

## COMMENTARY

Peter wrote this letter from the city of Rome around April 65 A.D. He was writing to Christians who had been spread out to escape persecution. Peter is now aware that persecution will continue and writes a letter of encouragement to them that they might remain faithful.

I Peter Chapter 1:

vs. 1- 2 Peter, as was customary, identifies himself at the start of the letter. He speaks of the Christians as being God's elect. They were those that God had pre-determined, if faithful, would be cleansed and given hope. The election and pre-determination were concerning the requirements or standards that they had to meet and not the choosing of certain individuals.

Peter wishes them grace and peace in abundance. As is the case, he is speaking concerning the inner peace found in Christ and not freedom from persecution.

vs. 3-12 Peter reminds the believers of the need to praise God for the great hope and new life that He has given us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Not only do we share in these things, but God protects us through His Spirit. He reminds them that they have been truly thankful about their condition in Christ and also that they have had to face trials because of it. These trials, he says, is to refine their faith, that they might be proved to be more than just a "fair weather follower". Faithfulness through ordeals results in bringing praise to God. Peter commends them for their faith and faithfulness, even though they had no visible proof.

Peter tells them that the salvation that they enjoy were things that the prophets knew would take place at a later time and which even the angels are interested in.

vs. 13-25 Because God has given us a great hope through Jesus, we need to show our gratefulness by living holy lives. As God is holy and pure, we as His children should grow up to be like Him in this way. We need to realize that He will not show partiality; He will judge on our response and faithfulness to His Son Jesus. Jesus was the one that He gave to buy us back and through whom we have the forgiveness of sins. God had known this would need to take place, even before the world was created, yet Jesus was willing to give His life.

Peter reminds us, that now that we have believed and accepted Jesus as our Savior that we need to love one another deeply. We have been born of God and will become like Him as His word takes root and produces fruit in our lives. His Word will always endure, and bring us to the knowledge that we need to be holy.

## COMMENTARY

### I Peter Chapter 2:

- vs. 1-3        Since we have accepted Jesus, and God's Word will endure, we need to become like our Lord. This is accomplished by ridding ourselves of the evil in our lives and replacing it with a great desire to learn God's Word. As you fill ourselves with the Word we will grow and this should be our desire now that we are seeing all that God offers.
- vs. 4-12       Peter refers to Christ as being THE LIVING STONE. He states briefly and then later goes into further detail concerning Jesus' rejection by men and how in spite of that He has been honored and exalted by God. Peter quotes Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14 in verses 6-8. He says that even though the "experts" thought He was worthless, He is really the most important. The worthless, in their mind, is the same that caused their downfall and destruction.
- Peter, in verse 5 mentions that we are to be like Christ and are being made into a priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices through Jesus. The old priesthood is gone. ALL BELIEVERS ARE NOW PRIESTS AND ARE TO SERVE GOD!! In verses 9-12, Peter tells us how to fulfill our roles. We are to declare God's praises because of the hope and purpose that He gives. Once we were nothing and insignificant with no purpose here, NOW WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE RECIPIENTS OF HIS MERCY. This being the case, we need to be different in the sense that we live for God and lead holy lives. This way, even if one should accuse you of wrong doing, no one will believe it.
- vs. 13-25       God tells us that we need to submit to all who rule over us and the commands that they give. This will further promote our cause and be more acceptable to people than a rebellious, "holier than thou" group. Even if we are punished, and we don't deserve it, we are to accept it. This is commendable in God's sight. Jesus is our example in this case. He was unworthy of death, but He endured for our benefit. It was through His submission that we were brought back to God.

COMMENTARY

I Peter Chapter 3:

vs. 1-7 Peter continues on with the thought that we need to be submissive. He now deals with the marriage relationship. He informs women, they will be more effective in bringing their husbands to the Lord by living a good and holy life, while being submissive; then by being rebellious and nagging. The husbands too, are to consider their wives in their decisions and day to day living. These women are worthy of respect and co-heir with us of salvation. God even warns us that in neglecting this, it can affect one's prayer life.

vs. 8-22 Peter goes on with his challenge to love others and be willing to sacrifice some of our own pride and desires for the good of others. He quotes from Psalm 34:12-16 in verses 10-12. He shows that God is seeing all that goes on here and that He is in a position to judge.

Peter asks about suffering. He wonders, if Christians are putting others first and living holy lives, who is going to complain. Even so, he tells them that if such should happen that they are to remember that they are blessed of God. If people wonder, how they can live the way that they do, they should be ready to tell them of the eternal hope that they have in Jesus Christ and how others can share in that hope. Even in so doing, they need to maintain spirit of love. He reminds them again of their example, Jesus endured unfair abuse and so can they.

Jesus preached to those in Noah's day through the same Spirit that raised Him from the grave. These people disobeyed and died. Noah and his family were saved by God through the flood. Just as these were saved through water, so we are saved today through baptism by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now Our Lord sits at the right hand of God where angels, authorities and powers are in submission to Him.

COMMENTARY

I Peter Chapter 4:

vs. 1-11 If Jesus was willing to suffer for us, then we should be willing to endure trials for Him. Since we are now living for God, we need to stop living to fulfill the desires of the flesh, but instead to fulfill the will of God. Those who make fun of you now will have to answer to God for their actions.

Since Christ's return may be at any time, we need to be prepared. Peter gives further details on how to live unto God. He begins with our frame of mind and tells us that we need to have things in perspective so we can pray. Then he tells us that we need to love others and in so doing we will meet their needs and be able to offer forgiveness for whatever offences they have done against us. In so doing, we should show our love and use our abilities, realizing that God is the one who makes it all possible and that we should do this for Him.

vs. 12-19 Peter tells them to be happy that they can share in the sufferings that their Lord went through. He tells us not to be surprised about suffering but realize that whatever indignities or abuse that we go through, God will carry us through and will reward us for our faithfulness. If things are going to be this bad for Christians here on earth, Peter says, then just imagine what it will be like for those who are outside of Jesus Christ and do not have a personal relationship with Him.

Peter encourages them to simply trust God when they suffer and to continue to persevere and not let things get us down.

## COMMENTARY

### I Peter Chapter 5:

vs. 1-11 Peter, in closing his letter, gives a personal message to the elders of the local congregations. He reminds them that He too, is an elder and challenges them to be good shepherds of the congregations that they serve. They are to do this because they want to serve God and are willing to be entrusted with being an example to the congregation of how to live Christian lives. If they fulfill their responsibility then Jesus will reward them for all of eternity for their service.

Peter speaks to the young men, challenging them to submit to those who are older and to humble themselves. He reminds them that God opposes the proud, yet if they will humble themselves to God, they will be exalted in due time.

Peter also reminds us to cast our cares upon the Lord. He warns us to be on the watch because Satan wants to destroy our faith. We are to remember that others are also fighting and resisting and if they can do it, so can we. In the end, God will make us strong and we will be restored to all that He intended us to be and we shall be with Him for all of eternity.

vs. 12-14 These are Peter's closing remarks. He briefly states that the purpose of his letter was to encourage and let them know that the message they have heard is from God and that He is in control and will reward those who remain faithful. He tells them that the church in Rome sends their greetings along with Mark.

He tells them to treat and welcome one another warmly and wishes them that God's peace may dwell inside each of them.

## STUDY GUIDE

### 1 Peter Chapter 1

1. Through what and for what have people been chosen by the foreknowledge of God?
2. What has God given us in His great mercy?
3. Why do all kinds of trials come?
4. Who were the prophets serving when they spoke of the things that have been told us by those who have preached the gospel?
5. What does Peter tell us to do in verses 13-17?
6. With what were we not redeemed and with what were we redeemed?
7. How do we purify ourselves?
8. What have we been born again of and through what?
9. What stands forever?

### BONUS:

1. What is foreknowledge and how does it differ from predestination?
2. Are we predestined for salvation or damnation? Explain.
3. What do you think it means to be shielded by God's power? How are we shielded and what from?
4. What does it mean to be holy? How can we become holy?

## STUDY GUIDE

### I Peter Chapter 2:

1. Since God's Word lasts forever, what should we rid ourselves of?
2. What are we to carve and what will it help us to do?
3. Jesus is THE living stone. How are we like living stones described?
4. What is the stone to those who do not believe?
5. What are we now and for what purpose according to verse 9?
6. Why should we live such good lives among the pagans?
7. To whom should we show proper respect?
8. What is commendable according to verse 19?
9. Why did Christ leave an example?
10. Why did Jesus bear our sins in his body?
11. What were we like before we were returned to the Overseer of our souls?

### BONUS

1. How does one crave pure spiritual milk?
2. How was Jesus rejected and how has He now been exalted?
3. What do verses 9, and 10 say about the responsibilities of all believers?
4. Who are we to submit to today? How did Christ submit when He was here?

## STUDY GUIDE

### I Peter Chapter 3:

1. How can women win their husbands over to the Lord without talk?
2. Where should a woman's beauty come from?
3. How are husbands to treat their wives? Why?
4. What must the one who would love life and see good days, do?
5. What does this chapter say about the eyes, ears and face of the Lord?
6. What are we told to always be prepared to do?
7. How should we give an answer and why?
8. What does the saving of Noah and his family by water symbolize?
9. What is in submission to Jesus?

### BONUS:

1. How does the relationship that God describe for married couples, differ from what the world suggests and practices? Which sounds more pleasant and why?
2. Explain how Christians can suffer for doing good. Are we willing to do this?
3. Explain what you think verses 18-21 mean.



## STUDY GUIDE

### I Peter Chapter 4:

1. Why should we arm ourselves with the same attitude as Jesus?
2. What have we spent enough time in the past doing?
3. Since the end of all things is near, What should we do?
4. What are we not to be surprised at?
5. What should we not do and what should we do if we suffer as a Christian?
6. What should those who suffer according to God's will do?

### BONUS:

1. What is the immediate result of doing what the pagans choose to do?  
What is the end result? Is it worth the price?
2. What is the immediate result of doing what Peter suggests? What is the end result? Is it worth the price?
3. How are Christians to view suffering? Do you usually view it that way and why?
4. Explain verses 16-19. How does this affect ones view of punishment?

## STUDY GUIDE

### I Peter Chapter 5:

1. What advice does Peter give to the elders?
2. Who are the young men to be submissive to?
3. Why should we be self-controlled and alert?
4. Why should we resist the devil?
5. What will God do after we have suffered a little while?
6. What does Peter wish to all who are in Christ?

### BONUS:

1. What does it mean for an elder to be an example to the flock? Cite ways that they can and already do, do this.
2. Is humility and submission to those older something that young men have problems with? Explain.
3. Does God call people to salvation (vs. 10) or has he already chosen individuals in advance (I Peter 1:2)? Try to explain and as much as possible, support your statements with Scripture.