

1st Peter

Christian Life Assembly

Fall 2014

Jim Hoffman



Class Open House

10/17/14

Jim and Jackie's

6:00 PM

31 Stone Barn Road

Mech, Pa






1st Peter Outline


- **Chapter 1:1 – 2:10**
 - **Suffering Christians Should Remember Their Great Salvation**

 - **Chapter 2:11 – 4:6**
 - **Suffering Christians Should Remember Their Example Before Men**

 - **Chapter 4:7 – 5:11**
 - **Suffering Christians Should Remember Their Lord Will Return**
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1st Peter

- **Written around AD 65 and probably from Rome. (Peter states he was in Babylon in 5:13, but many believe it was code for Rome)**
 - **Up until this time the church had been persecuted by the Jews and by others sporadically, but Nero was beginning an official campaign against Christians.**
 - **The theme of the letter is ‘suffering’ and as it was written near the dawn of official state persecution we would do well to know of the advice the letter gives.**
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1st Peter

- Peter was the acknowledged leader and spokesman for the disciples both during and after the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.
 - He is mentioned sparingly in the Acts of the Apostles after chapter 15, but it would be wrong to assume that he was uninvolved in the spreading of the gospel.
 - Tradition holds he was crucified upside down in Rome under Nero's persecution. Nero died in AD 68 and 1st Peter was written in AD 65 so when he wrote the letter persecution was upon them.
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Ancient Times




Modern Times





1st Peter 1:1-2


1 This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. 2 God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace. 3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, 4 and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.






1st Peter 1:1-2

6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. 7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. 8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.






1st Peter

- **In these opening verses we do not see any admonitions, warnings, or commands.**
 - **Perhaps those sorts of words are far less necessary when you are living under persecution.**
 - **It seems Peter is more concerned about what they are to enjoy and rest in, than he is about warning them about bad behaviors.**
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1st Peter

- **He also speaks about being foreigners – yes, these Jews were out of their homeland, but not as far as we are. 😊**
 - **They didn't fit in – we less so.**
 - **We were fashioned for a completely different life, in a completely different time and space.**
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1st Peter

- **Verse #2 “God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy.”**
 - **Jewish Christians were ‘double’ chosen – once as a nation and once as a Christian.**
 - **Eph 1:4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.**
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1st Peter

- **There can really be no debate about the doctrine of election – the Bible teaches it without equivocation.**
 - **What gets debated, I believe unnecessarily, is how He elected the believer.**
 - **If we were living under persecution, this would be the least of our worries – as would be the gifts, healings, music, etc**
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1st Peter

- **We also read here ‘and His Spirit has made you holy’.**
 - **At this point we should put some clarity and context to this Standing and State.**
 - **We’ve been given a perfect standing before God in Christ, but an honest assessment of my life would prove my state to be less than perfect.**
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1st Peter

- **The reason we can claim holiness (a perfect standing before God) is “Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”**
 - **In Christ we are as holy as we will ever be – He has pronounced us so!**
 - **Acts 13:39 And by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.**
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1st Peter

- **However, while we have a perfect standing before God in Christ, we live in a less than perfect state in our walk.**
 - **The best analogy I have is that of a family – my sons may do some things that grieve me, but they are still my sons nonetheless.**
 - **It is only a mystery if we think salvation is through our works and not the works of Christ.**
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1st Peter

- **Let's consider the phrase "His Spirit has made us holy".**
 - **This is not to say that you've been forced, conscripted, to be holy – it is to say that He has convinced us to accept His gift of salvation.**
 - **We've been sanctified by Him – set apart to be holy, and for holy purposes.**
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1st Peter

- **“As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.”**
 - **The outcome of the Spirit calling us to holiness is our positive response to the gospel and our cleansing from sin.**
 - **God called to us through His Spirit and we, unlike so many around us, responded!**
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1st Peter

- **Verse #3 begins with “All praise to God”.**
- **There is a connection between truth and worship and this is an example.**
- **Peter is about to name some great works of God that were done for us, and when he lists them he is moved to praise and worship God.**






1st Peter

- **God is great in mercy.**
 - **God causes us to be born again to a living hope.**
 - **God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.**
 - **God promises an inheritance to us as sons.**
 - **God is keeping that inheritance pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.**
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1st Peter

- I do not know all of the circumstances under which worship happens, but surely one of them is the hearing of truth.
 - When we begin to connect truth – both about our condition before God and His remedy for it, we must worship.
 - When God is proclaimed worship should be our response.
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1st Peter

- Verse #5 - And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.
 - We mark the day we believe, and we look forward to the day we go home, but what about all the time in between?
 - We live in a world that is becoming increasingly hostile to our Savior, and our connection to Him.
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1st Peter

- **God is protecting and insuring our salvation.**
 - **We need no protection from death – death takes us straight to Heaven.**
 - **Persecution can't rob us of our salvation – that tends to make our faith stronger.**
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1st Peter

- **It's true we need protection from Satan "who prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).**
 - **And we need protection from overwhelming temptations and "lusts that wage war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11).**
 - **So we should pray, "Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from the evil one".**
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1st Peter

- **So what else is God protecting us from?**
 - **He is protecting us from the only thing that can rob us of our salvation – unbelief.**
 - **Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. NIV**
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Questions

