

The Epistle of 1 Peter

▶ Purpose of epistle

- ▶ Encourage Christians to remain faithful through sufferings

- ▶ 1 Peter 4:12:

- ▶ “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you”

- ▶ 1 Peter 5:12:

- ▶ “By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.”

1 Peter

- ▶ In the Introduction, we begin to learn about the theme and purposes of this epistle
 - ▶ We are reminded of the Christian's living hope and inheritance
 - ▶ Rejoicing in hope though suffering in persecution
 - ▶ Purpose of afflictions
 - ▶ The greatness of their salvation
 - ▶ Admonitions to sobriety, holiness, and fear
 - ▶ The basis of our faith and hope:
 - ▶ Redemption through Christ's blood,
 - ▶ His resurrection and glorification
 - ▶ Our new birth by the gospel

Based on Outline in 1 Peter Commentary by Clinton Hamilton

1 Peter – Three main subject areas

- ▶ Three main subject areas addressed and re-addressed
 - ▶ How we ought to live because we have been born again and because of the eternal life we anticipate
 - ▶ 2:1-12
 - ▶ 4:7-11
 - ▶ Obligations in various relationships
 - ▶ 2:13-18
 - ▶ 3:1-12
 - ▶ 5:1-9
 - ▶ Attitudes and behavior in suffering in suffering
 - ▶ 2:19-25
 - ▶ 3:13 – 4:6
 - ▶ 5:10-11

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2:19-21a Christians' obligations of submission in slave relationship

“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

{19} For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

{20} For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

{21} For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:...”

- ▶ The nature of the master does not determine a Christian's duty
 - ▶ Christians subject themselves to their masters with all fear
- ▶ What is commendable before God?
 - ▶ “because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully”; “you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently”
 - ▶ Two reasons given for behaving this way
 - ▶ “for this is commendable...before God”
 - ▶ “for to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps”

2:21-25 Following the example of Christ in suffering

“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

{22} ‘Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth’;

{23} who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

{24} who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

{25} For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

- ▶ What have we been called to?
 - ▶ Suffer for doing good, bear it patiently, don't retaliate, leave vengeance to God
 - ▶ And who set the perfect example of that?
 - ▶ Christ
- ▶ Christ did what in relation to mistreatment?
 - ▶ “when He was reviled, did not revile in return”
 - ▶ “when He suffered, He did not threaten”
 - ▶ “but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”

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- ▶ Christ bore our sins in His own body on the tree that we would do what?
 - ▶ “having died to sins, might live for righteousness”
- ▶ Christ is the good shepherd (Jn 10:11)
- ▶ Christ is the chief shepherd (1 Peter 5:4)
- ▶ Christ is the great shepherd (Hebrews 13:20)
- ▶ Christians are people who “were like sheep _____, but now have _____ to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls”
 - ▶ Christians are people who “were like sheep going astray, but now have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls”

3:1-4 Submission of wives to husbands

“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

{2} when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

{3} Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—

{4} rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”

- ▶ A continuation of instruction in 2:13-18 – relationships, involving submission to authority
- ▶ Suffering sometimes comes when we submit to authority in less than ideal situations in order to please God
- ▶ This was true in chapter 2 in relation to
 - ▶ Authorities, kings, governors
 - ▶ Masters, including the harsh
- ▶ And it is likewise true in the case of a believing wife with an unbelieving husband

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- ▶ Believing wife, live this way with your unbelieving husband:
 - ▶ Chaste conduct, accompanied by fear
- ▶ The Christian will have influence over her husband not through physical adornment but through spiritual excellence
 - ▶ World may say otherwise
- ▶ What is to be the woman's beauty?

3:5-6 Submission of wives to husbands – always has been this way:

“For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, {6} as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”

- ▶ What kind of women adorned themselves with the attitude and behavior described in verse 4 and not with what was described in verse 3?
 - ▶ “holy women who trusted in God”
- ▶ Sarah did what in regard to Abraham?
 - ▶ “obeyed Abraham”
 - ▶ “calling him lord”
- ▶ Do you want to be Sarah’s daughters?

3:7 Husbands' attitude and behavior toward wives

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

- ▶ Husbands are to live with their wives with what?
 - ▶ “understanding”
- ▶ Husbands are to give what to their wives?
 - ▶ “honor, as to the weaker vessel”
 - ▶ “As to the weaker vessel” means what?
- ▶ Husbands, what if we don't?
 - ▶ Prayers hindered