

# 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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### 3:8-9 Christians' relationship with one another

“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; {9} not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

- ▶ Christian's attitude and behavior toward one another is characterized by what?
  - ▶ Compassion for one another
  - ▶ Love as brothers love
  - ▶ Tenderheartedness
  - ▶ Courtesy; humility
  - ▶ Not retaliating but returning good evil
- ▶ Christians are called to inherit a blessing; they ought to therefore bless others

### 3:10-12 The call to inherit blessing

“For ‘He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.

{11} Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

{12} For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’”

- ▶ If a man loves life and will see good days, what should he do?
  - ▶ “refrain his tongue from evil”
  - ▶ refrain “his lips from speaking deceit”
  - ▶ “turn away from evil and do good”
  - ▶ “seek peace and pursue it”
- ▶ To whose prayers are the Lord's ears open?
  - ▶ “the righteous”
- ▶ How is the Lord's face described in relation to those who do evil?
  - ▶ “against”

### 3:13-14 Do what is right, and don't live in fear

“And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?”

{14} But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. ‘And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.’”

- ▶ Christians must be followers of what is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ▶ Christians must be followers of what is good.
- ▶ What is the state of Christians who suffer for righteousness' sake?
  - ▶ “blessed”
- ▶ In suffering for righteousness' sake, we should not....
  - ▶ “be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled”

### 3:15-17 Sanctify the Lord, prepare, keep conscience clear, and suffer

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

{16} having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

{17} For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

- ▶ Two things necessary in order to give a defense
  - ▶ Need to have sanctified the Lord God in your hearts
  - ▶ Need to be ready, prepared
- ▶ The defense must be given in what manner?
  - ▶ “with meekness and fear”
- ▶ When you act with good conduct in Christ, you can have a good conscience
  - ▶ Give no valid reason for defaming; give reason for them to be ashamed
- ▶ What is better?
  - ▶ “if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil”

### 3:18 Follow the example of Christ in suffering

“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;” (NASB)

- ▶ Who suffered for who?
  - ▶ “the just for the unjust”
- ▶ Why did Christ suffer?
  - ▶ “so that He might bring us to God”
- ▶ To what extent did Christ suffer?
  - ▶ “having been put to death...”
- ▶ Having suffered and died, Christ was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ▶ “made alive in the spirit”

### 3:19-20 What Christ had done previously

“In which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison, {20} who once were disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.”

▶ “The contrast in verse 18...is between the two realms, the physical realm in which Christ was killed and the spiritual realm in which he was made alive. There are two things which occurred in this spiritual realm: Christ was quickened and he heralded.”

▶ cf. Ephesians 2:17

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- ▶ Who are the spirits in prison to whom proclamation was made?
  - ▶ the “disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah”
  - ▶ cf. 2 Peter 2:5
  - ▶ They are the disobedient souls in the days of Noah
- ▶ When was proclamation made to the spirits in prison?
  - ▶ “in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark”
  - ▶ “in prison” is the state of their spirits now
- ▶ How were eight person saved?
  - ▶ “through the water”