

# CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

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# STUDY IN THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

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#### <u>1 PETER</u> Study 1

#### **BUBLIOGRAPHY**

Bible Speaks Today Message of 1 Peter Peter's Principles Be Hopeful Tyndale 1 Peter

#### BACKGROUND

Edmund E. Clowney H Fickett W.Wiersbe A. Stubbs

The purpose of 1 Peter is encouragement. It was written in a time of horrendous persecution against the church under the Roman Emperor Nero, the book was written in about 65 AD. Nero threw the Christians to the lions and used them as torches.

#### 1. <u>WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH.</u> (1 Peter 1:1-2)

#### A. <u>Author</u>

i) His name

Peter to a persecuted people. Peter came from Bethsaida, his brother was Andrew and was married to a lovely Christian woman. Peter was impulsive, out going, an extrovert and extremist. He became the leader of the apostles, he preached the first sermon and performed the first miracles. (Jn 42 "And he brought him to Jesus, Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which when translated is Peter.)"

ii) His office.
 An Apostle -- sent
 In the narrow sense a) Seen Jesus b) Received a call from Jesus power to perform signs and miracles.
 In the wider sense - sent to preach.

#### B. <u>The Readers</u>

- i) **Strangers** in the world scattered. Because of Nero Christians fled from Rome. A true believer will never be loved in this world.
- ii) He reminds them that they are chosen.

Eph 1:4-5 "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love (v.5) he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."

Eph 1:11 "In him we were also chosen having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

Jn. 15:16 "You did not choose me. But I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

It was according to the foreknowledge of God the father that means with affection and love he knew you and called you before the foundation of the world.

iii) Sanctified by the Spirit.

"Sanctification may be defined as the gracious and continuous operation of the Holy Spirit by which he <u>purifies</u> the sinner, <u>renews</u> his whole nature in the image of God and enables him to perform good works."

iv) For obedience to Jesus Christ, made possible by the blood of Christ.

**<u>CONCLUSION.</u>** Peter concludes his introduction with a blessing he prays for grace (unmerited favour of God) and peace.

# <u>A POSITIVE ATTITUDE</u> (A LIVING HOPE)

#### 1. <u>THE SOURCE OF THIS HOPE</u>

A. <u>Blessed.</u>

Praise be to God the Father. <u>Frickett.</u> "The way to make Christians steadfast in the truth, cheerfully under their hardships and thriving in holiness is to bring them into a praising disposition."

B. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 Praise is directed to the Father in (v.5) called the God and Father of Christ. He always was the Father, but he became God when Christ became a man. He is the God and Father of our Lord (Sovereign) Jesus (Saviour) Christ (Messiah). Notice in (v.1, in v.2 and twice in v.3) Christ is mentioned.

#### 2. <u>NATURE OF OUR HOPE</u> (v.3, Eph 2:1-3)

A. <u>New Birth</u>

We are reminded there that by nature we are dead in our sin, guilty in our sin and condemned.

- i) In His great mercy
- ii) Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. No person will have spiritual life except by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was the resurrection of Jesus which was the crowning point of his work, it showed that he was indeed the Son of God, that his work on the cross was finished and that the Father was pleased and raised him from the dead. That same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead has raised you from your spiritual death, he gave you the new birth.

#### **<u>REGENERATION</u>** definition

#### "It may be defined as an <u>act of God by which the principle of the new life is</u> implanted into man and the governing disposition of the soul is made holy".

- **B.** <u>An inheritance</u> (v.4)
  - i) It is incorruptible.
    - It can never be destroyed or injured or decayed, treasures are in heaven.
    - ii) Undefiled
      - Nothing can tarnish the beauty of your inheritance.
  - iii) It does not fade away.
  - iv) It is reserved in heaven for you.

Stibbs. "This inheritance has already been carefully put aside or reserved and so is waiting for us to enjoy."

#### 3. <u>OUR SECURITY</u> (v.5)

The child is kept by the power of God.

Lenski. "Great and wonderful is this protection of omnipotence."

This means that our Christian life does not depend on us or on the right use of grace we are kept by the power of God.

# JOY-FILLED LIVING

(Chapter 1:6-9)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The first characteristic every person desires is joy, we will learn that joy isn't dependant on our circumstances, but it comes from a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### 1. **REJOICE IN SPITE OF TESTING** (v.6)

A. 'In this'

You rejoice in the fact that you are elected by the father, sanctified by the Spirit, you are being kept..

- B. 'You greatly rejoice'
- C. 'Even though you have to suffer trials' Notice all different kinds of trials.

#### 2. **<u>REASONS FOR TESTING</u>** (v.7)

- A. Because of the preciousness of faith 'Of greater worth than gold' your faith is precious.
- **B**. Like gold it will be tested
  - So that it may be proved genuine i)
  - So that your faith may result in praise, glory and honour when ii) Jesus Christ is revealed.
    - Commendation from God for the faithful. a)
    - It will be given to the Lord. b)

#### 3. **TESTINGS DRAW US TO JESUS (v.8-9)**

- A. They give us an active love for Him
- B. They cause you to daily rely on Him (present continuous tense)
- С. We have an unbelievable joy.
- D. 'You receive the goal of your faith, the salvation of our souls,'.

#### <u>1 PETER</u> STUDY 4

# TAKING SALVATION SERIOUSLY

(Chapter 1:10-12)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

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So far Peter has stressed two things in **v.1-9**.

- 1. He reminds them of what God did for them **v.1-5**.
- 2. Peter reminds them trials are good for them. **V.7-9.**

#### 1.. <u>THIS SALVATION WAS THE SUBJECTS OF OLD TESTAMENT</u> <u>PROPHECY.</u>

- The suffering of Christ (Calvary) They searched intently and with the greatest care to find out about the sufferings of Christ (the cross) (v.11)\_time and circumstances.(Is 53, Ps 22)
- **B.** <u>The glories that would follow.</u>

# NEW TESTAMENT REVELATION. A. It was preached to you, the gospel, (Acts 2:16 + 21 + 38)

**B.** By the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. They took it seriously

#### 3. <u>ANGELIC STUDY</u>

'Even angels long to look into these things'

#### **CONCLUSION**

If ever we become casual with regards, to this salvation or give up because of sufferings or trials how great will our judgement be, the Old Testament prophets, the New Testament preachers, even the angels took it seriously, may you and I take it seriously!

#### THE CHALLENGE TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

(Chapter 1:13-16)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In view of God's grace to us we are now confronted with a demand for transformed conduct.

A. Stibbs: "Therefore when people respond to the call of the gospel a radical change must be made."

#### 1. PREPARE YOUR MINDS FOR ACTION (v.13)

What this means is that you must act as if you mean business, King James Version "Gird up the loins of your minds". This means that there can be no idling in the Christian life. It all begins with the mind

J. Brown: "Without this we will make little progress in our Christian life, we will only be productive on a small scale, little glory will be brought to the Lord, everything will be a difficulty, we will be constantly stumbling and falling, but with this our progress will be steady and rapid, delightful to ourselves, comfortable to our brethren and honourable to our Lord."

#### 2. **BE SELF CONTROLLED**

This means that there must be self discipline in my life, in a world that is trying to constantly deceive me.

- Refrain from drunkenness A.
- B. In general terms - self discipline

#### 3. SET YOUR HOPE FULLY ON THE GRACE TO BE GIVEN YOU WHEN JESUS CHRIST IS REVEALED.

- A. Grace available now. Peter has already spoken of this grace in v.2+10
- **B**. Grace on the day of Christ. Peter is referring to the second coming.

#### 4. DO NOT CONFORM TO THE EVIL DESIRES YOU HAD WHEN YOU LIVED IN IGNORANCE.

- You are no longer doing what you always have done A.
- Be holy in all that you do. **B**.
  - It is the character of God (v.16) i)
  - The call on God (v.15) ii)
  - iii) The command of God
  - The consistency of God (It is written) iv)

# A CALL TO THE REDEEMED (Chapter 1:17-21)

#### 1. HE REMINDS US OF OUR JUDGEMENT BEFORE GOD (v.17)

'Father who judges each man's work'

- Α. Impartial
- **B**. Each man's work
  - We live our lives as strangers here. **i**)
  - ii) We live our lives in reverent fear

#### THE COST OF OUR REDEMPTION 2. Learn v.18-19.

- A. Price
  - Negative not with silver or gold i)
  - Positive with the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ii)
- Our redemption by the blood of Christ. **B**.
  - From a life of ignorance (v.14) i)
  - It was filled with evil desires (v.14) ii)
  - It was absolutely empty (v.18) iii)

# EXPRESSING YOUR NEW LIFE

(Chapter 1:22-25)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Peter has clarified for us that once we respond to the gospel there is a radical change E.g.. It will lead to a well-ordered mind, self-disciplined life, holiness, and a reverence for God and now he explains how to express this new life.

#### 1. HE GOES OVER WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM

In v.22 four key words are spoken of 'by obeying the truth' this is the crux.

A. Purification or cleansing (v.22)

By God's grace we have been cleansed from our sin.

B. By God's grace we have been born again or new birth (v.23)

Because you obeyed the truth.

#### 2. HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? (v.23)

Matthew Henry: "The Word of God is the great means of regeneration."

- A. It is incorruptible (imperishable)
- B. It is living (Hew.4:12)
- С. It is enduring

It will last forever, over the centuries people have tried to burn and discredit the Bible. God's Word lives and abides, it never becomes dead or obsolete, and it continues to speak to people about the unchanging truth of God.

#### 3. WHY IT HAPPENED? (v.22)

- A. You must have a **sincere** love It must not be pretended or superficial or sentimental.
- **B**. It must come deeply from the heart King James "fervent"

#### SPIRITUASL GROWTH

(Chapter 2:1-3)

#### INTRODUCTION.

Peter will now apply all that he has said in Chapter 1 and the main thrust of Chapter 2 is spiritual growth.

#### 1. <u>RID YOURSELVES</u>

As children of God there are certainly things which we must get rid of, they cannot stay in your life as a Christian.

- A. <u>Tremendous effort is required</u>
  - Malice
     There is a slow burning anger which is cold, hard, and settled resentment against somebody, it is a vicious nature which is bent on doing harm to others.
- B. <u>All deceit</u> This is a desire to deceive and mislead.
- C. <u>Hypocrisy</u> Pretending to be what you are not.
- **D.** <u>Envy</u>

This is an uneasiness which we feel at the happiness of another person with a restless desire to deprive him of his advantages.

**E.** <u>Slander of every kind.</u> It includes all gossip, whispering, backbiting, hinting at someone's faults.

#### 2. <u>CRAVE PURE SPIRITUAL FOOD AND GROW</u> (v.2)

- A. <u>We must crave spiritual food or spiritual nourishment like new born</u> <u>babies.</u>
- **B.** <u>It must be pure</u> This is going to be found primary in the Word of God. So that you may grow up.

# A STONE

#### (Chapter 2:4-8)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Peter now is going to describe the <u>privileges</u> which a true believer enjoys as well as the services they aught to render.

#### 1. <u>THE TRANSFORMATION THAT IS EFFECTED</u> (v.5)

When Peter was first brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew, Jesus looked at him and said. "You are Simon but you will be Cephas" (Jn 1:42). The word Cephas means a rock, other examples Gen 17:5 Abram - Abraham. Gen 32:28 Jacob - Israel. Now this transformation came about because you came to him.

- A. We admit that we are sinners and must be willing to repent of our sin.
- B. We have got to believe that Jesus Christ died for our sin.
- C. <u>Come to Christ</u> (Jn 1:12)
- **D.** <u>Discover</u>

The Greek verb used expresses the idea of drawing near with the intention of both <u>staying</u> and <u>enjoying</u> personal fellowship.

#### 2. <u>THE INTEGRATION THAT IS REQUIRED</u> (v.5)

What this teaches us is that in the same way that a builder takes a brick and then fixes it into a wall with other bricks and eventually builds a building and so when we become Christians we are compared to a stone that is taken from the dump and then integrated into a building. You are now being built into a spiritual house, this implies that people enter the church by coming to Christ, not that they are joined to Christ be coming to church. There is no place for isolation, you cannot be a Christian by yourself.

<u>J.Blanchard.</u> "No Christian can forward the kingdom of God better by standing aloof from other Christians like a solitary brick on a building site, get involved in your church, its programmes, its ministry, its prayer life, its burdens, its responsibilities and its fellowship, only then will you get involved in its blessing."

#### 3. <u>THE IDENTIFICATION THAT IS SUGGESTED.</u>

Peter now quotes from two Old Testament passages (Is.28:16, Ps 118:22) We are identified with Christ, the chief corner stone and we are promised that we can trust him, we will never be put to shame, in fact he is very precious to us.

#### 4. <u>THE OBLIGATIONS THAT ARE DESIRED</u>

A. <u>So that you can become a holy priesthood.</u>

The Bible clearly teaches that all true believers have become priests or ministers. The purpose of the priest is to bring offerings to God "**Priesthood of all believers**"

- **B.** <u>To offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.</u>
  - i) Sorrow for sin (**Ps. 51:17**)
  - ii) Praise and thanksgiving (**Heb.13:15**)
  - iii) Doing good by sharing (**Heb.13:16**)
  - iv) Totally dedicated life (**Rom.12:1-2**)

## A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON

(Chapter 2:9-10)

#### 1. <u>HE TELLS US ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN'S DYNASTY</u> (v.9) You are a chosen people.

- A. <u>A personal matter</u> ((Jn.15:16)
- B. <u>A matter of divine sovereignty</u> (Eph.1:4-5)
- C. <u>It is unconditional</u> (Jn 6:27)
- D. <u>It is eternal</u> (Eph.1:4)

#### 2. YOU ARE A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD OR THE CHRISTIAN'S DIGNITY

- A. <u>This means as a king you can exhibit God's power</u> (2 Cor.5:17, 2Tim.2:12) This means that a Christian reigns in any situation by overcoming it, mastering it, coming through it using God' grace.
- B. <u>As a priest you can enter God's presence</u> (Heb.10:19-22)
- 3. <u>THE CHRISTIANS DUTY</u> You are a holy nation.
  - A. <u>It is a covenant duty</u> (Ex.19, 1Thes. 4:7)
  - **B.** <u>It is a constant duty</u> Holiness of life is constant.
- 4. <u>THE CHRISTIANS DESTINY</u> God's own people.
  - A. <u>There is therefore a selection we cannot fathom.</u>
  - B. <u>There is a security which cannot fail (Rom.8:38-39)</u>

#### CONCLUSION

Peter has now described what it really means to be a child of God, our responsibility is a great one, and we are to reflect God to our society.

# **<u>1 PETER</u>**

STUDY 11

#### SELF-DISCIPLINE

(Chapter 2-11-12)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

A new section now begins entitled Christian living in relation to others. It will deal with our duty as citizens, as employees and wives and as husbands, so they convey the most important human relationship in our lives, our country, our work, our homes and our marriage partners. Now before launching into this section, Peter lays down principles of self-discipline.

#### 1. <u>BECAUSE OF OUR HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP.</u>

Peter reminds us here in **v.11** that we are aliens and strangers in the world. As true Christians we are strangers in this world, our standards, speech and goals are different (**v.11b**)

# 2. <u>WE NEED SELF-DISCIPLINE FOR OUR TRUE WELL-BEING</u>

'Abstain from sinful desires which war against your soul'

A. <u>Abstain from sinful desires</u>

(Gal 5:19-21 "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious : sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred and discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies and the like."

 B. Which war against your soul. <u>Matthew Henry</u> "Sin wars against the soul, it destroys the moral liberty of the soul, it weakens the soul by impairing its faculties, it robs the soul of comfort and peace, it debases and destroys the dignity of the soul, and it hinders its present prosperity and plunges it into misery".

#### 3. <u>WE NEED SELF-DISCIPLINE FOR OUR INFLUENCE FOR GOD</u> ON OTHERS

**1** Peter 2:12 "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

- A. <u>Live such good lives among the pagans</u>
- **B.** Your life should cause them to see your good deeds and glorify God and so good works of believers have a strong missionary power.

# THE CHRISTIAN CITIZEN

(Chapter 2:13-17)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This is sometimes a highly controversial subject, sometimes folks resort to anarchy, but sadly others go to the other extreme and do nothing.

#### 1. <u>SUBMIT YOURSELVES</u> (v.13)

The Christians response to authority is one of submission. <u>To every authority instituted by men.</u> Church members under the elders, teachers, citizens under the law.

- A. <u>He commanded us to do so</u> (Matt 22:21, Rom 13:1-7)
- **B.** <u>We follow our Lord's example</u>
- C. We do this in order to commend to others Christ as Lord.

#### 2. <u>LIVE AS FREE MEN</u> (v.16)

The principle of freedom is stressed that does not mean we use that freedom to cover up evil.

#### 3. <u>LIVE AS SERVANTS OF GOD</u>

- A. <u>As a servant we are to show proper respect to everyone.</u> This is based on the noble primus that they are made in the image of God.
- **B.** We then show love to the brotherhood of believers.
- C. <u>We are to fear God.</u> A reverence for God.
- **D.** <u>We honour the king (president)</u>

# THE CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMAN

(Chapter 2:18-20)

#### **INTRODUCTION.**

Having laid a strong doctrinal base Peter now applies the gospel to our every day living. He has already clarified that we are to be God fearing, loyal and obedient citizens and now he turns to concentrate on the office and he speaks of the Christian employee. The Christian employee is always to submit to his employer.

## 1. <u>RESPECTFULNESS</u>

- A. <u>It comes out of respect for their position.</u>
- B. <u>It comes out of reverence for God</u> (Col 3:22)
  - i) It will involve being good and considerate.
  - ii) Also to those who are harsh.

## 2. <u>YOU AUGHT TO BE DILIGENT (Hard Work)</u>

#### 3. <u>YOU AUGHT TO BE FAITHFUL.</u>

- A. <u>Time</u>
- B. <u>Property</u>
- C. <u>Boss</u>

## 4. YOU AUGHT TO DO YOUR WORK WITH CHEERFULNESS

#### 5. <u>YOU MUST BE ABSOLUTELY HONEST.</u>

#### GOD'S PATTERN FOR WIVES.

(Chapter 3:1-6)

#### 1. <u>SHE MUST BE SUBMISSIVE</u>

- A. What it does not mean.
  - i) It does not mean that she becomes a slave.
     In actual fact she is never more free than when she is in submission.
  - ii) It does not mean she must not give her opinion.
  - iii) It does not mean her abilities lie dormant.
  - iv) It does not mean she becomes inferior.
- **B.** <u>What it does mean</u>
  - i) To make herself submissive (**Eph.5:22**)
  - ii) It is a command not optional.
  - iii) Continuous experience.
  - iv) It is a spiritual matter, unto the Lord.
  - v) A tremendous attitude plus action.

#### 2. <u>SHE IS TO LIVE A LIFE OF GODLINESS</u> (v.2-4)

- A. <u>She should pay careful attention to her behaviour.</u>
  - i) Her behaviour is marked by moral purity.
  - ii) Reverence.
- **B.** <u>She also pays careful attention to beauty</u>,
  - i) She does not emphasize clothes and jewellery rather she wants to be gentle
  - ii) Quiet
  - iii) Great worth to God.

#### C. <u>Her careful attention to bravery.</u> Peter compares her to Sarah. The result of this her husband will be won.

## **GOD'S PATTERN FOR HUSBANDS**

(Chapter 3: 7-11)

# 1. <u>BE CONSIDERATE FOR YOUR WIFE</u>

The woman is the responder.

- A. <u>By way of words</u>
- **B.** <u>He seeks to provide for all of her needs.</u>
  - i) Physical needs.
  - ii) Emotional needs.
  - iii) Intellectual needs.
  - iv) Social needs.
  - v) Recreational needs.
  - vi) Sexual needs.
  - vii) Spiritual needs.
- C. <u>He seeks to protect her.</u>
- **D.** <u>He assists her to fulfill her responsibilities.</u>
- E. <u>Sacrifice</u>
- **F.** <u>Allow her to share your life.</u>
- G. <u>Never compare your wife unfavourably.</u>
- **H.** <u>Tell your wife she has first place in your life.</u>
- I. Show her much tenderness and courtesy.
- J. <u>Express appreciation and praise.</u>

## 2. <u>THE WIFE IS TO KNOW THAT HER HUSBAND RESPECTS HER.</u>

## 3. <u>HE SHARES EQUAL SPIRITUAL RIGHTS.</u>

#### CONCLUSION

Peter says if we don't do the above our prayers will be hindered.

# HOW TO LOVE LIFE

(Chapter 3:8-12)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### 1. <u>HE SHOWS US HOW CHRISTIAN'S SHOULD BEHAVE TOWARD</u> <u>CHRISTIANS</u> (v.8)

'finally', Peter is now drawing his letter to a close, he is applying the doctrine to day-to-day living.

- A. <u>Live in harmony with one another.</u> Literally that means minding the same things. Christians should have a common mind, a mind that is informed by God's Word and His Spirit and so what Peter describes here is not just human agreement. But agreement reached, as well as the truth received.
- **B.** <u>Be sympathetic or have compassion</u> (**Rom 12:16**) That means we suffer together with each other, we must never be hard.
- C. <u>Love as brothers</u> (Jn 13:33-35)
- **D.** <u>We are to be humble</u> Never proud or self-sufficient.

#### 2. <u>HOW THE CHRISTIAN BEHAVES TO THE UNFRIENDLY</u> (v.9)

- A. <u>We must deliberately decide to love.</u> 'Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, (Matt.5:44)
- B. <u>We must control our tongue</u> (v.10)
- C. <u>We must turn from evil and do good</u> (v.11)
- **D.** <u>We must seek and pursue peace</u> (v.12) Always remember that God sees and hears.

#### **HAPPY SUFFERERS**

(Chapter 3:13-17)

#### HE INSISTS ON HAVING A PASSIONATE LOVE OF GOODNESS 1. (v.13)

We are eager to do what is good, Greek Zealots. Love goodness with that passionate intensity with which the most fanatical patriot loves his country.

#### 2. WE AUGHT ALSO TO REMEMBER THE CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE **TO SUFFERING (v.14)**

Even if you suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.

#### 3. THE HAPPY SUFFERER (v.14b-17)

- A. Do not fear
- B. Set apart Jesus Christ as Lord.
- N.B. **C**. Ways to be prepared to give an answer
  - We must be logical i)
  - ii) When you answer do it with gentleness.
  - iii) Do it with reverence for God.
  - Keep a clear conscience. iv)

#### **CONCLUSION**

Those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ will be ashamed.

#### CALVARY (Chapter 3:18-22)

## 1. <u>CHRIST'S SUFFERING WAS PROPITIATORY</u> (1Jn 2:3, 4:10)

Propitiation - the removal of God's wrath by the giving of a gift. Not only did Jesus take away God's wrath but he also took away our sins.

#### 2. <u>CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS ARE SUBSTITUTIONARY</u>

The righteous for the unrighteous (Is.53:4)

#### 3. <u>CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS ARE CONCLUSIVE</u> (v.18)

Once for all, the one event on the cross achieved a complete and final settlement of the issue, nothing more is needed Jesus Christ's work on the cross was final and sufficient, he said on the cross 'it is finished'.

#### 4. <u>CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS ARE RECONCILIATORY</u> (Eph 2:18, Heb.10:19)

'To bring you to God'.

#### 5. <u>CHRIST'S SUPPERINGS WERE EXTRAORDINARY.</u>

He was put to death in the body which means he suffered a brutal death, but was made alive by the Spirit, so on the third day he rose again from the dead. The Holy Spirit raised, Him, it was that same Spirit that worked even in the days of Noah, it was the same Holy Spirit that Jesus went and preached after his resurrection through the apostles and also to the Antediluvian. And just as the flood spoke of God's judgement and the ark of God's mercy, so the waters of baptism speak of the death which fell upon Christ and of our salvation through that death.

# **DEATH TO SELF**

(Chapter 4:1-6)

# 1. <u>THE APPLICATION.</u> (The application that arises from the teachings of the Cross)

#### A. <u>It affects your attitude</u> (v.1)

- i) Jesus suffered in His body
- ii) For our sins

On the cross he died to sin 'it is done with sin' you and I aught to have the same attitude. Arm yourselves with the same mind, same ideas and the same determination to deal with sin. Do not play with sin, don't compromise with is, be done with it!

**B.** <u>It also affects our ambitions</u> (v.2)

We no longer want to live the rest of our lives fulfilling human desires, but rather to do the will of God.

- C. <u>It also affects our activities (v.3)</u>
  - i) You must deal with the past
    - a) You lived in debauchery (grossly immoral, sexual sins)
    - b) Lust, in your past.
    - c) Drunkenness, it is finished.
    - d) Orgies
    - e) Carousing
    - f) Detestable idolatry.
  - ii) Rather do the will of God.
- **D.** <u>It also affects your associations</u> (v.4)

## 2. <u>THE APPEAL OF THE CROSS</u> (v.5-6)

Remember that one day we will stand before the judgement seat of Christ.

#### **CONCLUSION.**

In **v.6** this is what drove Peter to preach, so that they would be ready for the final day of judgement.

#### <u>N.B</u>.

#### 1 PETER STUDY 20

#### LIVING NEAR THE END (Chapter 4:7-11)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The end is near and Peter clarifies in practical terms how we should live.

#### 1. KEEP A COOL HEAD. (v.7)

Be clear minded and self controlled don't be given to panic keep a clear head.

#### 2. KEEP A WARM HEART (v.8)

Love each other deeply, the reason because love covers over a multitude of sins.

#### 3. KEEP AN OPEN HOUSE (v.9)

Offer hospitality without grumbling.

#### 4. **KEEP A FAITHFUL ATTITUDE** (v.10)

Each one must be faithful, use whatever gift you have received to serve others.

#### 5. **BE A POWERFUL WITNESS.** (v.11)

- Spoken ministry (by what you say). A.
  - As the Scripture speaks i)
  - As by God himself ii)
- B. Practical ministry by deeds.

'If anyone speaks he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.'

## HANDLING HARSH REALITIES

(Chapter 4:12-19)

## 1. <u>EXPECT SUFFERING</u> (v.12)

Do not be surprised in a fallen world, all kinds of painful things will happen E.g. Joseph, David, Elijah, Job, Isaiah, Peter, Paul, and above all our Lord Jesus.

## 2. <u>REJOICE IN SUFFERING</u> (v.13-14)

- A. <u>It means fellowship with Christ</u> (v.13) It is an honour and a privilege to suffer with Christ and to be treated by the world, as how the world treated Him.
- **B.** <u>It means glory in the future</u> (v.13) So to suffer with rejoicing now is the way to prepare to rejoice with glory then.
- C. <u>Brings us the ministry of the Holy Spirit</u> (v.14)

When a Christian is suffering we have the ministry of the comforter, the Holy Spirit

**D.** <u>It enables us to glory in His name</u> (v.14)

## 3. <u>EXAMINE YOURSELF</u> (v.15-18)

- A. <u>Why am I suffering?</u> (v.15)
- **B.** <u>Am I ashamed of glorifying Christ?</u> (v.16)
- C. <u>Am I seeking to win the lost?</u> (v.17-18)

## 4. <u>COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD</u> (v.19)

## **QUALITIES OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**

(Chapter 5:1-4)

## 1. <u>A VITAL PERSONAL EXPERIENCE</u> (v.1)

#### A. <u>Humility</u>

I appeal as a fellow elder. Here the apostle regards himself as a fellow elder.

- B. <u>A witness of Christ's suffering</u> (Matt.26:36)
- C. <u>One who will share in the glory to be revealed</u>

In other words, Peter had a vital growing relationship with Christ and this made it possible for him to minister effectively to God's people.

## 2. <u>A LOVING CONCERN FOR GOD'S PEOPLE</u> (v.2-3)

- A. <u>Shepherd</u>
  - i) Protect
  - ii) Feed
  - iii) Care
  - iv) Discipline
- **B.** <u>Take the oversight</u>
  - i) Laziness
  - ii) Covetousness
- $C. \qquad \underline{Be an example} \quad (v.3)$

# 3. <u>A DESIRE TO PLEASE CHRIST ALONE</u> (v.4)

#### THE MARKS OF MATURITY (Chapter 5:5-14)

#### 1. **<u>BE HUMBLE</u>** (v.5-7)

- Α. A realistic assessment of yourself.
- **B**. The results of rejected pride
- C. Result of resolute action.

#### 2. **<u>BE WATCHFUL</u>** (v.8-9)

- Α. Respect him - he is dangerous.
- B. Recognize him - he is a great pretender
- C. <u>Resist him</u> (v.9)

#### 3. **<u>BE HOPEFUL</u>** (v.10-11)

- A. We have God's grace
- B. We know we are going to glory.
- С. Our present suffering is only for a while.
- Our trials are building character D.
  - i) Strong
  - ii) Fire
  - Steadfast iii)