

## 1 Peter 1

-To begin, a few thoughts about Peter:

-Jesus rebuked Peter more than any other disciple.

-Peter was the only disciple who rebuked Jesus.

-Peter confessed Jesus more than any other disciple.

-Peter denied Jesus more than any other disciple.

-Of the disciples, Jesus praised Peter most.

-Of the disciples, Jesus addressed Peter alone as Satan.

-The book of 1 Peter, written by God through Peter, is about suffering.

-In suffering, we remember God has saved us (1:3-2:10).

-In suffering, we are examples to the world (2:11-4:6).

-In suffering, we show that Christ will return (4:7-5:11).

-As the Lord Jesus is now back in heaven, Satan can no longer attack Him.

-Therefore, Satan attacks Christians.

-As long as Christ was in the world, did He suffer?

-Yes.

-As long as we Christians are in the world, will we suffer?

-Yes.

-Satan and the world hate Christ.

-Satan and the world hate all Christians.

Let's read 1 Peter 1:1-2

1-Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

2-who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

-God through Peter is writing to all Christians, yet also to those in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia which are in modern day Turkey.

-The letter is written to all of us Christians who are exiles, foreigners, refugees, or temporary residents on this earth.

-For the Christian, our real home is heaven.

-In verse 2, we read that Christians "have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father."

-Do we choose God when we believe in Him?

-No.

-We do not choose God, but rather, God chooses us.

-As Jesus said to His disciples and to all Christians:  
“You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16).

-Before the creation of the world, God chose us.

-“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight” (Ephesians 1:4).

-Salvation from God is a complete gift from our Father.

-“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

-We do not even seek God, but rather, God seeks us.

-“There is no one who seeks God” (Romans 3:11).

-It is the love of God the Father who gives to His Son a huge gift.

-What is the huge gift that God the Father gives to His Son?

-God gives all true Christians to His Son as a gift.

-“All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away” (John 6:37).

-And the Son gives to us the gift of eternal life.

-The Lord Jesus said this: “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish (John 10:28).

-God alone chose us and gave us as a gift to our Lord Jesus who has given us the gift of eternal life.

-It is God the Holy Spirit in us as believers who makes us like Christ, and causes us to be obedient to Him.

Let's read 1 Peter 1:3-5

3-Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4-and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

5-who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

-Even though we were slaves to sin and death and Satan and deserved to die, God in His mercy saved us.

-Not only has God given us a new heart and a new birth so that we cannot die, but He has also given to us an inheritance.

-What is our inheritance that God gives to every Christian?

-We inherit God Himself along with all of the glory of heaven for eternity.

-Now, God is protecting our inheritance in heaven.

-God is also protecting our faith while we are on earth.

-Even though our salvation in Christ is sure, it will be made complete or perfect when we reach heaven.

Let's read 1 Peter 1:6-9

6-In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

7-These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8-Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

9-for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

-There are false teachers who teach that if you have a strong faith, you will not suffer.

-A true Christian, however, understands that we will suffer here on earth.

-Jesus promised that we would suffer (Jn 16:33).

-Job suffered when Satan attacked him, but Job never stopped trusting God.

-Job said, "Though [God] slay me, yet will I hope in him" (Job 13:15).

-The apostles suffered and were beaten for their faith in Christ, but they rejoiced that God counted them worthy of suffering (Acts 5:41).

-Christ who created this world and all of us people suffered and was crucified even though He did no wrong, yet He counted it all joy to die for us (Hebrews 12:2).

-If our God allows suffering in our lives, then we should know that this suffering can be used to strengthen our faith in Christ which will bring us joy.

-Our faith in Christ is our greatest possession, and nothing nor no one can take that away from us.

Let's read 1 Peter 1:10-12

10-Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,

11-trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.

12-It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

-Did the prophets and other Old Testament believers know that God would send a Savior to save us from our sin?

-Yes.

-From the beginning shortly after the first sin of Adam and Eve, God promised to send the Savior to crush the head of Satan (Ge 3:15).

-When Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac, and God provided a ram to take the place of Isaac, this was a picture of the coming Savior.

-When Israel sinned in the desert, and God told Moses to put up a bronze snake, this was a picture of the coming Savior.

-When the high priest would sprinkle blood on the ark of the covenant, this was a picture of the blood of the coming Savior.

-The prophets and other Old Testament believers knew that God would send a Savior, but they did not know why and when and how the Savior would suffer.

-The Holy Spirit, however, did reveal that even though they would never know on earth all of the answers to their questions, God would fulfill all of His promises to send the Savior.

-What do the angels long to look into?

-Holy angels do not need to be saved, and fallen angels or demons cannot be saved.

-Yet holy angels seek to understand God's salvation of people so they might glorify God even more.

Let's read 1 Peter 1:13-17

13-Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

14-As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

15-But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

16-for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

17-Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

-God has given to us His very best, and it is only right that we would give our best to God.

-In Luke 12:48, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

-We cannot, however, give our best to God on our own.

-We must ask God to help us to give Him our best.

-We must ask God to help us to keep our thoughts on Him and His Word.

-How are faith and hope similar?

-Faith is believing in God for what He has done for us in the past, and what He is now doing for us in the present.

-Hope is believing in God for what He has promised to do for us in the future.

-Not only has God given us grace which saves us, but He will also give us even more grace when we meet Him face to face.

-God has only begun to show us all of His grace.

-Because our God is holy, He desires that we also be holy.

-God does not want anyone to live in sin, both on the earth, but also in heaven.

-While there is no sin in heaven, it is easy to give in to sin and evil desires here on earth.

-This is because sin is stronger than we are.

-Only Christ and Christ in the Christian is stronger than sin, and this is why we must ask God for His strength in our lives.

-When we allow God to be completely God in our lives, our strength against sin and our holiness will be from God, and not from ourselves.

-No true Christian will be judged for his sin as Christ has already judged our sin on the cross by dying for it.

-After salvation, however, our work here on earth will be judged as is written in 1 Corinthians 3:13-15:

-“The fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved.”

Let’s read 1 Peter 1:18-21

18-For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

19-but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

20-He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

21-Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

-No silver or gold or work or anything else that we have can save us.

-Only the precious blood of Christ can save us.

-What is the “empty way of life handed down” from our ancestors?

-This is the faith of our ancestors who did not believe in Christ.

-The “empty way of life” is a belief that we can satisfy God by what we do or do not do.

-No one can satisfy God except for Christ because only Christ is perfect.

-Before the creation of the world, God loved us, and planned the crucifixion of Christ to pay for our sins.

-Before the creation of the world, God decided to die for us so that we would not die, but live.

Let's read 1 Peter 1:22

22-Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

-Been purified by obeying the truth does not mean that we must obey to be saved.

-It means that we are able to obey God because we are saved and Christ lives in us.

-As our obedience is from God, our love is also from God.

Let's read 1 Peter 1:23-25

23-For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

24-For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,

25-but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

-Although our bodies will die like grass and fall like dead flowers, no true Christian can die.

-This is because our soul has been born again through the Word of God.

-Just as God and His Word is forever and can never perish, the soul of a true Christian is forever and can never perish.