

I PETER

Synopsis: ^* The book is named after the author, “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1). This is the same Peter who denied Christ and also preached the first gospel sermon. It serves to exhort the Christians to withstand the persecution and be faithful to God.

Author: Peter

Chapters: 5

Background: ^* This is another of the “general epistles.” The letters of Peter may have been written as partial fulfillment of Jesus’ charge to the apostle to strengthen and feed the church (Lk. 22:32; John 21:15-17). The first letter is addressed to the “pilgrims of the dispersion” (NKJV) or “those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout...” five named Roman provinces that covered the greater part of what is now Turkey. “Aliens/Pilgrims” is Peter’s way of reminding Christians this world is not their home (2:11).

In 5:12 Peter summarizes the letter: “I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.” He mentions suffering about sixteen times in the book. The book emphasizes the suffering of Jesus as an example for His followers (2:21-25; 3:18ff.; 4:1, 13; etc.). The letter was likely written between A.D. 64-67.

Five Great Lessons*

1. Salvation is the end result of our faith (1:5).
2. Jesus is our example in all things (2:21).
3. We should always be ready to answer man’s questions about salvation (3:15).
4. The name Christian should be worn proudly (4:16).
5. Our enemy is Satan (5:8).

Outline*

- I. Introduction (1:1-2).
- II. Salvation for the faithful (1:3-12).
- III. Live by the truth (1:13-2:10).
- IV. Daily living among authorities and family (2:11-3:12).
- V. How to live amid trials (3:13-4:6).
- VI. When trials come, allow your faith and conviction to shine (4:7-19).
- VII. Elders and the church (Chapter 5).

*Butterworth, Ken. *God Hath Spoken: An Open-Bible Study Series – New Testament Workbook*, 2006.

^Roper, David. *Through the Bible: A Systematic Study of the Old and New Testament Scriptures*, 1999.

Lessons ^

The “health and wealth gospel” is popular today. “Just be a Christian,” we are told, “and your problems will go away.” In contrast with that, Jesus and the apostles were candid about the problems which being a follower of the Lord would bring (Mt. 5:11; Acts 14:22; II Tim. 3:12). The message of I Peter is not that God removes all problems from His children, but rather that through His grace, we can endure the problems and actually be made better by them.

As Christians, we need to learn to suffer with dignity. Especially when we do not deserve the suffering, we should behave like the followers of Jesus, who did not retaliate, but trusted in His Father.

Selected

- 1:8 Faith in Christ produces what kind of joy? Unspeakable and full of glory
- 1:16 Be holy, for I am holy.
- 1:19 Redemption is available through the precious blood of Christ.
- 2:2 In what way are Christians described as being like babes? Desire the sincere milk... grow
- 2:9 You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people...
- 2:16 How can liberty be used as a cloak for vice?
- 3:3-4 Describe the beautiful adornment. (Also see 5:5 for a type of clothing)
- 3:21 What does Peter say saves? Baptism
- 4:4 What do others think is strange about Christians? That they do not run with them...
- 5:1 Peter identifies himself as an elder.
- 5:7 Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

**Butterworth, Ken. God Hath Spoken: An Open-Bible Study Series – New Testament Workbook, 2006.*

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