavery.

The situation looked hopeless and naturally believers wanted to know where God was and why He allowed His people to suffer so greatly. It is into this context that the Holy Spirit of God stirred up the great Apostle of Hope and compelled him to write this letter.

A. The Writer of the Letter.

As we examine the New Testament, Paul is clearly the Apostle of Faith and John was widely known as the Apostle of Love but it is Peter that we turn to for a message of hope when the whole world seems to be coming apart around us.

Peter was one of the first disciples that Jesus called. (*Mark 1:16–17*) He was later appointed as an Apostle (*Matthew 10:2*) and since he often spoke for them and is always listed first in the Bible it would be reasonable to say he was their leader. (*Luke 6:12–16*)

He is known by several names. His original Hebrew name was Simeon or Simon in Greek. Jesus later changed it to the Greek name Peter often translated into Aramaic as Cephas. (*John 1:42*) Peter means ‘rock’ and he would need to live up to his name and stand firm as he led God’s people through the fiery trials ahead.

There is little reason to doubt his authorship of the letter. The letter itself claims him as the author and contains many clues proving that the author was intimately acquainted with the Lord Jesus while He was on earth. It even speaks of him as an eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ. (*1 Peter 5:1*) In addition to these things, Church History also bears witness to his authorship of the letter. While he did not write a gospel himself, the gospel of Mark was written by Mark as he travelled around with Peter and his wife. Yes, Peter was married and his wife travelled with him, they were a ministry team. (*1 Corinthians 9:5*)

Peter was an ordinary person just like most of us. He was no scholar and he was not schooled in theology like Paul. (*2 Peter 3:15–16*) He was born into poverty and raised as a fisherman. He carried on the family business until Jesus called him to be an Apostle.

Peter's life was filled with lessons preparing him for future service. One day we find him on a boat learning obedience (*Luke 5:5–11*) and the next in the water learning about faith. (*Matthew 14:28–33*) He learned about humility and love during a meal as God the Son washed his dirty feet and in a garden that same night he learned about the importance of prayer and its relationship to temptation. (*Matthew 26:36–41*)

He learned all he would ever need to know about the crushing guilt and agonizing shame of failure, as he was handed over to Satan, by God, to be tested (*Luke 22:31*) and ended up denying the one he loved the most three times. (*Matthew 26:69–75*) Then having returned to his old life of fishing a broken man, he experienced the incredible love and forgiveness of God as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself restored him to service and commanded him to feed His lambs or Pastor His Church. (*John 21:15–17*)

Forged into a great leader by the fires of suffering and filled by the Holy Spirit, Peter writes this remarkable letter overflowing with hope. What comfort, challenge and cheer this simple letter must have brought those early Christians as they faced the wrath of mighty Rome and its puppet master Satan himself (*1 Peter 5:8*) and what comfort it will bring us, if we learn and apply the simple principles we find within its pages.

B. The Recipients of the Letter.

“To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.” (1 Peter 1:1b–2)

There were already many Jewish communities living throughout the Roman Empire. The Assyrian and Babylonian captivities had scattered them throughout Asia Minor. They were known as the ‘diaspora’ and it was the practice of the Apostles to take the gospel to them first and then to the gentiles in the area. (*Acts 17:1–2*) So there were many churches scattered among these communities.

It was never God’s will for all the early believers to stay in Jerusalem, (*Acts 1:8*) so He had permitted a time of persecution that scattered them (*Acts 7–8:3*) and many Jews fled taking the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ with them. Through trade, visiting pilgrims (*Acts 8:39*) and even Roman soldiers the gospel had spread throughout the Empire. While this letter may well have gone to the Jewish Christians first it was by no means intended for them alone. In fact Peter gives us three categories that his intended audience fall into.

1. His geographic audience.

He is writing to believers that are scattered throughout Asia Minor or Modern day Turkey.



2. His sociological audience.

He is writing to believers that are aliens or strangers in this world. Just as the Jewish people had been displaced from their homeland, so we too as children of God have been displaced from ours. Peter wants all believers to remember that they are temporary residents here not permanent settlers. The way we live and act should reflect where we actually belong. If heaven is truly our home and our treasure is really there then we will not buy into the value systems of this world.

Many Christians today make the mistake of trying to make the world think we are just like them. They try to embrace this world and its culture, thinking it will bring more people to Christ, but this is a mistake that Peter will make very clear throughout this letter. We are called to live separated or holy lives that shine with the blazing light of Christlikeness. There should be no question in the minds of those who know us that we are children of the living God and this world is not our home.

3. His theological audience.

Thirdly and finally, Peter launches into a theological description of his intended audience. While his opening statement may seem quite controversial in today's theological climate, it is not his intention to stir up a theological debate about sovereignty and human responsibility but rather his intention is to encourage people that are enduring or about to endure a time of severe testing, trials and tribulation.

- a. Firstly, He reminds them that they are God's treasured possession, chosen and called out of this fallen world. You may be unpopular and suffering right now, He permits it for a time only because it will work together for your good and His glory, (*Romans 8:28*) but He chose you and you belong to Him.

The word 'foreknowledge' is not saying that God knew beforehand, that would be stating the obvious, after all He is all knowing. However, it is often used in the Bible to emphasize how God sets His love upon His people in a personal way. The Bible says that Adam knew Eve and she gave birth to Cain. (*Genesis 4:1*) Peter's intention here is to encourage people in their suffering, so he reminds them that God the Father knew them or set His love upon them before they were even born. He chose you and you were fearfully and wonderfully made for Him. (*Psalms 139:13-14*)

Never forget you are a love gift from the Father to the Son and the Lord Jesus has promised to never lose you. (*John 6:37-40*) His desire is to see you in heaven with Him, sharing in His glory and that is exactly what will happen no matter how bad things may get down here. (*John 17:24*)

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- b. He also reminds them that they have been brought into a New Covenant, cleansed from their sins by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and that as their loving Lord He expects their loving obedience in return. (*John 14:15*)

Scholars believe that the statement ‘sprinkled with His blood’ looks back to the time of the Old Covenant when Moses sprinkled the people of Israel (*Exodus 24:7–8*) and compares it to the New Covenant where obedience comes after cleansing. Simply put, Peter is saying that a coming to Christ by faith activates the New Covenant where He promises to forgive your sins and you promise to obey Him and follow Him as Lord and God, all the days of your life.

- c. Finally, He reminds them of the role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation. He loves us to, and has consecrated us or set us apart for God. This process of sanctification starts the moment we are truly saved and continues throughout our lives (*2 Corinthians 3:18*) until finally we arrive in heaven and are glorified, perfect and free from sin.

In the meantime we are to live holy lives that practically reflect who we are positionally in Christ. We have been declared righteous by God and now it is the will of God that we live holy lives that reflect our true nature as His children. (*1 Peter 1:16*)

Isn't it incredible to see the entire Trinity at work in our salvation? We have been chosen by the love of the Father, purchased by the love of the Son and we are set apart by the love of the Holy Spirit. He does not give up His children, and no matter how tough life may get, we can be certain that He has never left us and He has certainly never forsaken us. (*Hebrews 13:5*)

C. The Reason for the Letter.

Is clearly given in Chapter 5:12. Here Peter gives us three reasons that actually sum up the rest of the book. He has written this letter so that:

1. We will be encouraged during times of great testing, trials and tribulation.
2. We will gain understanding about God's grace during these times.
3. We will learn to stand firm no matter what we may be required to suffer for His name.

“Something beautiful, something good

All my confusion, He understood

All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife

But He made something beautiful of my life”

SESSION 1

Christ our Hope: Hope and Holiness in a Hostile World

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (1 Peter 1:1–3)

Christ Our Hope

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chapter 1 – 2:10 | Our Living Hope | How to respond to salvation. |
| Chapter 2:11 – 4:11 | Our Pilgrim Life | How to react in submission. |
| Chapter 4:12 – 5:14 | Our Fiery Trial | How to rejoice when suffering. |

I. Our Living Hope

One of the most thrilling things about being born again is that it is just the beginning of an exciting journey.

- Our natural birth brought us into this world as sinners, separated from God and without hope.
- Our spiritual birth has made us alive in Christ and as God's children we have a great living hope.

HEBREWS 6:19

*This hope we have as an **anchor of the soul**, a hope both **sure** and **steadfast** and one which enters within the veil,*

“In the Bible the word hope is not a wish, it is not a fantasy, it is not an illusion, it is not a plan that someone works out, it is a reality. It is a fact not yet realized. But it is nonetheless a fact and nonetheless a reality.”

DR. JOHN MACARTHUR

- So simply put, hope is a future certainty that is established in our present reality.
- It is essential for the Christian life and shares a symbiotic relationship with both our faith and our love.

“You must have noticed that Scripture links faith, hope and love, and groups them together again and again. Hope is the middle term between faith and love. Hope keeps faith from collapsing under the burden of disappointment and delay. Hope keeps love from dissolving under the acids of frustration. Hope fortifies love and lends it resilience. Hope stiffens faith and forestalls collapse.”

VICTOR SHEPHERD

The Bible also assures us that it is a living hope. This simply means that it will grow in strength and produce fruit as time passes.

- For the unbeliever hope fades and dies.
- For the believer hope grows and gives way to reality.

Now Peter gives us **five reasons** why our hope should grow and strengthen us during times of suffering.

REASONS FOR OUR HOPE

The believers Peter was writing to were under a great deal of pressure already but that was nothing compared to the wave of hatred that was about to engulf many of them.

- So he starts by reminding them that they are God's treasured and chosen possession.
- Then he exhorts them to choose praise in response to pressure and pain.
- When suffering comes He wants us to enter into the presence of our Father in heaven with bold confidence and thankful worship.

A. Our Promised Inheritance.

The first thing we can praise Him for is our future inheritance. The final form of our salvation or what we call our glorification.

“to obtain an **inheritance** which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven for you,**” (1 Peter 1:4)

1. The fact that we would need to be reminded to praise God for our salvation is simply evidence of how sinful our hearts really are.
2. Prior to our salvation we were: Heirs of God’s eternal wrath. (Ephesians 2:3)
3. But now we are:
 - a. Heirs of God’s eternal life and kingdom. (Romans 8:15-17)
 - Titus 3:7
 - Psalm 73:25, Song of Solomon 2:16
 - Hebrews 1:2

Every single one of God’s children will inherit by divine grace what the Lord Jesus Christ has inherited by divine right.

C. Our Proven Faith.

- The true believer finds great joy in suffering.
- In fact the Greek word here is ‘agalliao’ and it means continuous super abundant joy.

*“In this **you greatly rejoice**, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the **proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”*
(1 Peter 1:6–7)

1. In ancient times they would subject metals to intense heat. If the product passed through the fire and was totally burned up they knew there was no gold there.
2. The test is for your benefit not God’s, he already knows if your faith is real.

Severe trials prove our faith is genuine and bring us great joy once we have passed the test.

“Amid the ashes of our pain lie the sparks of our joy ready to flare up when breathed on by the Holy Spirit.”

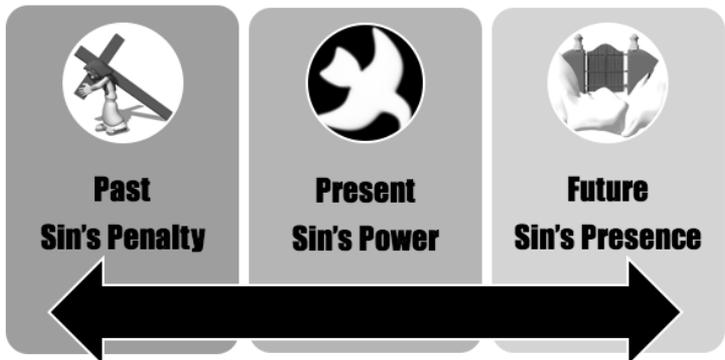
CHARLES SPURGEON

2. It is important to note that this supernatural and inexpressible joy that we experience is not in the suffering itself.

*“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who **for the joy set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)*

3. Verse 9 is in the **present tense** and is a little confusing in the English.

*Obtaining [having obtained] as the **outcome of your faith** the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:9)*



E. Our Prophesied Salvation.

Finally, in this first section Peter wants us to get a right perspective on suffering.

*“As to this salvation, **the prophets** who prophesied of **the grace** that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time **the Spirit of Christ** within them was indicating as He predicted **the suffering of Christ and the glories to follow**. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through **those who preached the gospel to you** by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – things into which **angles long to look**.” (1 Peter 1:10–12)*

Here we have 6 reasons why we should be far more appreciative of our salvation and ready to endure any trial in light of it.

1. The Prophets of God were amazed by it. (V:10)
2. The Grace of God came to us by it. (V:10)
3. The Spirit of God planned and predicted it. (V:11)
4. The Son of God was humiliated and exalted to achieve it. (V:11)
5. The Apostles gave up everything to preach it. (V:12)
6. The Angels of God long to understand it. (V:12)

II. A Right Response

From verse 13 onwards all the verbs change from the indicative mode to the imperative.

- This simply means that Peter is no longer stating facts that are true of us.
- He is now giving us commands to obey.

The reason for the change is simple. Peter is no longer addressing the wonder of our salvation. He is telling us that a right response to it is required.

- The word ‘Therefore’ tells us that Peter is transitioning from information to application.
- He has been reminding us about the greatness of our salvation.
- Now he will tell us what God requires from us in return for such an awesome work of grace.

*“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do **not be conformed** to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)*

A. He Demands our Hope.

We are obeying this command when we learn to live our present life in the light of our glorious future.

1. Faith and hope are related to each other and strengthen each other.
2. Biblical Faith is complete trust in God's character and word.
3. Biblical hope is the anticipation, expectation and assurance that what has been promised will become reality.

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:13)

1. Main Verb = **FIX**

Your mind must be _____ on the return of Christ.

2. Participle = **PREPARE**

Your mind must be _____ about the return of Christ.

3. Participle = **SOBER**

Your mind must be _____ on the return of Christ.

The early church believed in the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ they bet their lives on it and lived in the light of it.

B. He Demands our Holiness.

It is clear that the early church believed in His imminent return. In fact both Peter and Paul had to write to encourage them because it was taking a while. (2 Peter 3:3–9, 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)

*“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. **We know that when He appears, we will be like Him**, because we will see Him just as He is. And **everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**” (1 John 3:2–3)*

1. Our God is a holy God and He require His children to live holy lives as well.
 - a. He has called us out of slavery to sin and made us slaves to righteousness.
 - b. God requires His children to represent Him.

*As obedient children, **do not be conformed to the former lusts** which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;** (1 Peter 1:14–15)*

2. In verse 16 Peter is quoting from Leviticus 11:44-45 and he wants us to understand that God saved us to be His children.
 - a. We were meant to _____ Him.
 - b. We were meant to _____ Him.

*“Because it is written, **“YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”** (1 Peter 1:16)*

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3. In Leviticus chapters 18 – 26 our holy God repeats the following 47 times in two forms:

“I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD”

“I AM THE LORD”

4. God saved His people and placed His Holy Spirit within them so that they would live holy lives and put His glory on display in this fallen world.
 - a. Do you love holiness?
 - b. Do you long for holiness?
 - c. Do you pursue holiness?

C. He Demands our Honor.

Today many “Christians” treat God with utter disrespect. They have lost all sense of God’s absolute holiness and perfection.

*“If you address as **Father** the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, **conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;**” (1 Peter 1:17)*

1. Peter says, if God really is your Father you had better start acting like it because:
 - a. Hebrews 12:7-8

 - a. Romans 14:10-12

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2. Peter commands us to treat God with the reverence, awe and honor He deserves.

 3. God will not be mocked, especially by His own people.
 - a. Acts 5:1–11

 - b. 1 Corinthians 11:27–32

D. He Demands our Heart.

As we close this final section of our study Peter draws our attention back to our salvation. He focusses on one specific aspect of our salvation, our redemption.

*“knowing that you were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,” (1 Peter 1:18)*

1. The word redeemed in Peter’s day was a common term used in slavery.
 - a. History tells us that there were around 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire.

 - b. Many of the early Christians were slaves. (*Philemon 1:16*)

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2. For most slaves, life was futile and without hope. You were someone else's property and they could do with you as they pleased.

 3. Peter reminds us that before we met Jesus we were slaves to sin and lived futile lives without any hope for the future.
 - a. Romans 5:12
 - b. Isaiah 64:6

Peter reminds us that the price for our freedom was not silver or gold but blood.

*“but with the **precious blood**, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, **the blood of Christ.**” (1 Peter 1:19)*

God loved us so much that He offered up His only Son. He shed the precious blood of Jesus to purchase forgiveness for our sin.

4. Peter then tells us how great that love is. Our redemption was planned out before the world was even made.

*“For He was foreknown **before the foundation of the world**, but has appeared in these last times **for the sake of you**” (1 Peter 1:20)*

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Chosen | v1 |
| Foreknown | v2 |
| Sanctified | v2 |
| Sprinkled | v2 |
| Born Again | v3 |
| Heirs | v4 |
| Protected | v5 |
| Redeemed | v18 |

Who will enjoy all these monumental privileges?

*“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.**”
(1 Peter 1:21)*

Theology of Redemption

- ✓ We are redeemed from slavery to sin and a futile life.
- ✓ We are redeemed with precious blood.
- ✓ We are redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ We are redeemed for a personal relation with God through Him.

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I. Our Living Hope

A. Reasons for our Hope

1. Our Promised Inheritance.
2. Our Present Security.
3. Our Proven Faith.
4. Our Personal Joy.
5. Our Prophesied Salvation.

B. Responses to our Hope

1. Towards God.

- a. He demands our hope.

- b. He demands our holiness.

- c. He demands our honor.

- d. He demands our heart.

2. Towards Others

Our great salvation and living hope also demands a right response towards other believers.

- a. This great living hope will manifest itself and transform our lives:
 - We will live separated lives.

 - We will live reverent lives.

 - We will live devoted lives.

 - We will live self-sacrificial lives.

- b. Peter received this command from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and it had a profound impact on His life.
 - the love that we ourselves have received freely from God we are required to freely give to each other.

-
- 1 Peter 1:22
 - 1 Peter 2:17
 - 1 Peter 4:8
 - 1 Peter 5:14

*Since **you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls** for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, (1 Peter 1:22)*

- c. At first glance many people interpret this verse badly saying that works are necessary for our salvation.

*but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, **leading to obedience of faith; (Romans 16:26)***

- d. When we go out and share our faith with others we are calling them to repentance for sin and faith in Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21)

Ezekiel 36:25-27

-
- e. So here we have both the sovereign and the human sides to salvation.

True Salvation begins and then continues in obedient faith.

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; (John 8:31)

- f. Your souls were purified so that you would have the capacity to love your new family, the church and be a witness.
- Supernatural Love
 - Sincere Love
 - Sacrificial Love

Believers today often focus on their differences but the Bible encourages us to focus on what we have in common.

for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. (1 Peter 1:23)

As brothers and sisters born into God’s family, God demands that we sacrificially love and care for each other.

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- g. Peter quotes from Isaiah 40:6-8, a passage which prophesied the destruction of one of the most impressive and powerful kingdoms in human history, Babylon.

*For, ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS **WITHERS**, AND THE FLOWER **FALLS** OFF, BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.” And **this is the word which was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:24-25)***

- We received the same **eternal Word**.
- We were born again in the same **eternal family**.
- We received the same **eternal life**.
- We are part of the same **eternal kingdom**.

**Now we must learn to care for one another
with the same eternal love.**

3. Towards Ourselves

Lastly Peter turns his attention to God's demands for our own personal life.

- Our great salvation and living hope demands a total transformation of the way we think, speak and act.
- In order for that to happen the believer must **desire**, **delight** in and **depend** on the Word of God.

The living hope we rejoice in is always found together with the living Word we rest in.

Job 23:12, Psalm 19:10, Jeremiah 15:16, Psalm 119

We grow to be like the God of the Word when we desire, delight in and depend on the Word of God.

- a. Something you must **remember**.

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, (1 Peter 2:1)

The word 'therefore' directs our attention back to verse 23. **Salvation came to us through the Word of God.**

- Remember how the living word saved you.
- Remember how the living word changed you.
- Remember how the living word transforms you.

-
- b. Something you must **remove**.

*Therefore, **putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, (1 Peter 2:1)***

The term ‘put aside’ is a participle that modifies the main verb in verse 2, which is ‘long for’.

- Peter could have chosen any sin but he chooses a small list of sins that attack brotherly love:
 - Malice =
 - Deceit =
 - Hypocrisy =
 - Envy =
 - Slander =

“EITHER THIS BOOK WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN,
OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM THIS BOOK.”

JOHN BUNYAN

-
- c. Something you must **recognise**.

*like newborn babies, **long for the pure milk of the word**, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.*

(1 Peter 2:2)

Growth comes through the pure milk of the Word of God, substitutes will not do!

*If you have tasted **the kindness of the Lord**. (1 Peter 2:3)*

- If we have experienced God's kindness in salvation, these things should be true of us:
 - 1 Peter 1:23
 - 1 Peter 2:1
 - 1 Peter 2:2

Then you will grow strong in the Word and you will be able to stand.

- Spiritual Anorexia
 - Periods without eating. =
 - Followed by binges. =
 - Followed by vomiting. =
 - Excessive exercise. =
 - Depression. =
 - Social isolation. =

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Do you crave the Word of God like a new born baby craves milk? If not, what do you think is wrong?
 - Not saved?
 - Backslidden in sin?
 - Too much junk food? (TV, internet, music, books, etc.)

C. Rewards to our Hope

In the next section Peter wants us to realize that our rejection and suffering in this world is something that the Lord Jesus understands and rewards.

- He is called a living stone.
- The word for stone is 'lithos' and it is a stone that builders would select and use.
- Ancient builders would prepare stones and evaluates them. Many would be rejected and some chosen for special tasks.

*And coming to Him as to **a living stone** which has bee rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,
(1 Peter 2:4)*

- The most important stone was called the cornerstone. It would set the symmetry of the whole building.
- They evaluated Him using their traditions and works based religion and He did not meet their standards.

Isaiah 53:2-5

*And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,
(1 Peter 2:4)*

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and **the life**; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14:6)*

1. We share the **same life**.

We did not reject Him, we came to Him because He is the Living Stone and the source of all spiritual life.

you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **(1 Peter 2:5)**



- a. Peter knew that God now dwelt within the hearts of His people, we are the living stones that make us His temple now.

2. We enjoy the **same access**.

Peter wants you to know that the old priesthood is gone and now every true disciple of Jesus Christ is a vital part of a new priestly order.

*you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a **holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** (1 Peter 2:5)*

- a. We call this doctrine the “priesthood of all believers” and while Peter clearly understood it and taught it, it was lost for over a thousand years.
 - Every believer has immediate access to God.
 - Every believer is expected to serve God personally.
 - Every believer commanded to bring others to God.

Every true believer is a priest called to know and serve God personally.

- b. To prove that all he is saying was prophesied in the scriptures Peter refers to **three** Old Testament passages.
 - Firstly, Isaiah 28:16
 - Secondly, Psalm 118:22
 - Thirdly, Isaiah 8:14

3. We rejoice in the **same citizenship**.

In verse 9 is monumental description of church and of who we are in Christ.

*But you are **A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION**, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; (1 Peter 2:9)*

- A Chosen Race =

 - A Royal Priesthood =

 - A Holy Nation =

 - A People for God =
- a. He called us out of darkness and into His marvellous light so that we would proclaim who He is and what He has done to the world.
- The Greek word for 'excellencies' literally means "the ability to do heroic deeds".

 - We have been called by God to 'exaggello' or 'advertise' God's heroic deeds in Christ to the world.

 - Just in case all this blessing and all these titles are going to our head, Peter finishes by reminding us of two things:

for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are **THE PEOPLE OF GOD**; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have **RECEIVED MERCY. (1 Peter 2:10)**

So Peter reminds us of what we were before Christ referring to Hosea 2:23 and the prophecy that one day God would call both Jews and Gentiles His People.

- i. Remember your life before you became a child of God.

- ii. Remember your life before you received His compassion.
 - Without saving faith.

 - Without a living hope.

 - Without His eternal love.

When the trials of life threaten to overwhelm you, place your faith in Him, He is the solid rock we can depend on :

- He was chosen, precious in God's sight.
- He was rejected by men and suffered at their hands.
- He was raised and glorified to rule and reign.

Just like you!

His rejection and suffering while difficult for Him meant glory for us.

Now our rejection and suffering while difficult for us brings glory to Him.

GROUP DISCUSSION

What was your life like before you were saved by God's grace and experienced God's love?

Do you really live your life in the light of our living hope? What things need to change in order for you to be an effective witness to others?

Christ Our Hope

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chapter 1 – 2:10 | Our Living Hope | How to respond to salvation. |
| Chapter 2:11 – 4:11 | Our Pilgrim Life | How to react in submission. |
| Chapter 4:12 – 5:14 | Our Fiery Trial | How to rejoice when suffering. |

I. Our Living Hope

A. Reasons for our Hope

B. Responses for our Hope

C. Rewards for our Hope

II. Our Pilgrim Life

I wonder how Peter would react if he was permitted to come and view the church today?

- Modern Christianity has all but lost the concept of the ‘pilgrim life’.
- Today Christians are not Pilgrims passing through this world on their way to heaven. *They have settled* here.
- In fact, this concept is rarely taught and death is something to be avoided at all costs.

Today, all Christians seems to care about is the here and now. Few seem to live each day longing for our Lord’s return.

- We have been scattered among the nations of the world to live as lights that draw people to Jesus.
- We have been told not to accept their goals, standards and morals.
- We have been called to live separate, holy lives that prove to the world around us that we are children of God and citizens of heaven.

Revelation 2:9; Revelation 3:17

- The truth is, many despise Christ and His Church today because the hypocritical lives that are lived by many that call themselves Christians.
- We are called to live lives that “*silence the ignorance of foolish men.*” [1 Peter 2:15]

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

MATTHEW 5:16

1. The Pilgrim Life: As Aliens.

- Today we do not live with death as ancient believers did. For the most part we live comfortable lives and expect to outlive our children and die peacefully in our sleep.
 - *John Owen lost 10 of his 11 children before they became adults and his surviving daughter died a young woman.*
- The early church understood how brief life really is, living with wars, sickness and the constant threat of persecution.
- There is nothing wrong with gratefully enjoying the blessings God gives us here and now.

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your **behavior excellent** among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, **glorify God in the day of visitation.**

1 PETER 2:11-12

a. Prepare you mind.

Peter begins this new section by reminding them that they are greatly love by God. We are His children and heaven is our home.

| Word | Greek Word | Phonetic spelling | Pronunciation | Literal meaning |
|----------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--|
| alien | πάροικος | paroikos | par' – oy - kos | Close beside the house Alien resident Foreigner Temporary dweller |
| stranger | παρεπίδημος | parepidémos | par – ep – id' – ay – mos | Sojourner Pilgrim Living in a stranger country. Passing through |

This is why he now refers to us as aliens and strangers in this fallen world.

- John 3:16
- 2 Corinthians 2:17
- John 16:27
- Romans 12:10
- 2 Corinthians 5:8
- 1 Peter 1:15

b. Prepare for war.

In order to be effective witnesses we must practice what we preach and prove that our relationship with Jesus Christ is real.

| Word | Greek Word | Phonetic spelling | Pronunciation | Literal meaning |
|------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| war | στρατεύομαι | strateuó | strat – yoo’ – om – ahee | To wage war To fight To contend |

For the **flesh** sets its desire against the **Spirit**, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in **opposition to one another**, so that you may not do the things that you please.

GALATIANS 5:17

- Your flesh is your old sinful nature and when temptation comes it appeals to your flesh.

A simple lesson to remember is that the one you feed, equip and train well will win!

But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

GALATIANS 5:16

Being filled with the Spirit is living in the conscious presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, letting His mind, through the Word, dominate everything that is thought and done.

DR. JOHN MACARTHUR

c. Prepare for persecution.

- Winning the internal war is essential to our external witness because internal purity will produce external fruit.

- The term 'day of visitation' is debated and there are several interpretations:
 - Matthew 5:16

 - Philippians 2:9-11

The credibility of the gospel message is inseparably tied to the lives of the people that claim to believe it.

2. The Pilgrim Life: As Citizens.

- Peter knows that the transforming power of the gospel message must be put on display in the lives of transformed people.
 - The way we conduct ourselves in society makes our message believable.
 - The way we live our daily lives in this world will either help or harm our gospel witness.
 - The way we live under persecution will powerfully drive home the truth of our message.

a. The Command.

We are commanded to live in a submissive and humble way in an unjust society that wants to hurt us.

- Proverbs 24:21
- Jeremiah 29:4-7
- Romans 13:12

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the **punishment** of evildoers and the **praise** of those who do right.

1 PETER 2:13-14

b. The Reason.

- Peter makes the reason very clear. We are to live this way because it is God's will.

Jesus answered, **“My kingdom is not of this world.**
If My kingdom were of this world, then
My servants would be fighting so that I would
not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is,
My kingdom is not of this realm.”

J O H N 18:36

**Today Christians are constantly using carnal
methods to deal with spiritual issues.**

- Please remember that when we obey the law we bring righteous living down to a level that the world can understand.

For such is the will of God that **by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.** Act as free men, and **do not use your freedom as a covering for evil,** but use it as bondslaves of God.

1 P E T E R 2:15–16

- When we obey the law we are living at the highest standard they can grasp.
- This honors God and silence critics. Allowing us to deal with the more important issue, the salvation of their souls.
- Don't you dare use your freedom in Christ as a license to:

c. **The Exception.**

As Peter closes the little section on citizens he reminds us that the gospel message travels more freely when we:

Honor all people, love the brotherhood,
fear God, honor the king.

1 PETER 2:17

- But what happens when society demands that we disobey God?
- Consider Daniel: Daniel 6:10, 22, 26, 28
- Let Peter interpret his own command for us.

But **Peter** and the apostles answered,
“We must obey God rather than men.”

ACTS 5:29

**Our testimony and our freedom to make disciples
is greatly enhanced by our obedient submission
to the rulers of this world.**

GROUP DISCUSSION

Which area of the pilgrim life do you struggle the most?

In what ways can you improve your testimony as you seek to be a witness there. (Be specific)

3. The Pilgrim Life: As Employees.

- A. It is hard for modern Christians to understand slavery as it existed in the ancient world. To be owned by another person and to have no rights at all is unthinkable to us. However, the same principles that applied to Christian slaves still apply to us today.
- The real issue is one of authority. God has established different forms of authority and expects His people to **submit** to them.
 - God as the supreme authority.
 - Romans 13:1-7
 - 1 Peter 3:1-6
 - Ephesians 6:1-4
 - Hebrews 13:17
 - Employers over employees.
 - It may shock you to know that Jesus, Peter and Paul never advocated equal rights in society.

a. **The Mandate.**

Servants, **be submissive to your masters** with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but **also to those who are unreasonable.**

1 PETER 2:18

- Is to submit and show respect to your employer regardless how unfair they are.

b. **The Mission.**

For **this finds favor**, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows **when suffering unjustly**. For **what credit is there** if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if **when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.**

1 PETER 2:19–20

- It pleases God when we put our faith in Him on display by **maintaining a good testimony** at our place of employment.

**Rebellion may get you what you want
but it will cost you what you need,
God's blessing and favor.**

B. Our Standard

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.**

1 PETER 2:21

- Is the example of Jesus Christ Himself. He was sent to patiently endure suffering He did not deserve.
- The Cross before the Crown
- Luke 21:12-17
- 2 Timothy 3:12

WHO COMMITTED **NO SIN**, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

ISAIAH 53:9

and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; (Isaiah 53:7) while suffering, He uttered no threats, but **kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;**

1 PETER 2:22-23

- a. He committed no _____.
- b. He told no _____.
- c. He refused to _____.
- d. He _____ God.

C. Our Substitute

Peter refers to Isaiah 53 five times in this short section. No one has suffered more unjustly than the Lord Jesus Himself.

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, **so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness**; for by His wounds you were healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

1 PETER 2:24

Just as His suffering provided spiritual healing for you. So you will your suffering lead others to spiritual healing in Him.

C. Our Shepherd

The People of Peter's day had no problem understanding the role of the shepherd.

For you were continually straying like sheep (Isaiah 53:6), but now **you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.**

1 PETER 2:25

- Isaiah 53:6
- Now they had repented and were under His protection.
- Sheep are **completely dependent upon the Shepherd**. He has become both our **Pastor** (Shepherd) and our **Overseer** (Guardian).

4. The Pilgrim Life: As Wives.

- As we approach this often controversial subject we must not forget the context!
 - Peter is writing to persecuted believers who are living in a hostile situation.
 - i. Hostile Government
 - ii. Hostile Employment
 - iii. Hostile Marriage
- Please notice that this passage is not a discussion on Christian marriage or the equality of the sexes.
 - This is all about making the gospel real, believable and attractive to an unsaved spouse.
 - The second thing to notice is that 6 verses are given to the wife and only 1 to the husband.
 - This is simply because the repercussions were much higher if the wife was saved first in that culture. Her life was in danger and her opinion and unwanted.
- The other danger was that her own attitude towards her husband might change.
- Before we look at the will of God for women in this situation notice what you are **not** told to do:
 - Do not seek to _____ him.
 - Do not _____ at him.
 - Do not _____ him.
 - Do not _____ against him.

In the same way, you wives **be submissive to your own husbands** so that even if any of the are disobedient to the word, **they may be won without a word** by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your **chaste** and **respectful** behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external – braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

1 PETER 3:1–4

| Word | Greek Word | Phonetic spelling | Pronunciation | Literal meaning |
|------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| submissive | ὑποτάσσω | hupotassó | hoop-ot-as'-so | To line up under. (Military) Take your proper place. Submit. Under God's arrangement. |

a. Won with her _____. [1 Peter 3:1]

b. Won with her _____. [1 Peter 3:1]

A loving, submissive wife is an incredible witness to God's saving power.

c. Won with her _____. [1 Peter 3:2]

There is **great potential for unfaithfulness** in this situation. Your needs are not being met and godly men seem so attractive.

The danger is that you will begin to desire other men over your husband.

- You must remain faithful to your God.
- You must remain faithful to your husband.

d. Won with her _____. [1 Peter 3:2]

Respect for your husband is an essential part of any successful marriage. In a mixed marriage it is even more important.

- Men long to be respected and when a wife loses respect for her husband the marriage is in terrible trouble.
- When the husband is not saved it would be easy to disrespect and even despise him.
 - How you speak to him.
 - How you speak about him.

just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, **calling him lord**, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

1 PETER 3:6

Peter is simply summing up the submissive life of a godly woman by looking back to Abraham's wife Sarah.

e. **Won with her** _____ . [1 Peter 3:3-4]

Peter is not saying don't look good. He is saying make your inner beauty the priority.

- Many women want to write these values off as cultural but they would be wrong. **God's Word is timeless in its application!**
 - Peter turns our attention back many centuries before his own time to the godly women of the past.
 - Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit he chooses Sarah, Abraham's wife.

For **in this way** in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to **adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands**; just as **Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord**, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

1 PETER 3:5-6

-
- The term **'become her children'** is important. It reminds us that as believers we are Abraham's spiritual children because **we share the same faith.** [Romans 4:11-12, Galatians 3:6-7]
 - Now Peter wants you to know that you become the spiritual daughters of Sarah when you fearless follow her godly example of

An excellent wife, who can find?
For her worth is far above jewels.

PROVERBS 31:10

GROUP DISCUSSION

In what ways does the example of Jesus Christ Himself motivate you to live a submissive life as pilgrims in this world?

Christ Our Hope

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chapter 1 – 2:10 | Our Living Hope | How to respond to salvation. |
| Chapter 2:11 – 4:11 | Our Pilgrim Life | How to react in submission. |
| Chapter 4:12 – 5:14 | Our Fiery Trial | How to rejoice when suffering. |

Our Pilgrim Life

1. The Pilgrim Life: **As Aliens**
2. The Pilgrim Life: **As Citizens**
3. The Pilgrim Life: **As Employees**
4. The Pilgrim Life: **As Wives**
5. The Pilgrim Life: **As Husbands**

5. The Pilgrim Life: As Husbands.

You husbands **in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.**

1 PETER 3:7

Notice right away the words **'in the same way.'** Some women camp in these words, however the correct interpretation will always harmonize with the rest of the God's Word.

- ▶ Husbands are to be submissive towards their wives **as well** but in a different way.
 - We do not submit to her authority, headship and demands.

 - We submit to her needs.

a. Consideration.

If a husband wants to win his unsaved wife he needs to learn to **understand her** or grow in his knowledge of her needs.

- Know her _____ needs and meet them.

- Know her _____ needs and meet them.

- Know her _____ needs and meet them. [live with]

**Do not neglect your unbelieving wife,
nourish her and cherish her.**

b. Chivalry.

While there are some scary exceptions in today's society, in general women are the physically weaker sex.

- God has designed you to _____ for your wife.
- God has designed you to _____ your wife.

c. Companionship.

- ▶ Sadly many husbands miss the subtle nuances of this verse and fail to be the companion their wife needs and longs for.
 - The term 'show her honor' literally means to **'assign value to her.'**
- ▶ Peter includes a very interesting reason for the way we should value our wives, even if they are unsaved.
 - They are 'fellow heirs of the grace of life.'
- ▶ "*so that your prayers will not be hindered.*" Peter is referring to your prayers for her salvation.

**Do not let your behavior towards your wife
hinder your prayers for her salvation.**

The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him. But out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.

MATTHEW HENRY

Peter's Summary of Life

Peter closes this section of his letter by reminding everyone that they are to live a submissive life.

- What images does the phrase *'enjoy the good life'* bring to your mind?

Plenty of people have had these things and ended up taking their own life. In fact the wisest, wealthiest, world leader to ever live said of his life...

So **I hated life**, for the work which had been done
under the sun was grievous to me;
because **everything is futility and striving after wind.**

ECCLESIASTES 2:17

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Pleasure and Humor | Ecclesiastes 2:1–2 |
| Substance Abuse | Ecclesiastes 2:3 |
| Business | Ecclesiastes 2:4 |
| Nature | Ecclesiastes 2:5-6 |
| Wealth | Ecclesiastes 2:7-8a |
| Music | Ecclesiastes 2:8b |
| Sex | Ecclesiastes 2:8c |
| Famous and Powerful | Ecclesiastes 2:9 |
| Every lust and pleasure | Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 |

The believers Peter was writing to were scattered, suffering and subjected to many different kinds of trials, temptations and tribulations.

- They longed for a better life and the good things that many of them had enjoyed in the past.
- Peter wants them to know that the ‘*good life*’ does not come through possessions, positions or the pleasures of this world.
- It comes when God adds **His blessing** to your life.

Psalm 1:1-3

According to the Psalmist the man or woman that is truly blessed by God lives a life that runs counter to the way the world lives.

- We _____ differently.
- We _____ differently.
- We _____ differently.

And **do not be conformed to this world**,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind;
so that you may prove what the will of God is,
that which is **good** and acceptable and perfect.

ROMANS 12:2

a. **Love** _____.

- ▶ As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to live life on a divine level. The divine love that was so evident in our Lord's life should be evident in ours to.
 - Philippians 2:5-8

- Philippians 2:3-4

The Levels of Life

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Divine Level | We return good for evil. |
| Human Level | We return good for good and evil for evil. |
| Satanic Level | We return evil for good. |

To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

1 PETER 3:8

- ▶ Peter lists **five** character traits we need to display in our relationships with each other. Primarily, he is addressing our minds and how we **think** towards each other.

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| harmonious | ὁμόφρων | homophrón | hom-of'-rone | Of one mind Likeminded Unity Not in conflict |
| sympathetic | συμπαθής | sumpathés | soom-path-ace' | Suffer together with Compassionate |
| brotherly | Φιλαδελφία | Philadelphia | fil-ad-el-fee'-ah | Brother love Affection for others Unselfish service |
| kindhearted | εὐσπλαγχνος | eusplagchnos | yoo'-splangkhnos | Strong bowels Strong feelings Tender hearted Filled with pity |
| humble in spirit | ταπεινόφρων | tapeinophron | tap-i-no'-frohn | Humble mind Meek Lowly Modest |

If your attitude in life is wrong you will never feel right.

b. Love your _____.

- ▶ Next Peter sums up how we should deal with our enemies and he focuses primarily on how we respond to them.

Not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but **giving a blessing instead**; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

1 PETER 3:9

- ▶ Once again, it is the example of the Lord Jesus that is on Peter's mind. No matter how badly He was treated He did not retaliate.
- ▶ Having told us not to retaliate Peter takes it to another level, the divine level and tells us to '**give a blessing**' instead.

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|----------|------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| blessing | εὐλογέω | eulogeó | yoo-log-eh'-o | Speak well of Praise Eulogize |

- The Bible has a lot to say about how we should handle our enemies and people that hurt us:
 - Matthew 5:44
 - 1 Peter 3:9
 - Luke 6:28
 - Matthew 18:23-35
 - Romans 12:20
- ▶ Peter himself wrestled with unforgiveness. He brought the issue to Jesus: *Matthew 18:21–22*

When we hurt God He did not retaliate and hurt us. He loved us, sacrificed for us, forgave us and desires our highest good.

c. Love _____.

- ▶ Finally Peter quotes from Psalm 34 to back up everything he has been saying so far.

- ▶ So how do we live the good life, please God and secure real joy and peace?
 - Purify our _____.
 - get your mouth under control.

For, THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LIVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, **MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.**

1 PETER 3:10

If your lips would keep from slips, five things observe with care; **To** whom you speak, **of** whom you speak and **how**, and **when**, and **where**.

WILLIAM NORRIS

- Purify our _____.
 - get your conduct under control.

HE MUST **TURN AWAY** FROM EVIL AND **DO** GOOD;
HE MUST **SEEK** PEACE AND **PURSUE** IT.

1 PETER 3:11

- ▶ According to Psalm 34 we can purify our life by doing 3 things:
 - *Repent* of all evil.
 - *Obey* all that is good.
 - *Seek* peace with all your might.

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|--------|------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| pursue | διώκω | dióko | dee-o'-ko | Hunt down Aggressively chase Pursue with haste Persecute |

**Christians by design are meant to be the greatest blessing
in any nation, culture, workplace or family.**

GROUP DISCUSSION

Do you agree that selfishness and a lack of loving submission is the root of most relational problems? In what specific areas are you selfish and unsubmitive?

-
- ▶ *But who will look out for my interests? Do I have to be a doormat?*

**FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD
THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR
PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD
IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.**

1 PETER 3:12

- ▶ This is where living by faith gets real. Many Christians never step out in faith, so they never see anything happened.
God has told you that:
 - He is _____ over you.
 - He is _____ to and answering your prayers.
- ▶ The term **'eyes of the Lord'** speaks of His omniscient watchful care over those He loves.
- ▶ The term **'face of the Lord'** speaks of His anger with those that live in wickedness.
 - He is _____ those that are against you.

**When by faith we cling to Him, love Him and obey Him,
He fights for us.**

**The next time you think you are having
a bad day and hate life, think again.**

**If God is glorified and you are rewarded
it may be one of the best days of your life.**

How to Handle Fear

In this next section, the Holy Spirit moves Peter to address the elephant in the room.

- ▶ The issue of fear.

- ▶ It's a scary world out there for those that love righteousness and it's only getting worse.
 - Secularism
 - Materialism
 - Humanism
 - Immorality

- ▶ Society today is beginning to hate everything we stand for and a deep seated resentment towards true Christians is growing.
 - Revelation 17:6

 - The question is **how can we overcome our fear** and **make disciples** in such an environment?

 - Peter is going to give us some principles to live by that help us to **overcome fear** and **minimize the hostility** we will face.

a. Protected by _____.

There is a measure of protection in simply 'loving your neighbor' as Jesus commanded.

Who is there to harm you if you
prove zealous for what is good?

1 PETER 3:13

**Even the world has a hard time hating and harming you
when you live a truly righteous life.**

b. Protected by _____.

However this is what we call a 'truism' it is not a promise. The world we live in is ruled by Satan and there will be times when we suffer for doing good.

But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness,
you are blessed. **AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION,**
AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,

1 PETER 3:14

► So you protect yourself by expecting suffering from time to time and settling in your heart beforehand how you will respond.
[Matthew 5:10–12]

- The principle is simple, **the greater the suffering the greater the reward.**
- They cannot do anything that God does not permit and even if they kill you they **send you to your reward.**

During times of suffering there is a great temptation to compromise and form alliances with the world.

- ▶ The Holy Spirit moves Peter to remind us of King Ahaz of Judah, and the warning God sent him through Isaiah.

But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. **AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,** always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

1 PETER 3:14-15

Ahaz and the people of Judah did not realize that God had sent Assyria to judge the Northern Kingdom of Israel. (Isaiah 8:7)

- This enemy posed no threat to Judah if they learned from the mistakes of the 10 tribes in the north.
- ▶ So Peter is saying, stop fearing men and their plans to hurt you. **Jesus Christ is Lord**, fear Him.

**Fear is simply forgetting that God is in control.
When the Christian truly fears God, he fears no one else!**

c. Protected by a _____.

Verse 15 has become the rallying cry of a branch of Christian Theology called apologetics today.

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

1 PETER 3:15

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|---------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| defense | ἀπολογία | apologia | ap-ol-og-ee'-ah | From - intelligent reasoning. Reasoned defense. Well reasoned reply. |

d. Protected by a _____.

Peter turns his attention to the conscience within us. It is vital that we maintain a clear conscience.

and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

1 PETER 3:16

- A true accusation will bring feelings of guilt and put you to shame.
- A false accusation lays the guilt on them and puts your critics to shame.

Your conscience will either accuse you or excuse you.

e. Protected by a _____.

Peter finishes with a warning for all believers. Obedience to God may bring suffering but so does disobedience.

For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

1 PETER 3:17

A true Christian can choose to suffer for righteousness or for sin. Either way suffering is part of the Christian life.

Therefore, I bind these lies and slanderous accusations to my person as an ornament; it belongs to my Christian profession to be vilified, slandered, reproached and reviled, and since all this is nothing but that, as God and my conscience testify, I rejoice in being reproached for Christ's sake.

JOHN BUNYAN

GROUP DISCUSSION

We live in an increasingly hostile world. What is your biggest fear when it comes to sharing your faith within your circles of influence?

Which part of Peter's defense reassures you the most?

Christ Our Hope

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chapter 1 – 2:10 | Our Living Hope | How to respond to salvation. |
| Chapter 2:11 – 4:11 | Our Pilgrim Life | How to react in submission. |
| Chapter 4:12 – 5:14 | Our Fiery Trial | How to rejoice when suffering. |

A Theme of Suffering

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Chapter 1:6 | “distressed by various trials” |
| Chapter 1:7 | “tested by fire” |
| Chapter 2:12 | “slander you as evildoers” |
| Chapter 2:18 | “to those who are unreasonable” |
| Chapter 2:19 | “sorrows when suffering unjustly” |
| Chapter 2:20 | “harshly treated” |
| Chapter 2:20 | “patiently endure” |
| Chapter 2:21 | “you have been called for this purpose” |
| Chapter 3:9 | “not returning evil for evil” |
| Chapter 3:9 | “or insult for insult” |

A Theme of Suffering

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Chapter 3:13 | “Harm you” |
| Chapter 3:17 | “suffer for doing what is right” |
| Chapter 4:12 | “fiery ordeal among you” |
| Chapter 4:13 | “share the sufferings of Christ” |
| Chapter 4:14 | “reviled for the name of Christ” |
| Chapter 4:16 | “suffers as a Christian” |
| Chapter 4:19 | “suffer according to the will of God” |
| Chapter 5:7 | “casting all your anxiety on Him” |
| Chapter 5:9 | “experiences of suffering” |
| Chapter 5:10 | “after you have suffered for a little while” |

A Theme of Hope

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Chapter 1:3 | “a living hope” |
| Chapter 1:13 | “the revelation of Jesus Christ” |
| Chapter 2:12 | “glorify God in the day of visitation” |
| Chapter 3:18 | “He might bring us to God” |
| Chapter 4:13 | “at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice” |
| Chapter 5:4 | “when the Chief Shepherd appears” |
| Chapter 5:10 | “call you to His eternal glory in Christ” |

Our Pilgrim Life

- A. Suffering and Submission
- B. Suffering and Faith
- C. Suffering and Victory
- D. Suffering and Expectancy

C. Suffering and Victory

Peter has been exhorting us to live as citizen of heaven here on earth. Putting Jesus Christ on display through our holy and submissive lives.

- ▶ Last time he also reminded us that we should not fear men but God is ultimately in control of everything.

- ▶ Now, he wants us to understand that ***suffering is just part of the path to ultimate and complete victory.***

- ▶ Once again Peter turns to Jesus as our example and our encouragement.

1. Victorious in His Death.

It is easy to forget the context of this passage and get distracted by the controversial statement in verse 18-99.

- ▶ The simple fact of the matter is however you interpret the details of this difficult passage, the chief principle remains the same.

- ▶ Just as Christ triumphed through suffering and brought us to God. So we too, can triumph through our suffering and lead others to Him.

As we follow Him our greatest sufferings are our greatest victories, they become our greatest witness and our greatest reward.

A Note about OBSERVATION

Peter clearly wants us to consider the suffering of Jesus Christ and all that He achieved through it.

- ▶ What looked like a great victory for Satan and his fallen angels turned into their greatest defeat. [Genesis 3:15]
- ▶ On the other hand, what looked like a great defeat for Jesus Christ became His greatest victory.

A Note about INTERPRETATION

The following verses have been described as some of the most difficult to interpret in the entire New Testament.

- ▶ There are many conflicting views it is hard to be dogmatic.
- ▶ However, it is possible to faithfully interpret the passage by the following 3 simple rules:
 - Never, ever forget the context the verse is found in.
 - Compare scripture with scripture.
 - You must harmonize ALL relevant passages.

A Note about APPLICATION

There are many different views! Yet **one** guiding principle, **great victory can be achieved through great suffering.**

- ▶ It is important to recognize that God may use our suffering to draw others to Himself.
- ▶ However, our suffering and even our death, should it be required, is ***never substitutionary or redemptive.***

a. He became our _____.

For **Christ also died for sins** once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

1 PETER 3:18

Jesus came to die for sins but **not** for His own. He came to fulfil the law, living a completely sinless life. [1 Peter 2:22]

As a result of the anguish of His soul,
He will see it and be satisfied;
By His knowledge the **Righteous One**,
My Servant, will justify the many,
As **He will bear their iniquities.**

ISAIAH 53:11

- ▶ He lived a perfectly righteous life and yet He suffered unjustly because of the sin of others.
- ▶ When we live holy, separated lives ***we to will suffer unjustly*** because of the sin of others.

b. He became our _____.

Millions of sacrifices had been offered over thousands years but Jesus came to die **once**.

- ▶ He came to ***satisfy the just demands of a holy God*** by making atonement [satisfaction] for our sin.

As a result of the anguish of His soul,
He will see it and **be satisfied**;
By His knowledge the Righteous One,
My Servant, will **justify the many**,
As He will bear their iniquities.

ISAIAH 53:11

- Hebrews 10:12
- Hebrews 9:28

c. He became our _____.

For Christ also died for sins once for all, **the just for the unjust**, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

1 PETER 3:18

Peter is careful to make it clear that while we may share in the sufferings of Christ. [Philippians 3:10] Our suffering is never substitutionary or redemptive as His was.

- ▶ He suffered and died for **our** sins.
- ▶ His death was a **vicarious** one. [1 Peter 2:24]
- ▶ He became our substitute and died in our place.



JUSTIFIED = Declared Righteous by God

d. He became our _____.

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that **He might bring us to God**, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

1 PETER 3:18

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|-------|------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| bring | προσάγω | prosagó | pros-ag'-o | To lead towards. To bring to. To be an introducer. To be one who gives access. |

Jesus is the one that gives us access to God. There is NO OTHER WAY to come.

- ▶ Acts 4:12
- ▶ 1 Timothy 2:5
- ▶ John 14:6

Jesus suffered like no else ever has or ever will and yet while He was dying He was victorious purchasing salvation for everyone that would ever believe.

2. Victorious in His Burial.

Not only was Jesus victorious over sin but He was also victorious over evil spirits.

- ▶ The key to getting the next very difficult verse right is found at the end of verse eighteen.

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been **put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit**;

1 PETER 3:18

- Humanity
- Deity

And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, **“Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.”** Having said this, He breathed His last.

LUKE 23:46

- a. We cannot fully understand all that went on at the cross when Jesus died for our sin but we do know what God has told us.

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” that is, **“MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”**

MATTHEW 27:46

but made alive **in the spirit; in which also He went** and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,

1 PETER 3:18–19

- “in which” =

- “He went” =

- “made proclamation” =

- “to the spirits now in prison” =

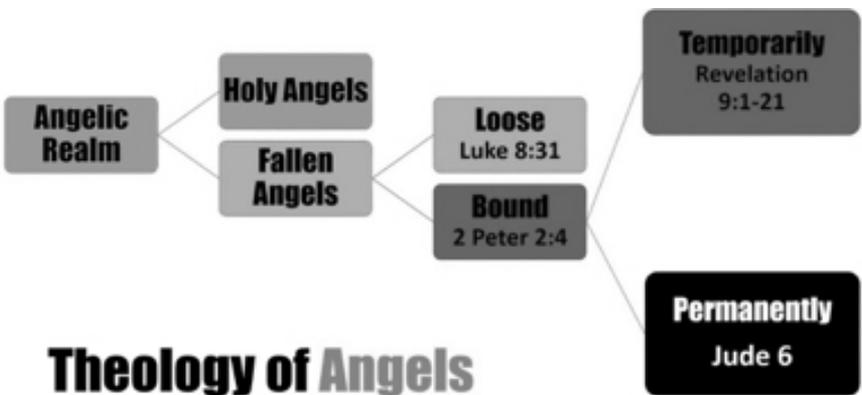
| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|--------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| preached | εὐαγγελίζω | euaggelizó | yoo-ang-ghel-id'-zo | To preach good. To proclaim the good news. To gospelize. |
| proclamation | κηρύσσω | Kérussó | kay-roos'-so | To herald. To preach. To proclaim. |

- ▶ It is important to note that Peter refers to people as “souls” and that ***nowhere in the New Testament*** is the term “*spirits*” used of humans in this way.
- ▶ Verse 22 confirms this for us by telling us that He did not go to heaven ***until the angelic realm has been subjected to Him.***
- ▶ Holy angles are already subject to Him and these angels are ***in prison***, so Peter clearly means ***demons.***

b. Now under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter tell us that these particular demons did not obey God during Noah’s time.

who **once were disobedient**, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

1 PETER 3:20



Which Angels?

Peter is talking about a particular group of fallen angels that are bound in prison until the end times or the final judgment.

- ▶ This is a prison for demons only and the Bible uses different names to describe it:
 - [Luke 8:31, Revelation 9:11, 20:1-3]

 - [Revelation 9:1-2]

 - [2 Peter 2:4]

 - [2 Peter 2:4]

Why Prison?

- ▶ They sinned. =

- ▶ They were disobedient. =

- ▶ They stepped out of their domain [angelic] beyond boundaries that God placed on them into the human realm. =

- ▶ It appears that they indulged in gross immorality and went after strange things.

-
- c. Regardless of your view of these passages one thing is clear. Certain fallen angels disobeyed God, went after strange flesh, committed immorality and caused great chaos and sin upon the earth.

What Proclamation?

in which also He went and **made proclamation**
to the spirits now in prison,

1 PETER 3:19

- ▶ The Gospel?
- ▶ Their Freedom?
- ▶ He proclaimed His _____ over them!

who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, **after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.**

1 PETER 3:22

- d. The whole demonic realm would have been celebrating the death of God's Son after all they had been trying to prevent His birth for centuries.

Our times of greatest peril are opportunities for His divine power to work, destroying the efforts of demons and demanding that people take our faith seriously.

GROUP DISCUSSION

In what ways has the victory of Jesus Christ assured us of victory? How should that encourage us during times of suffering?

3. Victorious in His Resurrection.

Finally in this difficult section Peter uses the story of Noah and the Ark as an ‘antitype’ or picture of the salvation that has come to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- a. Peter’s words are shocking as first, until he qualifies what he says by the section in dashes.

who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, **eight persons, were brought safely through the water.**

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you – **not the removal of dirt from the flesh**, but an appeal to God for a good conscience – through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1 PETER 3:20–21

- b. Baptism is a drama we act out that portrays what has ***already happened to us spiritually.***
- c. Peter now tells us that just as the ark bore the judgment of God and carried Noah’s family safely to a new life.

-
- d. So **Jesus Christ is our ark** and He bore the judgment of God for us so that He can carry us safely through the new life
- Not Water Baptism =
 - But an appeal to God for cleansing. =
 - Through the **Person** =
and **Work** of Jesus Christ.
- e. People still think baptism in water can save you. **Who** got immersed in water during the flood?
- We are not saved by getting wet.
 - We are saved when by faith, we get into the ark.

Through His death and resurrection He became an ark of safety for all who repent of their sin and place their in faith in Him.

- f. Peter then reminds us that having passed through all that suffering and death Jesus Christ now wears the victors' crown.

who is **at the right hand of God**, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

1 PETER 3:22

-
- He was _____.
 - He was _____.
 - He was _____.

In the Christian life the cross always comes before the crown. It is through the path of suffering that we reach the place of glory.

C. Suffering and Expectancy

In this final section on the Pilgrim Life we are given a long list of attitudes to have and commands to obey.

- The early church lived believing that Jesus Christ could return at any moment in time.
- No teaching is ever given to correct this thinking. The Apostles believed it too.
- They taught **extensively** about living life **expectantly**, awaiting His imminent return.

It has become popular in our day to disregard teaching about the rapture and living expectantly.

1. Looking for _____.

- a. In light of all that we have seen about Christ's victory over sin, spirits and even death we are commanded to endure suffering and seek victory as well.

Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh,
arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because
he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

1 PETER 4:1

- b. We long to be with the Lord because only then will we be free from the presence of sin.

so as **to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men**, but for the will of God. For **the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles**, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

1 PETER 4:2–3

- **Satan** has done a masterful job at ruining many Christians today:
 - The new **basis** of our faith. =
 - The new **object** of our faith. =
 - The new **goal** of our faith. =
- **Peter** is calling us back to true Christianity:
 - The basis of our faith. =
 - The object of our faith. =
 - The goal of our faith. =

Where O where are the tears in the night
The cries of repentance for a holier life
Our hearts are hardened
And our worship is cold
Our faith is weak because our prayers are old
Were just going through the motions.

STEVE CAMP

2. Looking for _____.

The second attitude that should dominate our lives is a willingness to wait for justice.

- a. Peter is really exhorting us to be patient. We may suffer at the hands of evil men, their slander may really hurt us.

In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into same excesses of dissipation,
and they malign you;

1 PETER 4:4

- b. We are to live the kind of life that surprises them and not join them in their sin.

- c. We submit and do not retaliate because:

but **they will give account to Him** who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 PETER 4:5

- He will _____ them.
- He will _____ us.

For the gospel has for this purpose **been preached** even to those who are dead, that though they **are judged** in the flesh as men, they **may live** in the spirit according to the will of God.

1 PETER 4:6

d. This verse has been argued over by many but it becomes quite clear if we just break it down into simple components:

- For the gospel has been preached =
- To those who are dead =
- Though they are judged in the flesh =
- They may live in the spirit =
- According to the will of God =

3. Looking for _____.

There are two extremes that the Christian can fall into when we consider the state of expectancy that we are meant to live under: -

- Some withdraw
- Some become fanatics.

Peter gives us *three simple areas* we need to grow in that are intended to help us find a balance between expecting His coming at any time and living productive lives while we wait.

a. Live a life of _____.

The end of all things is near; therefore, be of **sound judgment** and **sober spirit** for the purpose of **prayer**.

1 PETER 4:7

Sound Judgment =

Sober Spirit =

Serious Prayer =

To pray effectively and stand strong in times of suffering you must remain vigilant and think biblically.

The Christian life is simply thinking like Christ, so that you will act like Him and lead others to Him.

b. Live a life of _____.

Having established the priority of our relationship with God, Peter now turns to our relationship with each other.

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

1 PETER 4:8–9

- Love that keeps on _____ . [strenuously]
- Love that keeps on _____ . [continuously]
- Love that keeps on _____ . [sacrificially]

c. Live a life of _____.

Finally, Peter tells us that if we are living a holy and loving life it will show up in service as well.

As each one has received a special gift, **employ it in serving one another** as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

1 PETER 4:10

-
- Every single believer has received a spiritual gift from God. There are no exceptions.
 - Use your gift as a good _____.
 - Use your gift as a good _____.

Whoever speaks, is to do so **as one who is speaking the utterances of God**; whoever serves is to do so **as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies**; so that in all things **God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 P E T E R 4 : 1 1

- There are two categories of gifts mentioned here:
 - Speaking gifts.
 - Serving gifts.

When we preach God's Word and depend upon God's strength He gets all the glory.

.....

GROUP DISCUSSION

Could my life really be described as holy? Do I love my brothers and sisters in Christ to the point of exhaustion? Am I active in ministry? In light of these three requirements am I really ready to meet Him?

Christ Our Hope

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chapter 1 – 2:10 | Our Living Hope | How to respond to salvation. |
| Chapter 2:11 – 4:11 | Our Pilgrim Life | How to react in submission. |
| Chapter 4:12 – 5:14 | Our Fiery Trial | How to rejoice when suffering. |

I. Our Fiery Trial

- ▶ We have already learned that every single believer that lives a godly life will suffer persecution. [2 Timothy 3:12]
 - At school.
 - At work.
 - At home.
- ▶ These times of trials are part of the normal pilgrim life.
- ▶ As we live holy-separated lives there will be times when we meet people that hate us and the message we bring.

Peter has already told us in great detail how we are to behave in such situations.

- ▶ Now in the final part of his letter he wants to address what is coming.
- ▶ Some were already experiencing the wrath of Rome but they had no clue how bad it would get.
- ▶ For well over 200 years the Church would be hunted down and made to suffer at the hands of Rome's emperors.

Context is Important!

July 19th 64 AD Rome burned. Ten out of its fourteen districts lay in ruins and most of its citizen had lost their homes.

- Most believe Nero ordered the fire started.
 - He stood in the tower of Masinas watching with glee.
 - Some say he sang while it burned.
 - The fire burned for 6 days and nights.
 - Then 3 more days and nights as new fires broke out.
-
- ▶ The king of the roman gods and god of the state was called Jupiter and his temple was destroyed by the fire.
 - ▶ The temple of the moon goddess Luna was also destroyed along with the altar of the mythical hero Hercules.
 - ▶ The goddess of home, hearth, and family was Vestae and her shine was also destroyed.

People were angry, upset and looking for someone to blame. They believed Nero was responsible and they were probably right.

- ▶ Nero needed a scapegoat and he chose to blame the Christians.
- ▶ What followed was horrific, believers were tortured, crucified, torn apart by wild animals and burned alive.
- ▶ Both Peter and Paul would lose their lives in the holocaust to follow.

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

REVELATION 2:10

We cannot be dogmatic but look at what followed historically:

Ten Periods of Great Persecution

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Nero | AD 64–68 - Killed Peter and Paul |
| Domitian | AD 81–96 - Banished John |
| Trajan | AD 98–117 - Passed laws against Christians |
| Pius | AD 137-161 – Killed Polycarp |
| Marcus Aurelius | AD 161–180 |
| Severus | AD 193–211 |
| Thracian | AD 235–238 - Targeted Christian Leaders |
| Decius | AD 249–251 - Extermination |
| Valerian | AD 253–260 - Killed Cyprian |
| Diocletian | AD 253–260 was the last and most severe. For 10 years believers were hunted in caves and forests. They were burned, thrown to wild beasts, and put to death by every torture cruelty could devise. Yet his own wife and daughter were saved. |



We do not know how much God had revealed to Peter about the years to come but we know one thing for certain the fiery trial that he was writing about had already begun:

Beloved, do not be surprised at **the fiery ordeal among you,** which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

1 PETER 4:12

- ▶ As Peter wrote these words, soldiers were marching, laws were being passed and a wave of hatred was sweeping the Empire.
- ▶ While we have yet to experience a time like this, many are on trial, in prison and even dying for their faith right now.
- ▶ As the world becomes less tolerant of us and our beliefs we had better pay close attention to Peter's teaching.

A. Suffering with Hope

Peter gives us 4 ways we should respond to fiery trials if we want to pass through them victoriously.

1. _____

The first may seem obvious in light our studies so far but many believers have been lied to today.

Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the **fiery ordeal** among you, which comes upon you for your testing, **as though some strange thing were happening to you;**

1 PETER 4:12

If God's love for His children is to be measured by our health, wealth and comfort in this life, then God hated the Apostle Paul.

JOHN PIPER

- ▶ Nothing has changed, God's Word tells his people they will suffer and need to expect times of suffering.

Suffering in 1 Peter

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Chapter 1:2–10 | Suffering because of our precious salvation. (Children) |
| Chapter 2:11–4:11 | Suffering in our present situation. (Pilgrims) |
| Chapter 4:12–5:14 | Suffering until our perfect situation. (Victors) |

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|-------|------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| fiery | πύρωσις | purósis | poo'-ro-sis | To burn To refine or smelt To test To purify |

- ▶ These tests are entirely for your benefit even though they may not feel like it sometimes.
 - They _____ that our faith is genuine.
[1 Peter 1:7a]
 - They _____ sin from our lives.
[1 Peter 1:7b]
 - They _____ us with a reward in heaven.
[1 Peter 1:7c]

**You can suffer as God's Child in an evil world for a little while
or you can suffer as God's enemy for eternity in hell.
The Choice is yours!**

2. _____

- ▶ If you think expecting it is too much to ask you are in for a shock. We are also commanded to keep on rejoicing in it.

but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, **keep on rejoicing**, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may **rejoice with exultation**.

1 PETER 4:13

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| rejoice | χαίρω | chairó | khah'-ee-ro | To rejoice To be glad |
| exultation | χάγαλλιᾶω | agalliaó | ag-al-lee-ah'-o | Much leaping Jump for joy Exceedingly glad Experiential joy |

- ▶ Peter isn't saying rejoice because you are in pain but rather rejoice because of what the pain will bring.

If you are reviled for the name of Christ,
**you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory
and of God rests on you.**

1 PETER 4:14

- ▶ Those of you that are His are saying I get it but I am scared what if I can't take the pain?
 - Beloved, you are His chosen and cherished possession, He will not leave you to the hands of your persecutors.

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|-------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| rests | ἀναπαύω | anapauó | an-ap-ow'-o | to pause Give rest from labor. To cause you to act in a certain way. |

- He will be right there with you, he will overpower you and control you.
-
- ▶ Peter calls the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Glory to remind us that He is God and possesses all the attributes of God.
 - This is not a subjective feeling but an objective experience. God moves in power and manifests His presence.

3. _____

- ▶ In order to approach your trial with confidence you need to be sure that you are suffering for righteousness sake not your sin.

Make sure that none of you suffers as a **murderer**, or **thief**, or **evildoer**, or a **troublesome meddler**;

1 PETER 4:15

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Trouble-some meddler | ἀλλοτριεπίσκοπος | allotriepis-kopos | al-lot-ree-ep-is'-kop-os | To pry into the affairs of others. To meddle in things alien to you, To meddle in pagan customs. |

- ▶ Trying to force society to conform to Christian beliefs and values just causes trouble for you and your family.

and to make it your ambition **to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business** and work with your hands, just as we commanded you,

1 THESSALONIANS 4:11

We must never be ashamed if we suffer for being a Christian.

We must never be ashamed if we suffer for being a Christian. But if anyone suffers as a Christian, **he is not to be ashamed**, but is **to glorify God in this name.**

1 PETER 4:16

-
- ▶ The term Christian was a **derogatory name** given to us by the world to mock us. [Acts 11:26]

For it is time for judgment to **begin with the household of God**; and if it begins with us first, **what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?**

1 PETER 4:17

- ▶ If God permits the world to judge us, disciplines us and allows His own children to be proved and purged through suffering.
 - What kind of treatment do you think the unbeliever will face after God's judgment?
 - Then Peter quotes from Proverbs 11:31 in the Greek Old Testament to back up his point.

AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, **WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?**

1 PETER 4:18

Eternal, excruciating, extreme suffering awaits all that refuse to worship Jesus as God and become His disciple!

4. _____

- ▶ If you are a true disciple of Jesus Christ and you are suffering for His name don't fear, just entrust your soul into His care.

Therefore, those also **who suffer according to the will of God** shall **entrust their souls to a faithful Creator** in doing what is right.

1 PETER 4:19

| Word | Greek Word | Transliteration | Pronunciation | Literal Meaning |
|---------|------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| entrust | παράτιθημι | paratithémi | par-at-ith'-ay-mee | To set aside. To deposit. To commit to another's charge. |

- He is completely _____ and always keeps His word. He will never let you down.

- He created _____ you, cares for you and knows what is best for you. [1 Peter 5:7]

- He _____ does what is right.

B. Serving with Hope

Peter turns his attention to the leaders of the Church. The **Elders** who **shepherd** [Pastor] and **oversee** [Bishop] God's people.

Therefore, I exhort the **elders** among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

1 PETER 5:1

1. The _____

Peter starts by reminding them that he is with them and understands the weight of responsibility they feel:

- They share the same Savior.
- They share the same office.
- They share the same office.

2. The _____

Then he reminds them of the work they have been called to. The people of God would be desperate for godly shepherds in the days ahead.

Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising **oversight** not under compulsion, but **voluntarily**, according to the will of God; and **not for sordid gain**, but with eagerness; not yet as **lording it over** those allotted to your charge, but providing to be **examples to the flock**.

1 PETER 5:2-3

-
- [Be a preacher of the Word]
 - [Be a prayer warrior]
 - [Be a paragon of the way]

3. The _____

Peter looked forward to the day Jesus would return every day of his life and he encourages all True Pastors to do the same.

And when the **Chief Shepherd appears,**
you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 PETER 5:4

- Real Sheep will look to **real men of God** that do not live for the things of this world and can provide the food, protection and example they need.
- These true shepherds **look forward** to the Chief Shepherd's coming and the eternal glory He brings with Him

C. Standing with Hope

- ▶ The Christian life is a paradox to worldly thinking:
 - Mark 9:35
 - 1 Corinthians 3:18
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9
 - 2 Corinthians 6:10
 - Galatians 2:20
 - 1 Peter 5:6

- ▶ It is the last one Peter turns, to explain how we are to gain victory in the Christian life.

1. Array yourself with _____.

- ▶ If we want to be exalted in God's Kingdom we must humble ourselves here.
 - James 4:10
 - Ephesians 4:2
 - 1 Peter 5:5-6

-
- ▶ There is no place for pride during persecution. You must be utterly dependent upon God.

You **younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders**; and **all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another**, for
GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD,
BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

1 P E T E R 5 : 5

- ▶ Peter starts with the young men because they often struggle with pride. They lack maturity, experience and rush in where angels fear to tread.

Humility is not demeaning ourselves and thinking poorly of ourselves. It is simply not thinking of ourselves at all.

D R . W A R R E N W I E R S B E

- ▶ Since God opposes the proud we also need to learn humility towards Him. God hates pride and opposes it.

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

1 P E T E R 5 : 6

- “The mighty hand of God” represents His power over us to:
 - Exodus 3:19-20
 - Job 30:20-21
 - Ezekiel 20:33-38

-
- ▶ Our willingness to submit to God during times of suffering is a good measure of our faith in Him.

casting all your anxiety on Him,
because **He cares for you.**

1 PETER 5:7

**We will never stand in the place of persecution
if we do not walk in the pathway of humility.**

2. Arm yourself with _____.

- ▶ The next couple of verses have been greatly abused in recent years. Let's see what they really say!

Be of **sober** spirit, be **on the alert**. Your **adversary**,
the **devil**, prowls around like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to devour.

1 PETER 5:8

- Peter commands us to be 'sober'.

- We need to be vigilant and alert.

- ▶ Some facts about Satan:
 - Ezekiel 28:15
 - Jude 8-9
 - Revelation 12:10
 - Revelation 20:1-3
 - Job, Luke 22:31
 - Zechariah 3:2

- ▶ We are told to resist him by making a stand in our faith. Our faith is based on two simple things:

But resist him, firm in your faith,
 knowing that the **same experiences of suffering**
 are being accomplished by your brethren
 who are in the world.

1 PETER 5:9

- The Character of God.

- The Word of God.

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| Peter says: | Cast all your care upon Him. Resist firm in your faith. [1 Peter 5:6-9] | |
| James says: | Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil. [James 4:7] | |
| Paul says: | Put on the Armor of God. Take the sword of the Spirit. Pray at all times. [Ephesians 6:10-18] | |

3. Anchor yourself with _____.

Verses 10-11 is an entire sermon series by itself. It is all about our glorious living hope in Jesus Christ.

It is all about God's grace, our glorification and the eternal perspective.

After you have suffered for a **little while**, the **God of all grace**, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself **perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you**. To Him be **dominion forever** and ever. Amen.

1 PETER 5:10-11

4. Adorn yourself with _____.

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

1 PETER 5:12-14

- a. His love for his fellow elder _____.
[1 Peter 5:12]

Silas as he is often called, was one of the main leaders of the early church. [Acts 15:22]

b. His love for the _____. [1 Peter 5:13]

Peter then mentions the believers in Rome but notice the cryptic way in which he does it.

- This was a public letter to be distributed and Rome was often referred to by the code name Babylon since it was the capital city of the evil empire in control at the time. [Revelation 18:10]
- Peter uses the feminine 'she' because the church is the bride of Christ awaiting the return of the Bridegroom.

c. His love for his disciple _____.

- While Mark struggle on the mission field under Paul he seemed to thrive under Peter's discipleship [Acts 15:37–40]

d. His love for all _____. [1 Peter 5:14]

Peter tells all believers to greet one another warmly with the love that God has poured out in their hearts for one another by the Holy Spirit. [Romans 5:3–5]

SUMMARY

As he closes the letter Peter has one final word to us. He says I wrote to strongly encourage you all during this difficult time. [1 Peter 5:12]

- All that I have written is true.
 - God's grace is more than sufficient.
 - Now stand firm in it and never lose hope.
 - Romans 5:1
 - Philippians 4:7
-

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When you think about having to suffer for Jesus one day, what is your biggest fear? In what ways does Peter's instructions bring comfort to you?
2. Peter's instructions for spiritual warfare are simple. Stay dependent upon God in prayer and stay in the Word. Which one are you better at? How can you improve in the other or both if needed?

