

1 Peter

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P R E F A C E

This outline was originally prepared for an adult class in vacation Bible School, but we feel that it can be a help as an outline for other class students. However feeble this effort may be, the author sincerely prays that it will be of some help to the reader in coming to be a better understanding and a deeper appreciation of the lessons taught in First Peter.

The author has accumulated notes from many sources through the years on this epistle. It has been his good pleasure to hear many sermons and lectures delivered by able brethren and to read several good commentaries on this great book of the Bible. He remembers with great delight the inspiring lessons taught by Brother R. C. Bell in the class room of Abilene Christian College. Therefore, he acknowledges with deep appreciation the help he has received from so many sources.

A STUDY OF FIRST PETER

INTRODUCTION

I. TIME OF WRITING:

- A. The exact time is not certain.
- B. Some scholars seem to think that it was written after Paul wrote Ephesians. The date for writing I Peter might be between 63 - 67 A.D.

II. PLACE OF WRITING:

- A. It appears to have been written from Babylon (I Pet. 5:13).
- B. The identity and location of the place here referred to as "Babylon" is a question of much dispute. The following have been suggested:
 - 1. Babylon in Egypt.
 - 2. Babylon on the Euphrates in Mesopotamia.
 - 3. Rome.
- C. Babylon on the Euphrates is perhaps the place.

III. PURPOSE OR DESIGN OF I PETER:

- A. "... I have written unto you briefly exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand" (I Pet. 5:12).
 - 1. To exhort.
 - 2. To testify with reference to "the true grace of God."
 - 3. To encourage the Christians to stand with great steadfastness.
- B. Peter wrote to Christians who were passing through fiery trials of persecution. His purpose was to confirm them in the faith of the gospel; strengthen them to greater endurance in their trials; and to comfort them with assurance that those who partake of Christ's sufferings will receive a crown in the great day.
- C. Some key-words in this epistle are ---
 - 1. Patience.
 - 2. Hope
 - 3. *suffering*

IV. TO WHOM WRITTEN:

- A. "Sojourners of the dispersion" (I Pet. 1:1, A.S.V.). Jewish Christians sojourning in places named in I Pet. 1:1.
- B. Grant that the epistle was addressed primarily to Jewish Christians, it did not exclude Gentile Christians. It seems that Peter presents the church as the true spiritual Israel of God's promise (I Pet. 2:4-10).

V. THE WRITER:

- A. Simon Peter (I Pet. 1:1).
- B. Peter was a native of Bethsaida (Jno. 1:44).
- C. He was the son of Jonah (Matt. 16:17).
- D. He was a brother of Andrew (Matt. 4:18).
- E. He was a fisherman (Matt. 4:18).
- F. He was brought to Jesus by Andrew (Jno. 1:40-42).
- G. Peter later made his home in Capernaum (Matt. 8:14, 15).
- H. Peter was a married man (Matt. 8:14, 15; I Cor. 9:5).
- I. He was one of the original twelve apostles of Christ (Mk. 3:13-19).
- J. Peter, James, and John enjoyed a great closeness with Christ. They witnessed:
 - 1. The raising of Jairus' daughter (Mk. 5:37).
 - 2. The Lord's transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-13).
 - 3. The Lord's agony in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:37).
- K. Peter denied the Lord three times (Matt. 26:58-74).
- L. Peter wept bitterly because of his sin in denying Jesus (Matt. 26:75).
- M. He confessed his love for the Lord three times (Jno. 21:15-17).
- N. He was privileged to preach the gospel to the Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2).
- O. He was privileged to preach to the Gentiles (Acts 10).
- P. He was arrested for preaching Christ (Acts 4).
- Q. He was withstood to the face by Paul (Gal. 2:11).
- R. He was enthusiastic, energetic, and impetuous.
 - 1. He walked on the water (Matt. 14:22-33).
 - 2. His denial of Christ (Luke 22:31-34, 54-62).
 - 3. He boldly entered the tomb (Jno. 20:1-8).
 - 4. He informed the officers that he must obey God (Acts 4:13-20).

CHAPTER ONE

I. SALUTATION: (1:1-2)

- A. The writer is named and identified as an apostle of Christ.
- B. Strangers or sojourners of the dispersion are addressed.

II. THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE: (1:3-12)

- A. God made the hope possible.
- B. It is according to God's mercy.
- C. A lively hope by the Lord's resurrection.
- D. The inheritance described:
 - 1. Incorruptible. It is immortal, undying, imperishable.
 - 2. undefiled. It is unstained, unsoiled, pure.
 - 3. Fadeth not away. Does not fade nor wither.
 - 4. Reserved in heaven. Not available in this life except in promise.
- E. The elect are guarded by God's power through faith.
- F. Though Christians suffer persecutions they can rejoice in the contemplation of the present and future blessings which God gives to His children.

III. EXHORTATIONS: (1:13-25)

- A. Gird up the loins of your minds.
- B. Be Sober.
- C. Set your hope on the final salvation.
- D. Be obedient children.
- E. Don't live as you did before becoming Christians.
- F. Be holy.
- G. Love the brethren.

IV. QUESTIONS:

- A. Define the name "Peter".
- B. What is the meaning of the term "apostle"?
- C. To whom is the epistle addressed?

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- ✓ D. Define the term "elect".
- E. Define "foreknowledge".
- F. Describe God's great mercy.
- G. What makes it possible for Christians to have a living hope?
- H. What are the four identifying marks of the Christian's inheritance as given by Peter?
- I. Explain how Christians are kept. See I Pet. 1:5. Is the keeping conditional or unconditional?
- J. What is meant by the expression "last time" as used in I Peter 1:5?
- K. How is the Christian's faith proved?
- L. What is the end of the Christian's faith in Christ?
- M. What is meant by "girding up the loins of your minds"?
- N. Define "be ye holy".
- O. How does God judge?
- P. By what are we redeemed?
- Q. When was Christ foreordained?
- R. How were the souls of these Christians purified?
- S. What is the nature of the seed by which they were begotten?
- T. How long does the word of the Lord endure?

CHAPTER TWO

I. CHRISTIAN GROWTH: (2:1-3)

- A. Must lay aside --
 - 1. Malice (wickedness). Evil of any kind, an evil disposition and a malignant spirit, a desire to injure another.
 - 2. Guile. Craftiness.
 - 3. Hypocrisies. Deceptive and deceitful actions and attitudes.
 - 4. Envy. Unhappy feelings because someone has that which one desires for himself.
 - 5. Evil speakings. Slandorous statements against others.
- B. Must desire the word of God.

II. THE CHURCH - A LIVING TEMPLE: (2:4-10)

- A. Christians are living stones in the spiritual house.
 - 1. Holy priesthood.
 - 2. A chosen generation.
 - 3. A royal priesthood.
 - 4. An holy nation.
 - 5. A peculiar people.
 - 6. Christians must offer spiritual sacrifices.
 - 7. Christians have been called out of darkness into light.
- B. Christ is the precious stone rejected of men.

III. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A PILGRIMAGE: (2:11-12)

- A. Sojourners and pilgrims.
 - 1. We are going through or progressing through a foreign country.
 - 2. We must not succumb to the sinful ways characteristic of the country through which we are passing.
- B. Behavior must be such as to lead others to God.

IV. DUTIES OF CHRISTIANS: (2:13-25)

- A. Submit to ordinances of men.
- B. Honor all men.
- C. Love the brotherhood.
- D. Fear God.
- E. Honor the king.
- F. Servants obey masters.

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V. QUESTIONS:

- A. Name and define the things we must lay aside.
- B. How does one taste the graciousness of the Lord?
- C. Describe the kind of stones Christians must be.
- D. How are Christians "a holy priesthood"?
- E. What kind of sacrifice are Christians required to offer?
- F. Why was Christ rejected?
- G. Explain Christ being the cornerstone.
- H. Of what is "darkness" and "light" in verse 9 a picture?
- I. Are there limitations to being subject to ordinances of men? Explain your answer.
- J. Explain Christ as our example.
- K. Unto whom did Christ commit Himself?

CHAPTER THREE

I. DUTIES OF A CHRISTIAN WIFE TO HER HUSBAND: (3:1-6)

- A. Be in subjection.
- B. Be an example of a Christian.
 - 1. Chaste behavior.
 - 2. Adorn the soul with a --
 - a. Meek - gentle, mild.
 - b. Quiet spirit - tranquil, peaceful.

II. DUTIES OF A CHRISTIAN HUSBAND TO HIS WIFE: (3:7)

- A. Dwell with her according to knowledge.
 - 1. "Dwell" may well denote domestic association and sum up the relationships of the marriage state.
 - 2. "According to knowledge" --
 - a. The association requires understanding of the nature of the marital relation.
 - b. The husband must strive to know and understand the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of his wife.
- B. Give honor unto the wife.
 - 1. "As unto the weaker vessel..."
 - a. Not morally nor intellectually weaker.
 - b. Physically weaker.
 - 2. "As being heirs together of the grace of life."
 - a. Not sure what life is meant.
 - b. Some think life eternal is meant, while others think it the Christian life, and still others think it is physical life.
 - 3. "That your prayers be not hindered."
 - a. "Hindered" - to cut in, to interrupt.
 - b. Strife and discord in the home discourage prayer and even render it ineffectual.

III. DUTIES OF CHRISTIANS TO EACH OTHER: (3:8-12)

- A. Be of one mind or likeminded.
 - 1. "Of one mind (intent, purpose)" - Thayer.
 - 2. Attitude of mind which strives for harmony (Eph. 4:3; I Cor. 1:10).
- B. Compassionate.
 - 1. Feeling the like with another.
 - 2. Attitude of mind which leads one to obey the teaching of Romans 12:15.
- C. Love as brethren. Be brother lovers.
- D. Be pitiful or tenderhearted - have an attitude that manifests itself in pity and affection.
- E. Courteous or humbleminded. The opposite of arrogance and pride.
- F. Render not evil for evil but good for evil.

G. Speak not evil.

H. Turn from evil.

1. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and walk not in the way of evil men, avoid it, pass not by it; Turn from it, and pass on." (Prov. 4:14, 15.)

I. Do good.

J. Seek peace.

IV. DUTIES OF A CHRISTIAN UNDER PERSECUTION: (3:13-17)

A. Be zealous of the good.

1. The evil ones may harm you.
2. But God continues to watch over His faithful children
Rom. 8:28, Matt. 10:28, Mk. 10:29, 30).

B. If suffering comes to you as a result of your faithful obedience to God, regard it as a blessing (Matt. 5:10).

C. Maintain your composure in the face of your most determined enemies.

D. Regard Christ with awe and reverence befitting the Lord of glory.

E. BE prepared to give the reason for your hope.

F. By your good life put your enemies to shame.

V. CHRIST AN EXAMPLE OF SUFFERING: (3:18-22)

A. Christ suffered for sins.

1. Righteous suffered for the unrighteous.
2. Suffered to bring us unto God (Eph. 2:14-18).

B. Through Christ suffered death, He was raised from the dead.

1. Christ was victorious.
2. Christ triumphed over sin and the grave.
3. He is now glorified in heaven.
4. The purpose of mentioning this is to show that as a result of Christ's sufferings we have salvation. This should give encouragement to Christians who suffer for righteousness sake.

VI. A LOOK AT I PETER 3:18-21:

A. Christ was --

1. Put to death in flesh.
2. Made alive in spirit.
Spirit here refers to the inner principle of life not subject to death.

- B. Christ preached to spirits in prison.
 - 1. Christ preached through Noah to the antediluvians during the time the ark was being constructed. The preaching was done while those people lived on earth.
 - 2. Those disobedient spirits were in prison at the time Peter wrote.
- C. Eight people were saved in the ark through water.
 - 1. These people were in the ark in order to be saved.
 - 2. They were saved through (by means of) water.
 - 3. Saved in the ark by the water. The ark protected them from the flood. The water bore up the ark which was the means of their salvation from the old world.
- D. "Which also after a true likeness doth now save you, even baptism."
 - 1. "Water" is the antecedent of "which".
 - 2. Peter teaches that water utilized in baptism, "after a true likeness", of that characteristic of the salvation of Noah and his family from the old world, now saves. The salvation of Noah's family is made a type of the deliverance which a sinner receives in passing through the waters of baptism.
- E. Baptism is the interrogation of a good conscience toward God.
 - 1. Interrogation - a question or inquiry, denotes appeal or demand. (W. E. Vine's "An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words".)
 - 2. Baptism is not to cleanse the outside, but rather it is to gain a clean inside - conscience.

VII. QUESTIONS:

- A. In what are wives to be in subjection to their husbands? Give other Bible passages concerning this subject. Comment on each passage you mention.
- B. What is meant by the husband being "won without the word"?
- C. Describe the life of a Christian wife.
 - 1. What emphasis should she place on the outward adornments?
 - 2. What is meant by the expression "chaste behavior"?
 - 3. What kind of spirit is the Christian woman to have?

- D. What woman of the Old Testament does Peter give as an illustration of subjection?
- E. May a woman today be a daughter of Sarah? If so, how?
- F. How can a husband act toward his wife "in like manner"?
- G. Explain how the woman is "the weaker vessel".
- H. How can poor domestic relations hinder prayer life?
- I. How are Christians to act when they are persecuted?
- J. What is a good prescription for happiness as given in I Peter 3?
- K. Discuss fully I Peter 3:10-11.
- L. For what should a Christian be willing to suffer?
- M. Why is the death of Christ discussed in I Peter 3?
- N. How did Christ preach to the spirits in prison?
- O. When was this preaching done?
- P. Explain how baptism saves us.
- Q. Where is Christ now?
- R. What is subject unto Christ?

CHAPTER FOUR

I. CHRIST IS AN EXAMPLE: (4:1-6)

- A. Christ suffered in the flesh.
- B. Christians must equip themselves for suffering (Heb. 4:12; Phil. 2:5)
 - 1. Christians must be influenced by the same purposes, intentions, and thoughts which characterized Jesus as He endured suffering.
 - 2. Christians must have unwavering faith.
 - 3. If we have the mind of Christ we are not likely to succumb to temptation.
 - 7 4. Christians are exhorted to so arm themselves with the mind of Christ that they will not live after the flesh to the lusts of men but after the will of God (4:2)
 - 5. The past life in sin was more than enough time to give to ungodly living such as was usually characteristic of the Gentiles of that time. Compare Romans 13:11-12. Walked in --
 - a. Lasciviousness - indecency, wantonness, absence of restraint, shameless conduct.
 - b. Lusts - desires inwardly entertained, unbridled cravings of the flesh.
 - c. Winebibbings - picture of drunkenness. A winebibber is a wine-drinker. To debauch with wine.
 - d. Revellings - rioting, drinking parties. A festive procession, a merrymaking; lascivious feasting.
 - e. Carousings - a drinking bout.
 - f. Abominable idolatries - drinking and lascivious parties connected with worship of idols.
 - 6. Evil people are astonished because Christians refuse to participate in their sinful doings.
 - a. Christians are considered as bigoted, unfriendly and even anti-social.
 - b. Christians cannot engage in such ungodly and filthy things.
- C. The wicked will finally answer in judgment for their sins.
 - 1. Those who speak evil of Christians will appear in judgment.
 - 2. The judgment will be universal (2 Tim. 4:1).
 - 3. Christ will be the judge (Jno. 5:22-23; Acts 17:31).

II. CHRISTIAN DUTIES ENJOINED: (4:7-11)

- A. Be sober-of sound mind. Self-controlled and temperate.
- B. Watch unto prayer. Be Calm and collected in spirit.
- C. Be fervent in love for one another.
 - 1. If love dominates one's life he will not be a crank or faultfinder.
 - 2. Love causes one to look for the good and not the bad.
- D. Be hospitable without murmuring.
 - 1. Be friendly to strangers.
 - 2. We welcome people into our homes and really want them.
 - 3. This virtue is not to be practiced by just a few Christians but by all.

4. Hospitality is not to be extended toward just a few select friends.
5. Hospitality may be inconvenient and expensive, but Christians are to practice it without murmuring.

E. Be good stewards in the use of gifts.

F. Speak as the oracles of God.

III. SUFFERING AS CHRISTIANS: (4:12-19)

- A. Regard trials as common to the cause of Christ (jno. 15:20).
- B. When one suffers for righteousness he has an occasion to rejoice.
- C. Suffer not as an evil doer, but as a Christian.

IV. QUESTIONS:

- A. How can Christians have the same mind as Christ?
- B. Describe the way the Gentiles lived.
- C. Who are the "Gentiles" of I Peter 4:3?
- D. Define the sins mentioned in I Peter 4:3.
- E. When was the gospel preached to the dead of I Peter 4:6?
Why was the preaching done?
- F. Describe the behavior of love.
- G. Define "hospitality". Do you think Christians extend hospitality today as they should?
- H. How are we partakers in Christ's sufferings?
- I. What is the "judgment" referred to in I Peter 4:17?

CHAPTER FIVE

I. EXHORTATIONS TO ELDERS: (5:1-4)

- A. Peter was an elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ.
- B. Elders --
 - 1. Feed the flock.
 - 2. Take the oversight.
 - a. Not by constraint.
 - b. Willingly.
 - c. Not for filthy lucre.
 - d. Of a ready mind.
 - e. Not as lords over God's heritage.
 - f. Be ensamples to the flock.
- C. Faithful elders will be crowned by Christ in the final day.

II. HUMILITY AND WATCHFULNESS ENJOINED: (5:5-9)

- A. The younger are to submit to the older.
 - 1. Be respectful.
 - 2. Kind.
 - 3. Courteous. Thoughtful.
 - 4. Receive guidance from them.
- B. Serve one another in humility.
- C. Christians are instructed to humble themselves under God and to cast their care upon Him.
- D. Be well-balanced and have full control of self. Be on guard against the devil at all times.
- E. Resist the devil.
- F. Keep a strong faith in God.

III. CONCLUSION:

- A. Closing statement from Peter (5:12).
- B. Salutations from the church in Babylon (5:13).
- C. Salutations from Marcus (5:13).
- D. Instructed to greet one another with a kiss of love (5:14).
- E. Benediction (5:14).

IV. QUESTIONS:

- A. Define the term "elder" as used in I Peter 5:1.

B. Discuss the duties of elders as mentioned in I Peter 5.

C. Who is the chief Shepherd?

D. Define the following terms:

1. Humble.
2. Sober.
3. Vigilant.
4. Faith.
5. Babylon.
6. Silvanus.
7. Marcus.
8. Kiss of charity.

MEMORY VERSES:

- I Pet. 1:3-5.
- I Pet. 1:18-19.
- I Pet. 1:22-25.
- I Pet. 2:1-3.
- I Pet. 2:5.
- I Pet. 2:9.
- I Pet. 2:11-12.
- I Pet. 3:12.
- I Pet. 3:15.
- I Pet. 4:16.
- I Pet. 5:6-7.

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