

1st PETER



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LESSON 1: *Understanding Peter.*



The Author

- 1) The obvious author of this letter is _____ (1 Pet 1:1).
- 2) He is also known as
 - a. _____ and _____ (John 1:42).
 - b. _____ (Acts 15:14).
- 3) He had a _____ (1 Cor 9:5).
- 4) He was a from the city of _____ (John 1:44), But he lived in _____ (Mark 1:21-31).
- 5) His brother's name was _____ (John 1:40-41).
- 6) Before they were called as disciples of Jesus, they were _____ (Matt 4:18-20).
- 7) They were both selected as apostles after Jesus had _____ (Lk 6:12-16).

His Key Characteristics

At first...

- 1) He acknowledged that he was _____ (Luke 5:8).
- 2) Sometimes had little faith and was presumptuous (Matt. 16:22; John 13:8; 18:10) and timid (Matt. 14:30).
- 3) Sometimes he was spiritually perceptive (Matt. 16:16; John 6:68).
- 4) Inquisitive (Matthew 15:15; 18:21).
- 5) Attained preeminence above the others. In the lists of the 12 just mentioned, Simon's name always appears first, and Matthew 10:2 prefaces his name with "first." Also, the Twelve are often designated "Peter and those with him" (Mk 1:35-38; Lk 9:32).
- 6) Outspoken and often acted and spoke on behalf of the other disciples (Mk 9:1-5; Lk 8:45).
- 7) Often displayed empty boldness (Matt 26:31-35; John 18:10-11).
- 8) Often lacked the courage to be steadfast (Luke 22:54-62; Galatians 2:11-14).

His Key Characteristics

Later...

- 1) He became a leader. Jesus said that He would give Peter _____ (Matt 16:19; Acts 2:14-41; Acts 10).
- 2) He was a minister to the _____ (Galatians 2:7-8).
- 3) Paul would later describe Peter as one of the _____ of the church in Jerusalem (Galatians 2:9).
- 4) Displayed extraordinary courage and faith
 - a. After healing a lame man at the temple, he addressed the amazed crowd by boldly giving glory to _____ and preached a heart convicting sermon demanding the people to _____ (Acts 3:11-19).
 - b. He confidently defended his actions before the same council that was responsible for putting Jesus to death. Upon seeing Peter and John's boldness, the council's reaction was _____ (Acts 4:1-14).
 - c. He condemned the deceitful actions of _____ and _____ (Acts 5:1-10). His boldness to address sin in the church made a significant impression on the whole church (Acts 5:11).
 - d. After defying the command of High Priest and the Sadducees (to stop preaching in Jesus' name) Peter and the apostles responded boldly by saying, " _____ " (Acts 5:27-29).
 - e. He boldly defended his special ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 11).
- 5) His death was special because _____ (John 21:18-19).

Lesson 1 Questions

- 1) What do you think was Peter's greatest flaw?
- 2) What do you think was his greatest strength?
- 3) Is there a key characteristic of Peter's that sticks out, when considering the spiritual journey that we as servants of Christ must all take?

LESSON 2: *Understanding 1st Peter.*



The Audience

Peter's writes this letter to _____

The Dispersion _____

Pontus _____

Galatia _____

Cappadocia _____

Asia _____

Bithynia _____



Peter's Message

The readers of the apostle Peter's letter were confused and discouraged by the persecution they were encountering because of their faith. Peter exhorted them to stand strong, repeatedly reminding them of Christ's example, the riches of their inheritance in him, and the hope of his returning again to take them to heaven. Peter explained how Christians should respond when they suffer because of their beliefs. Called the "apostle of hope," Peter's primary message is to trust the Lord, live obediently no matter what your circumstances, and keep your hope fixed on God's ultimate promise of deliverance. Suffering is to be expected, but it is temporary and yields great blessings for those who remain steadfast. Peter probably wrote this letter in the mid-60s a.d. -*ESV 1st Peter introduction*.

Thematic Outline

Chapter 1: Born Again.

Chapter 2: You Are Special To God.

Chapter 3: The Power of Submission.

Chapter 4: Response To Suffering.

Chapter 5: The Significance Shepherds During Trying Times.

B) The Reality of Trials (1 Pet. 1:6-9).

- 1) Trials will come despite the blessedness of our current and future status in Christ. How long will God's people be grieved by them, compared to eternity? (1 Pet 1:6).
 - a) Do you think that some of these "Various Trials" may refer to more than persecution and encompass the full range of human experience: sickness, injury, natural disaster, financial loss, poverty, hunger, and death?

- 2) The ultimate glory that God's people will receive is so stupendous that the sufferings of this present time are... (Romans 8:18)

- 3) Is it possible to benefit spiritually from these trials? If so, how? (see 1 Pet 1:6-7; 2 Cor 4:17).

- 4) We've come to understand that living under the grace of God through Christ does not rule out the possibility of suffering or affliction. Instead, both can become a spiritual refining process:
 - a. What was David's response to this? (Psalm 66:10-15).

 - b. What did Job say his outcome would be? (Job 23:10).

 - c. If we hold fast, what will be our outcome in the end? (1 Peter 1:7-9).

C) Strengthening Confidence During Trials (1 Pet. 1:10-12).

- 1) Our salvation was the subject of ancient prophecy (1 Pet. 1:10a).
- 2) The ancient prophets were intrigued about our salvation, tried to learn more about it (1 Pet. 1:10-11).
- 3) The ancient prophets gave up their lives to serve us! (1 Pet. 1:12).
- 4) Even the angles of heaven are excited about our salvation! (1 Pet. 1:12).

How does this make you feel? _____

LESSON 4: *You Are Special To God.*

(Read: 1 Peter 2:1-25)



- I) **We Are A Special, Precious People To God (1 Pet 2:1-12).**
- A) Like all parents, God wants us to feed and grow on the best nourishment (1 Pet 2:1-3; 2 Tim 3:16-17).
- 1) Why must the sinful carnal things mentioned in verse 1 be put away from us—Think about raising a precious innocent child, why would you want it to avoid certain attitudes and behaviors? (consider 1 Samuel 2:12-36; 8:1-5).
- B) Rejected By The World, Accepted and Cherished By God (1 Pet 2:4-10)
- 1) Jesus is described as choice and precious living stone, a cornerstone to be exact. Because we are in Christ, we are also described as living stones—functioning as building blocks in the spiritual house of God (1 Pet 2:5; Eph 2:19-22). How should we feel about such a great honor?
 - 2) Who provided the cornerstone? (Isaiah 28:16)
 - a. How should we feel about this? (Psa 118:22-23).

- 3) Christ: the solid foundation for our lives.
- a. The wise man built his house upon the _____, The foolish man built his house upon the _____. **What else do we build in life that needs Christ as its foundation?**

 - b. On Christ the solid _____ I stand, all other ground is _____. **What are some key decisions and or situations in life where I need to make my stand with the Lord?**

 - c. Some build their hopes on the ever drifting _____ some on their fame or their treasure or their land. Mine's on the _____ that forever shall stand, Jesus the _____. **Identify some specific examples in the O.T. where the Lord supported His people like a solid Rock.**
- 4) The cornerstone (or foundation stone or setting stone) is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure. What do you think would happen to any structure should its builders refuse to acknowledge and take advantage of the cornerstone? What do you think will happen to people in general, who attempt to build their lives without the Chief Cornerstone? (see 1 Pet 2:7-8; Matt 21:44).
- 5) How are Christians “a royal priesthood?” (consider 1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:4-6; Heb Heb 7:12-22; 13:15-16).

- 6) As spiritual priests under the New Covenant, what are we to proclaim (1 Pet 2:9). According to Malachi, what is required of priests? (Malachi 2:7).
- 7) In view of 1 Pet 2:11, what are some of the “Passions (lusts) of the flesh” that wage war against our souls? (see the following passages for support: Eccl 2:1-17; 1 Thess 4:1-8; 1 Tim 6:9-10; Heb 12:1; 1 Jn 2:15-16). What should we do? (Rom 13:14).
- 8) What does giving glory to God on account of His people’s honorable conduct have to say about the wisdom of God? (consider 1 Pet 2:12; Deut 4:5-8).

II) We Are Special People To God—Vital to the Gospel Call: Live As Such (1 Pet 2:13-25)

- A) Being in subjection to human institutions of government (Consider the following passages. What do they teach us about attitude towards government?
 - 1) Exo 22:28. _____

 - 2) Matt 20:15-21. _____

 - 3) Rom 13:5-7. _____

- B) Live as free people... (1 Pet 2:16). In Christ we enjoy freedoms. But not as motivation to sin (study Rom 5:20-21; 6:1-23).
 - 1) What do these passages say about Christian freedom?
 - a. 2 Corinthians 3:17:
 - b. Galatians 5:1.
 - c. Galatians 2:4-5.
 - d. Galatians 5:13.

- 2) What message do you think Peter is trying to sum up in 2:17? (Consider Rom 12:17-18).
- C) In Chapter 1 Peter identifies the blessing of suffering through various trials for one's faith as an opportunity to strengthen one's faith and allegiance to Christ—resulting in eternal salvation (see 1 Pet 1:6-9). What impression does it make upon God, when He sees that one willingly endures suffering—through *mindfulness* of Him? (see 1 Pet 2:18-20). (consider Job's attitude: Jms 4:7-11).
- 1) How can Jesus provide guidance, strength and endurance to those who suffer under such conditions? (see 1 Peter 2:21-25; Heb 12:2-3).



LESSON 5: *The Power of Submission.*

(Read: 1 Peter 3:1-22)



I) God's People Are Submissive

A) In the marriage relationship (1 Pet 3:1-7)

1) Peter's Teachings vs social norms.

- a. At the time 1 Peter was written, Christians were likely viewed as challenging social norms—and this may have been one of the main reasons why they were persecuted. Peter's statement about wives being in subjection to unbelieving husbands presented an enormous challenge for some Christian wives —because in Roman tradition, the husband usually decided which religion his family would follow. During this time, Christian wives were called upon to balance countering culture and social norms with being in subjection to their husbands.
- b. To be in subjection means to obey or cooperate voluntarily with someone else out of love and respect for God and that person. We may have to sometimes submit in unpleasant circumstances so that others will see Jesus.
- c. Christian submission never requires us to disobey God, undermine His values, or violate our God-guided conscience. (Ac 4:19; 5:29; Ga 2:4,5; Ro 14:23; 1 Ti 1:19).
- d. One-sided submission requires great strength, from self and the Lord (1 Pet 3:1).
- e. Peter doesn't say that believing wives should pressure their husbands into converting to Christ. Instead, their godly conduct (v 1-2) should demonstrate the truth of the gospel—without a word.
- f. Consider the following passages below, what do they teach us about the kind of godly conduct necessary to possibly convert others?

1. What kind of religion should others see in us? (James 1:26-27; Titus 2:7,8).

2. What kind of prayer life should others see in us? (1 Thes 5:17; 1 Tim 2:1-4).

3. What kind of respectful attitude should others see in us? (Romans 13:7).

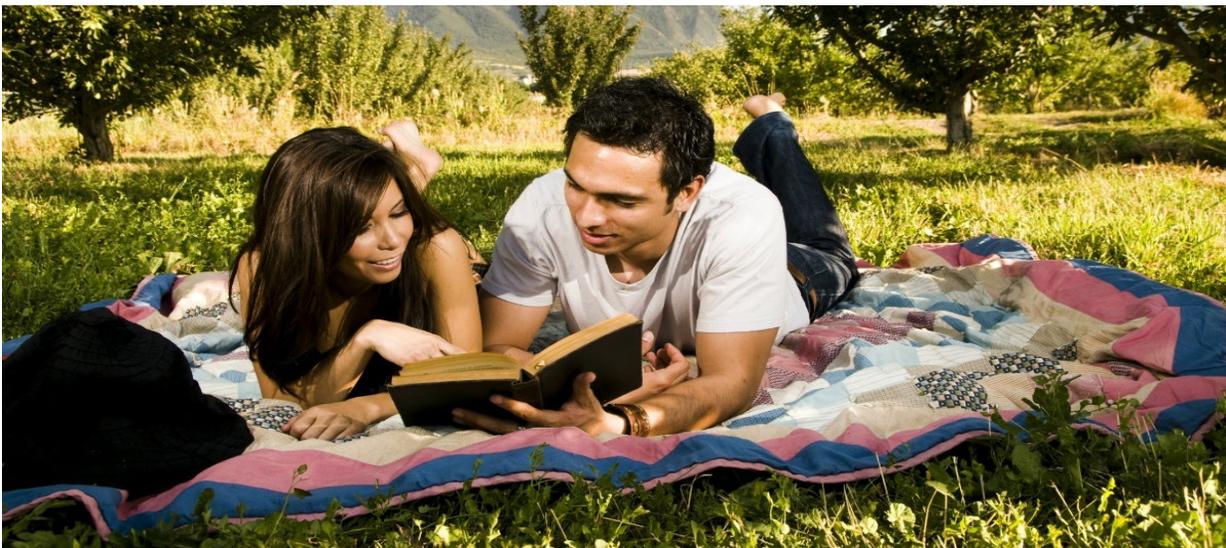
- g. In verses 3 and 4 Peter addresses the power of women's person and influence. What is the essence of a true woman? This cannot be defined by cultural norms or what a particular society deems acceptable in any given generation. Christian women shouldn't define themselves based upon secular standards. The apostle Paul said that a women's adorning should reflect what? (see 1 Tim 2:9-10)
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- h. How does God feel about godly wives who adorn themselves in this way? (1 Pet 3:4).

- i. What must true children of Sarah not fear, in order to continue doing what is good/ right? (1 Pet 3:6).

- 2) According to 1 Pet 3:7 Peter says that a husband and wife are heirs together of the grace of life. (Why do you think he phrases it that way? See (Matt 19:5). Since this is the case, and the husband is to be the spiritual leader in the Marriage relationship, how does Peter say husbands should live (dwell) with their wives?
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- 3) If husbands fail to fulfill these obligations, what will be the consequence (see 1 Pet 3:7).
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II) Submission To Godly Virtue (1 Pet 3:8-17)**A) Among fellow Saints (1 Pet 3:8)**

- 1) According to Peter, what qualities of character are vital for Christians to submit to one another in unity?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____

B) To Righteousness amid unrighteousness (1 Pet 3:9-17)

- 1) How should we deal with evil done to us? (see also Mat 5:38-48).

- 2) Personal revenge is never justified (Rom 12:19). Two wrongs never make a “right.” Sin is always unacceptable before God. So, if we “desire to love life and see good days,” we must refrain from sinful attitudes and behaviors which often lead to unrighteous retribution (1 Pet 3:10-11).

- 3) How can verse 12 be a motivation to avoid repaying evil for evil, and to seek peace (Rom 12:8) and pursue it?

- 4) Peter points out the fact that most people are not harmed for living rightly (1 Pet 3:13) as does Paul in his letter to the Christians in Rome (13:3). However, what if we were to suffer for doing what’s right (1 Pet 3:14), what possible role does v. 15 play in such circumstances? (consider Job 2:9,10).

- 5) According to Peter, why is keeping a good conscience important, especially in these circumstances? (1 Pet 3:16). (see also 1 Tim 1:19; Heb 13:18).

- 6) Why is it better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil? (Ro 13:3-5; 2:5,9)

III) Look To Jesus's Example of Humble Submissiveness (1 Pet 3:18-22)

A) Consider the outcomes of Jesus' Submissiveness:

- 1) He submitted to the Father's will—that He suffer and die to for our sins. According to Peter, what was the intended outcome, i.e. that he might bring us where?
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- 2) Proclaiming His Victory: Because Jesus faithfully submitted to the Father's plan and didn't resist His will, He was victorious! He shared the news of this victory (vs 18-20). This is one of those passages of Scripture that has been difficult for some to understand. There have been many attempts to explain these verses. Bro Mark Copeland, who preaches and serves as an elder in Kissimmee, FL gives some valuable insight regarding this....

THE VIEW OF CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA (200 A.D.)

BASIC ELEMENTS... That Christ went to Hades in His spirit between His death and His resurrection. That He proclaimed the message of salvation to the souls of sinners imprisoned there since the flood.

MAJOR DIFFICULTIES... This view would suggest that for some reason these souls were given a "second chance." Whereas the Bible consistently teaches against such an idea... "it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" - He 9:27. Peter himself later wrote that the wicked souls before the flood were being "reserved... under punishment for the day of judgment" - 2Pe 2:4-5,9. Why would people before the flood be given a second chance when those after the flood are not?

THE VIEW OF AUGUSTINE (400 A.D.)

BASIC ELEMENTS... That the "pre-existent" Christ in His spirit proclaimed salvation through Noah to the people who lived before the flood. We know that Noah was "a preacher of righteousness" in his day - 2Pe 2:5. We know that the Spirit of Christ was at work in O.T. prophets - 1Pe 1:10-11. This view is held by many brethren today.

MAJOR DIFFICULTIES... The wording of Peter would more naturally suggest that he is speaking of... The Christ who was "put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit." I.e., the "crucified & resurrected" Christ, not the "pre-incarnate" Christ. Also, the wording would more naturally suggest the preaching occurred... To the spirits "in prison", not before they were imprisoned. When they "formerly were disobedient", not during their disobedience [Augustine's view dominated the theological scene for centuries, but then other views were presented...]

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THE VIEW OF CARDINAL BELLARMINE (1600 A.D.)

BASIC ELEMENTS... That in His spirit Christ went to release the souls of the **RIGHTEOUS** who repented before the flood and had been kept in "LIMBO." In Catholic theology, "limbo" is the place between heaven and hell, where the souls of the O.T. saints were kept

MAJOR DIFFICULTIES... The Bible is silent about a place such as "limbo." The "spirits" under discussion by Peter were "disobedient" in "the days of Noah"... According to Ge 6:5-13; 7:1, only Noah and his family were righteous. If others had repented, would they not also have been on the ark? I.e., there were no righteous before the flood save Noah and his family!



THE VIEW OF FRIEDRICH SPITTA (1900 A.D.)

BASIC ELEMENTS... After His death and BEFORE His resurrection, Christ preached to "fallen angels", also known as "sons of God", who during Noah's time had married "daughters of men" This view is based upon a particular interpretation of Ge 6:1-4... Job 1:6; 2:1 is offered as evidence that angels are sometimes referred to as "sons of God" Jude 6, also, is offered as referring to "fallen angels" in the days of Noah. Because it sounds very similar to references in a book called *I Enoch*, which expounds in detail the idea that the "sons of God" in Ge 6 were "fallen angels." And Jude seems to quote directly from this book in Ju 14,15. Josephus, a Jewish historian born in 37 A.D., took a similar view of Ge 6 This view is held by many Protestant scholars

MAJOR DIFFICULTIES... In responding to the Sadducees, Jesus taught that angels of God do not marry - Mt 22:30. Of course, Jesus may have been referring to angels who "keep their proper domain", and do not leave "their own habitation." "If righteous angels could temporarily take on human form to deliver God's message (as in the case described in Ge 18:1-8; 19:1-3) where they ate food... It might have been possible for "fallen angels" to take on human form and cohabit as some believe Ge 6 suggests. But it just as feasible to understand Ge 6 differently... That the "sons of God" were the descendants of Seth (i.e., godly people), and the "daughters of men" were descendants of Cain (ungodly people). This view stays clear of speculation which can easily take on mythological proportions!



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THE VIEW OF SOME CONTEMPORARY COMMENTATORS (PRESENT)

BASIC ELEMENTS... That the resurrected Christ, WHEN HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, proclaimed to imprisoned spirits his victory over death. That the exalted Christ passed through the realm where the fallen angels are kept and proclaimed His triumph over them (Ep 6:12; Col 2:15 is offered as support for this view). This interpretation has met favorable response in both Protestant and Roman Catholic circles. More importantly, this view is in beautiful harmony with Peter's wording and context...

MAJOR DISTINCTIONS...

- 1) The preaching was made by Jesus Himself (not through Noah).
- 2) The preaching was made by Jesus AFTER "being put to death in the flesh" (not in His pre-incarnate form).
- 3) The preaching was made by Jesus AFTER He was "made alive by the Spirit" (i.e., after His resurrection, not during the three-day period between death and resurrection)
- 4) The preaching was made to "THE SPIRITS"
 - a. Not to "the spirits of men" (which is how the souls or spirits of men are commonly referred to, notice He 12:23; Re 6:9; 20:4)
 - b. But rather to "angelic spirits"
- 5) The preaching was made to them "IN PRISON" (that there are angels so bound is clearly taught in 2Pe 2 and Jude).
- 6) The preaching was made to them who were "FORMERLY DISOBEDIENT ...IN THE DAYS OF NOAH"
 - a. This view does not require that the rebellious angels were the "sons of God" in Ge 6. But simply were somehow disobedient at that time (as some were later during Christ's time)
- 7) The preaching was a proclamation of victory over death, not an offer of a second chance to a select few!

III) Look To Jesus's Example of Humble Submissiveness (1 Pet 3:18-22)

B) "Baptism... now save you?"

- 1) How does baptism relate to the salvation story of Noah and his family?

- 2) Where is Christ now, and what was the ultimate outcome for His submissiveness to the will of the Father?

LESSON 6: *Response To Suffering.*

(Read: 1 Peter 4:1-19)



I) **The Christian's Attitude & Behavior During Trials (1 Peter 4:1-19)**

A) Have The Mind of Christ (4:1,2).

- 1) Since Christ suffered in the flesh, Peter encourages us to develop the same mindset that Christ had while he suffered in the flesh:
 - a. "Arm yourselves with the same way of thinking" (ESV).
 - b. "Arm yourselves likewise with the same mind" (KJV).
 - c. "Equip yourselves with the same way of thinking" (LEB).
- 2) The question is, why? Because Jesus maintained the right godly mindset throughout his suffering (in the flesh) He was able to triumph over sin (1 Pet 3:18). Thus, Peter concludes by saying, "*whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.*"
- 3) The suffering person in view here is likely the Christian. If this is the case, Peter either means that when Christians suffer for Christ, they overcome the power of sin, or that when non-believers obey the gospel—Christ in His baptism, they prevail over the enslaving power of sin (Rom 6:1–12; 1 John 5:18). (Both are true).
- 4) Consider the following passages below. Consider the array of complexities Jesus dealt with in maintaining a godly focused mindset while suffering.
 - a. Isaiah 53:1-3.
 - b. Matthew 4:1-10.
 - c. Luke 4:16-30.
 - d. Isaiah 53:7,8.
 - e. Luke 22:47,48.
 - f. Matthew 26:55,56.
 - g. Luke 22:60-62.
 - h. Luke 22:63-65.
 - i. 1 Peter 2:22,23.
 - j. Hebrews 2:17,18.
- 5) Once we "arm ourselves" with same thinking of Christ, how should we spend the rest of our time here (on earth) in the flesh? (1 Pet 4:2).

- B) We've spent enough time living like the rest of the world, now let's move past that. We will face backlash from the world, but God will take care of it (1 Pet 4:3-6).
- 1) "For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do..." (ESV).
 - 2) "For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles..." (NASB).
 - 3) "For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles..." (NKJV).
 - 4) Define some of the works of the Gentiles. Describe why they are contrary to God's will and the Christian life. (1 Pet 4:2).
 - a. Sensuality/ Lasciviousness/ Licentiousness/ Lewdness

 - b. Passions/ Lusts

 - c. Drunkenness/ Excess of wine

 - d. Orgies/ Reveling/ Carousing

 - e. Drinking Parties/ Banqueting's

 - f. Lawless idolatry/ Abominable idolatries/ Wanton idolatries

- 5) Why will those who have not yet embraced God's grace malign (revile /speak evil of) those who have? (1 Pet 4:4).
 - a. Developing a strong conviction of faith is always necessary. Why would it be particularly important under these circumstances? (when old friends are making us feel bad about following Christ instead of following them).
 - b. What comfort does Peter give us for standing firm in our convictions even while being harassed for it? (1 Peter 4:5).

- 6) **“For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.” (1 Pet 4:6).** Although some maintain that Peter offers a second chance after death for those who rejected Christ, this view is indefensible since it contradicts both the clear teaching of Scripture throughout the rest of the Bible (see Luke 16:26; Heb. 9:27) and the immediate context, concerning the importance of perseverance of believers (4:1–6) and the coming judgment of “the living and the dead” (v. 5). Given the immediate context, “those who are dead” refers to Christians to whom “the gospel was preached” when they were alive but who have since died. Even though believers will experience physical death (i.e., they are judged in the flesh the way people are), believers who have died live in the spirit the way God does (1 Cor 15:35-49). and will one day live in heaven with Him forever.

- C) The End Of All Things Is At Hand: So Be Busy About The Lord's Business! (1 Pet 4:7-11).
 - 1) Develop a clear focused mind
 - a. According to Peter, why is being sober minded and self-controlled important for the sake of prayer?
 - 2) Keep loving each other, earnestly/ fervently.
 - a. According to Peter, what's the benefit of this? (1 Pet 4:8). How does this have a bearing on the end of all things being “at hand?”
 - 3) Show hospitality without grumbling (1 Pet 4:9).
 - a. What can help us to become more hospitable without grumbling? (consider Matt 7:12; 1 Tim 2:8).

- 4) Use the gifts God has given! (1 Pet 4:10,11)
- a. If one has the ability to speak (preach, teach, present), how should he speak?
- _____
- b. If one is able to minister (serve), how should he minister?
- _____
- c. According to Peter, why should those who possess such abilities use them this way? (1 Peter 4:11b).
- d. Besides servicing and teaching (Which Peter has already mentioned) what other gifts/abilities does Paul identify? (Romans 12:4-8).
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

FOR THOUGHT

- 5) What are my gifts/ abilities? Am I using them for God's glorification and the advancement of His kingdom? (consider 1 Timothy 4:14, 15).

"Do not neglect the gift you have..."

"Practice these things immerse yourself in them..."

- D) Suffer Hard Times, Do Good and Entrust Your Soul To Our Faithful God (1 Pet 4:12-19).
- 1) Why should suffering because we are Christians come as no surprise? (1 Pet 4:12). (see also John 15:18-20; 2 Thes 3:1-2).

 - 2) Why should we rejoice to be able to share in the sufferings of Christ? (1 Pet 4:13, 14). (see also 2 Timothy 2:10-12a).
 - a. Describe Paul's attitude about sharing in Christ's sufferings (Phil 3:10, 11).

 - 3) Why shouldn't we desire to suffer for doing wrong? (1 Pet 4:15). (see 1 Pet 3:17; 2:20).

 - 4) If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be _____, but let him _____ God in that name.
 - a. What does the name of Christ (Christian) mean to us that we should glorify God because of it?

- 5) “For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (1 Pet 4:17).
- a. After making this statement, Peter using an O.T. passage from Proverbs 11:31 to support his message. Many have misapplied it:

“And ‘If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?’” (ESV)

“AND ‘IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?’” (NASB).

- b. Many have mistakenly interpreted this to mean that Peter is saying that even righteous Christians are hardly saved. Leading some to speculate that being a faithful Christian is difficult.
- c. Perhaps this misunderstanding comes from failing to read the context of Proverbs 11:31:
- “If the righteous is repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner! (ESV).
- “If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, How much more the ungodly and the sinner.” (NKJV).
- d. In Proverbs 11:31, Solomon is stating a fact that if the righteous are repaid i.e. recompensed for their errors, then the unrighteous (who deliberately sin and rebel against God) certainly will as well.
- e. If God does not spare the righteous from punishment and consequences, He certainly will not spare the unrighteous.
- f. Thus, Peter understanding the context of Solomon’s message, says: “If the righteous are scarcely saved (from judgment) what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? Peter is not talking about saved in the context of being saved from sins. But being saved/ delivered/ spared from judgment (For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God, 1 Pet 4:17).
- g. Thus, Peter is discouraging us from suffering as wrongdoers (1 Pet 4:15), because they definitely will face God’s wrath, without hope. Instead, we should do good while suffering according to God’s will and entrust our souls to Him (1 Pet 4:19).

LESSON 7: *The Significance of Shepherds During Trying Times.*

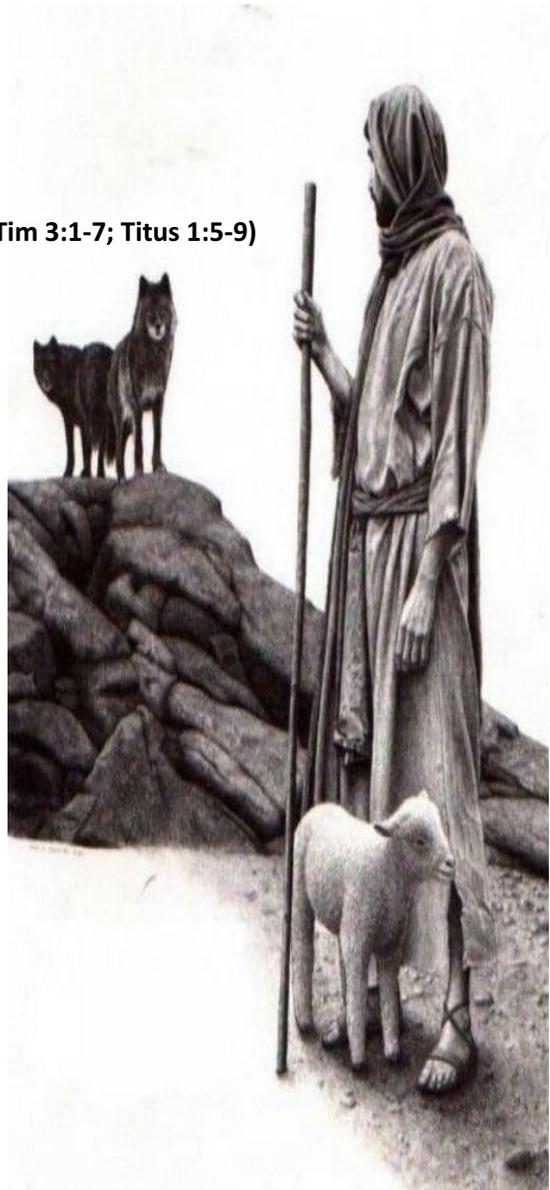
(Read: 1 Peter 5:1-14)



I) **Sheep Need Good Leadership (1 Peter 5:1-4)**

- A) What is an elder? _____
- B) Elders are also identified as
 - 1) Overseers (Acts 20:28).
 - 2) Pastors (Ephesians 4:11).
 - 3) Bishops (Philippians 1:1).
 - 4) Presbytery (1 Timothy 4:14).

C) **What does it take to become an elder? (See 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)**



D) During these difficult times, Peter exhorted the elders among these Christians to shepherd their flock. What did that entail? (see 1 Pe 5:1-3)

E) What are some important lessons can elders learn about good shepherding from Psalm 23?



II) The Need For Submission to the elders (1 Peter 5:5-7)

A) Peter urges those under the elders to be in subjection to them (1 Pet 5:5). What are some key reasons for doing so?

1) Acts 20:28 _____

2) 1 Timothy 5:17 _____

3) Hebrews 13:17 _____

B) What type of attitude is key to accomplishing this? Peter considered it so essential that he said we should “clothe” ourselves with it (1 Pet 5:5).

1) Peter goes further in expressing the importance of this attitude by exhorting us to not only exercise it towards one another and elders but more importantly towards who? How can we do this?

a) 2 Samuel 7:18 _____

b) 2 Chronicles 7:14 _____

c) Micah 6:8 _____

2) With this type of attitude God will surely exalt us at the proper time (Consider Joseph’s attitude and exaltation (Gen 45:1-9). What can we “cast” upon God? (1 Pet 5:6-7). What did David say about this (Psalm 55:22).

III) Be On Guard (1 Peter 5:8-11)

A) Why should Christian sheep stay sober-minded and watchful? (1 Pet 5:8).

1) How else is the devil described?

a) Matthew 4:1-3 _____

b) Matthew 13:18-19 _____

c) John 8:44 _____

d) 1 John 3:8 _____

B) Peter said we must resist him—being _____ in the faith (5:9).

1) Paul said _____ (Eph 4:27).

2) Paul said to put on the _____
In order to stand against the _____ of the devil (Eph 6:11).

3) James said to resist the devil and _____ (Jas 4:7-8).

C) To resist the devil, we must be aware of how he operates and functions

1) Genesis 3-4; Matthew 4:1-11. (Smooth words & reverse psychology).

2) Job 1-2. (Inflicts suffering).

3) 1 Chronicles 21:1. (Instigates and seduces).

4) Matthew 13:24-43. (Sows discord).

5) Matthew 16:23. (Savors not the things of God).

6) Mark 4:15. (Strictly opposed to faith in God's word).

7) Luke 22:3. (Uses the weak-minded).

8) Luke 22:31. (Uses close companions).

9) Acts 5:3. (Encourages dishonesty among Christians).

10) Acts 10:38. (Causes oppression).

11) Acts 26:18. (Destroys lives through sinful influences).

12) 1 Corinthians 7:5. (Tempts Christian marriages to fail).

13) 2 Corinthians 2:11. (Takes advantage of issues between Christians).

14) 2 Corinthians 11:14. (A master of deception).

15) Ephesians 4:26-27. (Takes advantage of emotions).

16) Ephesians 6:11-12. (Uses cunning schemes).

17) 1 Thessalonians 2:18. (Attempts to disrupt the spreading of the Gospel truth).

18) 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10. (Exerts all his power with false signs and lying wonders).

19) 1 Tim 5:12-15. (Takes advantage of the widowed).

20) 2 Timothy 2:24-26. (Snares Christians to become embittered against each other).

21) 1 Peter 5:8. (Constantly on the hunt).

22) Revelation 2:10. (Incites persecution against Christians).

23) Revelation 12:9. (Deceives the whole world in rebellion against God).



IV) Final Greetings (1 Peter 5:12-14).

A) Silvanus (also called Silas) aided Peter in writing this epistle. Who was he?

1) Acts 15:22-32. _____

2) Acts 15:36-40. _____

3) Acts 16:16-25. _____

4) 2 Cor 1:19 _____

B) What did Peter say about the teaching in his epistle and what did he encourage these Christians to do with it? (1 Peter 5:12).

C) "She who is in Babylon" Babylon was a metaphor in Peter's time, understood with reference to Rome (see also Revelation 14:8; 17:4-6).

D) What do we know about Mark?

1) Acts 12:6-12 _____

2) Acts 12:25 _____

3) Acts 15:37-38 _____

4) Colossians 4:7-10 _____

5) Philemon 25-24 _____

6) 2 Timothy 4:9-11 _____

E) How should Christians greet each other?

1) What did Paul say further about this Christian virtue? (1 Cor 16:14).
