

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 26TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 PETER

GREETINGS (1 PETER 1:1-2)

"PETER, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST..."

Simon (Peter) was a fisherman, who followed John the Baptist until his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus.

- His name was changed by Jesus from Simon to Peter (John 1:35-42), which means "a stone." He is often called "Simon Peter," perhaps suggesting the conflict between the old nature and the new nature.

TWO NATURES

Simon was impulsive, sometimes selfish, and short-tempered (Matthew 14:28-29, 16:22, 17:4, 26:33; John 18:10).

- Peter would go on to be a leader and spokesperson for the disciples. After the day of Pentecost, he would go on to be a primary figure in the early church, even laying the foundation for the global Church (Ephesians 2:20).

HIS DEATH

Jesus prophesied Peter's death when He said that another would bind him and carry him to a place he did not want to go (John 21:18-19). Jesus had called Peter to follow him years before (Matthew 4:18-19), but now he knew to continue following Jesus would lead to a cross.

- Around 68 A.D., Peter was crucified upside down in Rome by the emperor Nero.

"TO THOSE CHOSEN, LIVING AS EXILES..."

This letter would have been sent out and circulated to 1st-century Christians scattered over Asia Minor (modern northern Turkey).

- These early followers, including Jews and Gentiles, were exiles because they did not live in the original lands of Israel and were residents in a foreign land. Furthermore, Peter knew their residency was in Heaven and not on earth.

SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SPIRIT

We see these three things Peter mentions working in tandem: work of the Spirit, obedience, and the blood of Jesus.

- While we are in the process of being set apart for the purposes of God, we are obedient to the call. However, **we all fall short and are dependent on the blood of Jesus Christ.**

REASON FOR WRITING

This letter was written during political, social, and personal persecution.

- Though Peter was speaking about the present sufferings of early Christians (mentions suffering 16 times in 8 different terms), his words would go on to encourage and challenge believers through a new level of suffering.

THE GOAL OF OUR FAITH (1 PETER 1:3-12)

NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE

Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can be "born again" and brought into a living hope.

- **A hope that is living is a hope that is active and is growing as time goes on.** It is a hope that time and trials cannot stop because **it is placed in the eternal and not the temporal.**

OUR INHERITANCE

The inheritance we place our hope in because of Jesus is unlike any earthly inheritance.

- Our eternal inheritance is never-ending, it is "**imperishable.**" It is "**undefiled**" because it can never be tarnished or cheapened. It is "**unfading,**" meaning it can never wear out or disappoint us.

NOT IMMUNE TO DIFFICULTIES

The difficulties we experience cannot undermine the certainty of our coming inheritance for those who are "**guarded by God's power through faith.**"

- Those who are "guarded" or "kept" are the people **in a continuing relationship with God and find eternal security in Him through their active faith.**

RADICAL MINDSET SHIFT

Peter encourages Christians to **rejoice when we "suffer grief in various trials."**

- This is possible only with an eternal perspective because **we know that sufferings here are temporary.** We also can be certain that **God will not leave us or forsake us, and He is with us as our faith is tested by fire.**

THERE IS PURPOSE IN OUR FAITH BEING TESTED.

Peter says that the proven character of our faith is more valuable than gold. Just as gold is refined by fire so is the character of our faith, however, unlike gold, our proven faith will not perish.

- Sustained faith through our trials proves that our faith is sincere. **A faith that is never tested can never be trusted.**

WE BECOME CHRIST-LIKE IN OUR SUFFERING

A goldsmith knows that gold is ready to cast when the liquid becomes mirror-like and he can see his reflection in it. Similarly, through our fiery trials, we start to reflect the image of our refiner, Jesus Christ.

- **We cannot expect to follow a suffering savior and think we will never suffer as well.**

GREAT GRACE OF GOD

The OT prophets spoke of the suffering and glories that would be fully revealed to a people beyond them, yet they longed to know the extent of the grace that was to come

- The grace they spoke of is so great that we still today can barely comprehend it. It is a grace so great that even the angels "long to catch a glimpse" of it.

THE WORD ENDURES FOREVER (1 PETER 1:13-25) THEREFORE...

Considering the hope we have in Jesus, we are to **ready our minds for action** and **be sober-minded.**

- To ready our minds means we **take our thoughts captive** and **do not allow anything to hinder our minds** as we work for the Lord. To be sober-minded means **to be calm, steady, controlled, and not carried away.**

FOCUS ON THINGS ABOVE

When we set our minds on the return of Christ (things above), and live accordingly, we can escape the worldly things that pollute our minds and stunt spiritual growth.

- The anti-God world we live in is always pressing us, trying to get us to conform. **"Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure"** (1 John 3:3).

REDEEMED INTO A NEW WAY OF LIFE

Children inherit the nature of their parents. "You don't get what you want out of kids, you get what you are" (Unknown).

- As children of God, since He is holy, we too live holy lives. We were bought at a great price, with something greater than silver or gold. We were redeemed from our empty way of life by the blood of Jesus.

WE ARE CALLED

We are called to live holy lives and **not to conform to the "desires of [our] former ignorance."**

- We are called to **be set apart or different**, but not separate. We once were ignorant about the things of God, however, once we are given a new life **we are not to return to our old ways.**

ABIDE IN HIM

We can remain holy (set apart; different) in a fallen world if we remain in the Word. In order to imitate His holiness, we must have an intimate relationship with the One we wish to imitate.

- **We do not read the Word to know the Bible, instead we read and study so that we might know God better.**

THE GREAT COMMAND

The entirety of the law is simplified into two statements: Love God, love people (Matthew 22:37-40).

- Though it is easy to understand, it is difficult to put into practice. The two statements of the Great Command cannot be separated. We must understand that **holy living is incomplete if we do not love others.**

"This confident hope gives us the encouragement and enablement we need for daily living. It does not put us in a rocking chair where we complacently await the return of Jesus Christ. Instead, it puts us in the marketplace, on the battlefield, where we keep on going when the burdens are heavy and the battles are hard. Hope is not a sedative; it is a shot of adrenaline, a blood transfusion. Like an anchor, **our hope in Christ stabilizes us in the storms of life** (Hebrews 6:18-19); but unlike an anchor, **our hope moves us forward**, it does not hold us back." -Warren Wiersbe

INVENTORY?

- Is there an inventory needed to see who all is or has suffered? No! **In this world, there will be suffering, but we can take heart because Jesus has overcome the world** (John 16:33).
- 1 Peter 1:22 says, **"show brotherly love for each other, from a pure heart love one another constantly."**