

# 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 – 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
    - ▶ 2:19-25
    - ▶ 3:13 – 4:6
    - ▶ 4:12-19
    - ▶ 5:10-11

Based on Outline in 1 Peter Commentary by Clinton Hamilton

## 4:17-18 Why suffer as a Christian and not as an evildoer?

“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’”

- ▶ Judgment – verdict
- ▶ Judgment begins from where?
  - ▶ “the house of God” – the church – the people of God
- ▶ God’s verdict is that the righteous who are suffering at the hands of evildoers are approved of Him
- ▶ If that’s God’s verdict, then what about the ones who do not obey the gospel?
  - ▶ God has the opposite verdict for them
- ▶ The righteous are saved with difficulty which comes about through suffering
  - ▶ If so, then what about the end of the ungodly and the sinner?
  - ▶ The question is rhetorical; asked but not answered; the answer is obvious

#### 4:19 Christian: Be strengthened in this knowledge

“Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”

- ▶ Christians are going to suffer for doing the will of God
- ▶ We should commit our souls to God – entrust to Him for care and protection
  - ▶ Commit under His charge
    - ▶ 2:23
    - ▶ Luke 23:46
    - ▶ 2 Timothy 1:12
- ▶ Remember 1:5 – “who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”
- ▶ Our Creator is trustworthy
  - ▶ He keeps His promises; there is no variation or shadow of turning with Him
  - ▶ What we commit to Him will be kept

## 5:1-4 Relationship of elders to the flock

“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:  
{2} Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;  
{3} nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;  
{4} and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

- ▶ Words used here to describe one office: elder, shepherd, overseer
- ▶ Compare to Acts 20:17-28
  - ▶ Elder – presbuteros
  - ▶ Overseer – episkopos – “to look upon or inspect”
  - ▶ Shepherd – poimaino – to shepherd or feed



## ▶ Bishop/Overseer

- ▶ Lead, rule, oversee
- ▶ Not lording it over, but examples to the flock (5:3)
- ▶ Rule over (Hebrews 13:17)
  - ▶ cf. 1 Timothy 3:5
- ▶ Flock: obey and submit

## ▶ Pastor/Shepherd

- ▶ Feeding, watching for, taking care of
- ▶ “...they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account” – Heb 13:17
- ▶ “...those entrusted to you” (5:3)

## ▶ Elder

- ▶ Signifies age, maturity, wisdom; not a novice – 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

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- ▶ Elders are to shepherd what flock?
  - ▶ “which is among you”
  - ▶ Acts 14:23

## 5:5 Relationship of the flock toward elders

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’”

- ▶ Younger are to do what with respect to elders?
  - ▶ “submit yourselves”
- ▶ Are all Christians to be submission to one another?
  - ▶ “Yes, all of you be submissive to one another”
- ▶ What must all Christians be clothed with?
  - ▶ “humility”
- ▶ What does God do toward the proud?
  - ▶ “resists”; “is opposed to” (NASB)
- ▶ What does God give to the humble?
  - ▶ “grace”



## 5:6-7 Relationship of Christians to God

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

- ▶ What must we do now if we want to be exalted by God in due time?
  - ▶ “humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God”
- ▶ When we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, we will commit to God, place upon God, what?
  - ▶ “all your care”
- ▶ What reason is given that we can do this?
  - ▶ “for He cares for you”