

The Epistle of 1 Peter

- ▶ Purpose of epistle
 - ▶ Encourage Christians to remain faithful through sufferings
 - ▶ 1 Peter 4:12
- ▶ Some key words
 - ▶ Suffer, Suffering
 - ▶ Precious, subjection, faith, obey
- ▶ Written when and from where?
 - ▶ Babylon, 5:13
 - ▶ John Mark with him
 - ▶ Conjectured dates range from A.D 58-64
- ▶ Addressed to “the pilgrims of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia”
 - ▶ Dispersion in a general sense as in Acts 8:1 – Christians scattered abroad, both Jew and Gentile



1:3-5 Thanksgiving for the great salvation

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

- ▶ Christians have a living hope
 - ▶ Not cold or dead or lifeless
 - ▶ Romans 8:24-25
 - ▶ Hebrews 6:19 – an anchor, anchored into heaven itself
- ▶ Why can we have such a hope?
 - ▶ Because of Jesus' resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 16-17
 - ▶ His resurrection gives us assurance of ours

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- ▶ What kind of inheritance have we been begotten again unto?
 - ▶ Incorruptible
 - ▶ Undefiled
 - ▶ Does not fade away
 - ▶ Reserved in heaven for you

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- ▶ Inheritance – greater than all this world has
- ▶ Incorruptible – not subject to corruption or decay
 - ▶ Matthew 6:19-21
 - ▶ Even our physical bodies – Genesis 3:19
- ▶ Undefiled – not stained or soiled, but pure
 - ▶ Revelation 21:27

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- ▶ Does not fade away – will not lose its original beauty – “it shall wear its freshness, brightness, and beauty forever” (Trench)
- ▶ Reserved in heaven for you – kept, guarded, preserved; “no tickets sold at the gate”; prepared place for prepared people
 - ▶ John 14:1-3

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- ▶ How are we kept or guarded for this inheritance?
 - ▶ “by the power of God through faith”
- ▶ What is our part?
 - ▶ Through faith
- ▶ Is salvation yet to be received?
 - ▶ Yes, “kept...for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”

1:6-9 The inheritance is worthy of trial and affliction

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
{7} that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
{8} whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
{9} receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.”

- ▶ How long are we grieved by various trials?
 - ▶ “for a little while”
- ▶ What do these trials accomplish?
 - ▶ They test “the genuineness of your faith” so that it may be “found to praise, honor, and glory of the revelation of Jesus Christ”

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- ▶ What is the value of your faith compared to gold that perishes?
 - ▶ “being much more precious”
- ▶ Trials prove our faith. A faith that has been proven is approved by God.
 - ▶ 2 Corinthians 4:17

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- ▶ We believe and love what (who) we have not seen
 - ▶ John 20:29
 - ▶ Seeing through the eye of faith
 - ▶ 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 5:7
- ▶ Our rejoicing should be with joy i n e x p r e s s i b l e and full of g l o r y.
- ▶ Our rejoicing should be with joy inexpressible and full of glory

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- ▶ What is the culmination and goal and purpose of our faith?
 - ▶ “the salvation of your souls”
- ▶ What must we continue to do?
 - ▶ 2 Corinthians 5:7 – walk by faith
 - ▶ Colossians 1:23 – continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel

1:10-12 How fortunate we are to have this salvation

“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, {11} searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

{12} To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.”

- ▶ Of what did the prophets inquire and search carefully?
 - ▶ “this salvation”
- ▶ For what did they inquire and search?
 - ▶ “what or what manner of time”; NASB: “what person or time”
 - ▶ They were searching to understand the people of whom they prophesied and the times in which it would come to pass

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- ▶ Who was in or within these prophets?
 - ▶ “the Spirit of Christ”
 - ▶ The Holy Spirit; the Spirit of God
 - ▶ Romans 8:9
 - ▶ Galatians 4:6
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 2:10

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- ▶ Who was testifying through these prophets?
 - ▶ The Spirit of Christ
 - ▶ 2 Peter 1:20-21:
 - ▶ “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

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- ▶ The Spirit of Christ testified of what?
 - ▶ “the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow”
 - ▶ Can you think of an example of such prophecy?
 - ▶ Isaiah 53

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- ▶ By whom the gospel preached?
 - ▶ “by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven”
- ▶ Angels desire to know more of it!
- ▶ Peter is telling them about how great is this salvation they have become partakers of
 - ▶ You have an inheritance reserved for you. You stay faithful even through these trials

1:13-16 Because of the great salvation and the trials to come, do this:
“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
{14} as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;
{15} but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
{16} because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”

- ▶ In verse 13, three commands are given:
 - ▶ “gird up the loins of your mind”
 - ▶ Get prepared
 - ▶ “be sober”
 - ▶ “nepho” – literally means to “be sober” in the sense of being unintoxicated
 - ▶ We should be free from every form of mental and spiritual drunkenness; temperate in spirit
 - ▶ “rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”
 - ▶ NASB – “fix your hope completely”

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- ▶ What kind of children gird up the loins of their minds, are sober, and rest their hope fully?
 - ▶ “obedient children”; children of obedience
- ▶ To what should we not conform ourselves?
 - ▶ “the former lusts, as in your ignorance”
 - ▶ Desires of the flesh and of the mind, before we knew the gospel, when we were sons of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2)

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- ▶ Verses 15-16 exhort us to live holy lives, with the example of God Himself
- ▶ Verse 17 will exhort us to godly fear, based on the fact of God’s impartial judgment according to what we do
- ▶ And verse 18 will exhort us to live holy because of the price of our redemption

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▶ Live holy lives

▶ Holy – separated, set apart for service to God

▶ In all manner of living

▶ Titus 2:11-14

▶ 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7

▶ Why?

▶ Because God is holy.

▶ Imitate the God we serve and worship