

1 Peter Recap: Some Key Points

Introduction Written by Peter (~64 A.D.) in Rome to Gentile converts in Asia Minor; key themes:

- How to live victoriously in the midst of hostility
- Christians must stand against the enemies of God and silence critics by the power of holy lives
- The Christian life, though blessed, is a call to victory & glory through the path of suffering
- Jesus is the model of one who maintained a triumphant attitude in the midst of hostility

1 Peter 1

- v1-2 Peter gives an astounding message from a Jew--calls Gentiles the "chosen people" of God!
- v3-12 Rejoice for your *inheritance* (salvation), your *trials* and God's *truth*
 - Christians have been born to a new spiritual life implanted by the Holy Spirit
 - Our inheritance, though undeserved, is shielded and assured
 - Though trials may cause temporary grief they cannot diminish deep, abiding joy rooted in hope
 - Such adversity is a bridge to a deeper relationship with God
 - Trials will last only so long as is necessary for God to accomplish His purpose in us
 - The hopes of the OT are fulfilled in Christ; both Testaments contain God's *truth* in unity
- v13-25 The Christ-less life is one of ignorance, is dominated by desire and characterized by futility
 - We are called to be *holy--separated/set apart* from the world but not aloof from it
 - We are called to love one another with love that meets others at their point of need

1 Peter 2

- v1-3 No one can stay the same after knowing Christ; must strip off evil & crave God's holy word
- v4-8 Christ is the "living stone"--the cornerstone of God's new "spiritual house"
 - By constant communion with Christ, we become "living stones" within the house
- v9-10 We are the Chosen People--"grafted in" for salvation, as a royal priesthood, as a holy nation
- v11-12 The Christian's true home is in heaven; he/she must always have that thought guide them
 - As "strangers" in the world, Christians cannot accept the world's ways & standards
 - Every Christian is an advertisement for Christianity; our lives must portray Christ to others
- v13-20 Every Christian: be humble & submissive; honor all, love fellow believers, fear God
 - No believer is inherently superior to any other believer--all are equal before God
 - We are called to behave so as to give glory to God--as good citizens, in society and as servants
- v21-25 Christ is our perfect example of accepting suffering with total faith in God

1 Peter 3

- v1-2 In the culture of the day, the call to submit was the approach most likely to succeed
 - We must live knowing that the whole world is God's Temple & that Christ is always present
- v3-7 Husbands and wives are both to submit to each other despite different roles & functions
 - God prefers to see beauty of character and adornment of hope in God, which will never fade
 - Christianity stressed that women have equal spiritual rights as heirs--a revolutionary idea!

- v8-12 Christians must *love one another*; be *like-minded, sympathetic, compassionate & humble*
 - As we receive forgiveness from God, we are to forgive others
- v13-17 Even in suffering the Christian is still blessed, since salvation is an imperishable treasure
 - We must live honorably in the midst of suffering, which may be used to shape or refine us
 - In a hostile and suspicious world, it is inevitable that we will be called upon to defend our faith
 - We must know what we believe & be ready to present a reasonable & intelligent explanation
 - The most compelling argument is that presented by a truly Christian life--one beyond reproach
- v17-22 It is better to suffer for good than for doing evil; Christ also suffered, though He never sinned
 - Jesus died once and for all for sins; whereas, the Temple sacrifices had to be repeated daily
 - Sin interrupts the relationship between God and people; Christ's death restored the relationship
 - Our baptism is not by water but by being brought into union with Christ through the Holy Spirit

1 Peter 4

- v1-2 The Christian must abandon the heathen ways and live as God would have him/her do
 - Must have the same mind/attitude as Jesus, so we can be triumphant in suffering, even to death
 - One who's suffered persecution & not denied Christ has strengthened character & faith
 - One baptized in the Spirit identifies with Christ's sufferings & death--and His victory
- v3-6 Unbelievers do not understand & often resent a Christian's different values
- v7-11 We must be vigilant and steady, ever seeking to discover God's will for our life
 - We must love energetically and deeply, show hospitality & use our gifts for God's glory
- v12-16 Peter saw persecution as inevitable, since Christians have different values from the world
 - The church is under siege in most cultures of the world yet is actually thriving there!
 - Those persecuted for doing what is right share a special camaraderie with Christ
 - Suffering brought by wrong-doing is not laudatory or excusable
- v17-19 Judgment of the church will not be condemnation, but purging, chastening & purifying
 - Peter felt it was all the more necessary for Christians to do right because judgment was nigh
 - We commit (*deposit for safe keeping*) ourselves to our faithful Creator

1 Peter 5

- v1-4 What Peter said to the elders is applicable to all Christians serving in- and outside the church
 - Must be caring shepherds, not acting as petty tyrants or seeking dishonest gain
- v5-11 The denial of self must be the mark of the Christian
 - God will lift up the suffering, submissive believers in His wisely appointed time
 - We must throw all discontent, discouragement, and despair onto the Lord with confidence
 - Though we cast all anxiety upon God, we cannot sit back, since the devil ever prowls
 - To counter Satan, we must stand firm in the Christian faith, living according to Scripture
 - One that meets suffering with trusting certainty in God will find increased faith and character
 - God will *restore, establish, strengthen* and make us *steadfast*
- v12-14 The *peace* of God is greater than all the troubles & distresses the world can bring