

— SABBATH —

# BIBLE

# CLASS

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**A Study in First & Second Peter**

**STUDY  
GUIDE**

*Conforming*  
to the **Truth**

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## INTRODUCTION **A Study in First Peter**

First Peter belongs to the group of New Testament letters known as general epistles. It is addressed to the strangers scattered abroad through Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia (1 Peter 1:1). They were also accepted as Scripture by the whole church in contradistinction to those letters that were addressed to local congregations.

First Peter is the best known, loved and most read. It has a unique charm. The beautiful spirit of the pastoral shines through it. It is affectionate, loving, lowly, and humble. It is written out of the love of a pastor's heart to help people who were going through tough times and on whom worse things were still to come. Peter encourages his readers to endure persecution. It has and continues to appeal to the human heart.

First Peter was written from Rome by Peter himself, about A.D. 67 in the days following the first persecution of the Christians by Nero.

From the beginning to the end of the letter the second coming is in the forefront of Peter's mind. It is the motive for steadfastness in the faith, for the loyal living of the Christian life and for gallant endurance amidst the sufferings which have come and will come upon them.

- The Christians are kept for the salvation which is to be revealed at the last time (1:5).
- Those who keep the faith will be saved from the judgment (1:7).
- Christians are to hope for the grace which will come at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1:13).
- The day of visitation is expected (2:12)
- The end of all things is at hand (4:7).
- Those who suffer with Christ will also rejoice with Him when His glory is revealed (4:13).
- Judgment is to begin at the house of God (4:17).
- Peter is sure he will share in the glory to come (5:1).
- When the Chief Shepherd shall appear, the faithful Christian will receive a crown of glory (5:4).

## Theology of the Early Church

The theology of First Peter is the same as we see in his sermons in the early chapters of Acts.

1. The Messianic age has begun. This is God's last word. A new order is being inaugurated and the elect are called to join the new community. Acts 2:14-16; 3:12-26; 4:8-12; 10:34-43; 1 Peter 1:3, 10-12; 4:7
2. The new age has come through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, all of which are in direct fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament and are, therefore, the result of the definite plan and foreknowledge of God. Acts 2:20-31; 3:13, 14; 10:43; 1 Peter 1: 20, 21
3. By virtue of the resurrection Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of God and is the Messianic head of the New Israel. Acts 2:22-26; 3:13; 4:11; 5:30, 31; 10:39-42; 1 Peter 1:21; 2:7; 2:24; 3:22
4. The Messianic events will shortly reach their culmination in the return of Christ in glory and the judgment of the living and the dead. Acts 3:19-23; 10:42; 1 Peter 1:5, 7, 13; 4:5, 13, 17, 18; 5:1, 4
5. An appeal for repentance and an offer of forgiveness, and of the Holy Spirit and the promise of eternal life. Acts 2:38, 39; 3:19; 5:31; 10:43; 1 Peter 1:13-25; 2:1-3; 4:1-5.

## The Circumstances Behind the Letter

- They are in the midst of various trials (1:6).
- They are falsely accused as evil doers (3:16).
- They will be tried by a fiery ordeal (4:12).
- They might suffer for righteousness' sake (3:14).
- They are to share in the afflictions which the Christians are called to endure (5:9).

**SECTION I**

**The Status of the Christian 1:1-2:10**

**I. The Derivation of this Status from God. 1:1-9**

- Peter calls the people to whom he writes the elect, God's chosen people.
- We are the people of the Diaspora
- We are the chosen people of God. We are the specially chosen ones by God.

We are the exiles of eternity. We are to be apart from the world but not aloof from it.

**Three Great Facts (1:1-2)**

1. We are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God.
2. We are consecrated by the Spirit.
3. We are chosen for obedience and for sprinkling by the blood of Jesus Christ.
  - a. When the leper was healed, he was sprinkled with the blood of a bird (Lev. 14:1-7).
  - b. Spirituality was a part of the ritual setting, a part of Aaron and the priests (Ex. 29:20-21).
  - c. Sprinkling was a symbol of the covenant relationship between God and Israel (Ex. 24:1-8).
  - d. Sprinkling was for obedience.

**Rebirth of the Christian and the Great Inheritance (1:3-5)**

- It happens by the will and act of God (John 1:13; James 1:18).
- The rebirth is the work of the Spirit (John 3:1-15).
- It happens by the word of truth (James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23).
- The result of this rebirth we become the firstfruits of a new creation (James 1:18).
- When we are reborn it is to a living hope (1 Pet. 1:3).
- It is a rebirth to righteousness (1 John 2:29; 3:9; 5:18).
- It is a rebirth to live (1 John 4:7).
- It is a rebirth to victory (1 John 5:4).

The Christian is protected in time and eternity. We are protected on our journey through this world by the power of God.

**Our final salvation will be revealed at the last time.**

- We are living in the last days (1 John 2:18; Heb. 1:2).
- The Spirit of God is poured out on men (Acts 2:17).
- The power of evil will make a final assault and \_\_\_ of false teachers will arise (2 Tim. 3:1; 1 John 2:18).
- The dead will be resurrected (John 6:39-40, 44, 54 11:24).
- It will be a time of judgment and God's justice would be exercised (John 12:48; James 5:3).

**The Secret of Endurance (1:6, 7)**

- We endure as long as we have something to look forward to.
- We endure as long as we realize that every trial is a test.
- We will endure because when Jesus appears we will receive praise, glory and honor from Him.

**Unseen but not Unknown (1:8, 9)**

- Those who dreamed of His coming (Lk. 10:23, 24).
- Those who knew Jesus in the flesh (Acts 10:39).
- Those who see Jesus through the eyes of faith (John 10:29).

Those who have confidence that they will see Him as He is (1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12).

**II. The Permanence of the Christian Status in the Counsel of God (1:10-12)**

- The prophets searched and inquired about salvation to come.
- The Spirit of Christ told them about Christ.
- The prophets spoke of the sufferings and the glory of Christ (Isa. 52:13-53:12; Psa. 22; Psa. 2; 16:8-11).
- The prophets spoke of the great deliverance which they experienced (Deut. 34:1-4).
- They tell us that preaching is the announcement of salvation.
- That preaching is through the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven.
- They speak of things of which the angels long to catch a glimpse.

### **III. The Holiness Appropriate to the Christian Status (1:13-21)**

- We are called to gird up the loins of our mind.
- We are called upon to be sober.
- We are called upon to set our hopes on the grace which is to be given to us when Jesus comes.

Jesus Christ is the great emancipator through whom we are delivered from the bondage of sin and death. (v.19)

- In the Old Testament, He is the Suffering Servant (Isa. 53) and the Passover Lamb (Ex 12:5).
- Jesus is the eternal purpose of God (v. 20).
- Jesus is not only the Lamb who was slain, but the resurrected and triumphant One to whom God gave glory (v. 21).

The Christ-less life is a life of ignorance (v. 14), one dominated by desire (v. 14) and futility.

### **IV. Love as an Expression of the Christian Status (1:22-2:3)**

- The Christ-filled life is a life of brotherly love (John 1:13; Matt. 13:1-9; Isa. 40:6-8).
- We must strip off all the evil of the heathen world in deceitfulness, hypocrisy, envy, gossiping, disparagement (evil speaking).
- We are to \_\_\_\_\_ the milk of the word (Psa. 42:1; 119: 174).
- We are bound to do this. The fact that God is gracious is not an excuse for us to do as we like. God's graciousness is the greatest incentive to do the right thing.

### **V. The Priestly Status of the Christian (2:4-10)**

1. The Stone which the builders reject (Matt. 21:42; Psa. 118:22; Isa. 28:16; Isa 8:13, 14).
2. The nature of the church.
  - a. Christianity is a community, a holy priesthood.
  - b. They are to tell forth the excellencies of God.
3. The glory of the church (v.9).
  - a. Called out of darkness into light.

- b. They are the people of God (Hosea 1:6, 9, 10; 2:1, 23).
  - c. Called out of insignificance into significance.
  - d. Called out of no mercy into mercy.
4. The function of the church.
  - a. A Chosen people (Eze. 19:5, 6) for privilege, obedience, service.
5. Christians are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.

## SECTION II

## The Submission of the Christian 2:11-3:12

### I. The Reason for Right Living 2:11-12

- We are to abstain from fleshly desires (Gal. 5:9-21).
- Unredeemed human nature – life lived without standards.
- We must abstain from these sins because we are strangers and pilgrims (Heb. 11:9, 13; Acts 7:6).

Because we are strangers and pilgrims we cannot accept the world's laws, ways, and standards. We are not permanent residents on earth. We are on our way to another country.

### II. The Christian Civic Submission 2:13-17

- Submit to every human institution for the Lord's sake (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:2).
- Honor all men. Remember the rights of human personality and the dignity of every man.
- Love the brotherhood. (Psa. 133:1) Love one another. The dominant atmosphere of the church is always love.
- Fear God. (Prov. 1:7) Love and reverence, not fear.
- Honor the king.

### III. The Submission of Christian Slaves 2:18-25

- There were about 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire; doctors, teachers, musicians, actors, secretaries, and stewards were regarded as slaves, not just those who performed menial tasks.

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- Christianity introduced a new relationship between master and slave (Phil. 16); a new attitude toward work (Col. 17; 1 Cor. 10:31).
- Peter's response to injustice (2:21-25; Isa. 53).

### *TWO NAMES FOR GOD*

- a. The Shepherd of the souls of men (Psa. 23:1, Isa. 40:11; Ezek. 34:23; 37:24; John 10:1-18; 21:16).
- b. The Guardian of our souls. God is the Bishop, Overseer, Governor, Administrator, Protector.

## **IV. Wives and Husbands**

- Wives are to be submissive, pure, reverent. They must not leave their husbands (1 Cor. 7:13-16), don't preach or argue (3:1, 2).
- Wives must seek the true adornment (3:3-6).
- Husband must be.
  - Understanding, chivalrous, remember that the wife has equal spiritual rights.
  - Unless he fulfills these obligations, his prayer will be hindered.
- If our relationships with our fellowmen are wrong, our relationship with God can never be right.

## **V. A Final Word on Christian Submission 3:8-12**

- The great qualities of the Christian life:
  - Christian unity (John 17:21-23; Acts 4:32; Rom. 12:4, 16; 1 Cor. 12:12-31; 2 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 2:13, 14; Eph. 4:3-6; Phil. 1:27; 2:2; 4:2)
  - Sympathy (Rom. 12:15, 1 Cor. 12:26)
  - Brotherly love (John 13:34, 35; 1 John 3:14, 15; 4:20)
  - Compassion. There can be no Christianity without compassion.
  - Humility
  - Forgiveness (Matt. 6:12, 14, 15; Eph. 4:32; Psa. 34)



**SECTION III****The Suffering of the Christian 3:13-4:19****I. The Means of Endurance 3:13-17**

- Passionate love of goodness.
- Our attitude to suffering.
  - We suffer because of our humanity; and
  - We suffer because we are Christians.
- The Christian defense must be reasonable, with gentleness, reverence, and a life without reproach.
- Our lives should make it easier for someone to believe in God.

**II. Christ's Righteous Suffering and Vindication 3:18-22**

- The work of Christ is unique. He died once for all (Rom. 6:10; Heb. 7:27; 9:28; 10:10).
- Christ's sacrifice was for sin—the sins of the whole world (1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 1:4; Heb. 5:1, 3).
- Christ's sacrifice was vicarious, the just for the unjust. Christ died to bring us to God (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:18; 3:12).
- Christ's work culminates in complete triumph.
- Christ descended into Hades (Acts 2:27; Isa 38:18; Psa. 6:5; 30:9; 88:10-12; 115:17; Ecc. 9:10; Rev. 20:1-7).
- Baptism represents spiritual cleansing, a pledge of a good conscience to God (v. 21). We pledge ourselves to the Risen, Living Lord to whom we look for strength to keep the pledge.

**III. Holiness of Conduct Required of Christians 4:1-7**

- The Christian is required to abandon heathen practices and custom (4:1-5).
- Suffering is a means of purification.
- Baptism is like being buried with Christ and raised to newness of life (Rom. 6:14).
- *Verse 6 needs special attention.*
  - Those dead in sin
  - Those who died before the second coming.
  - All the dead.

- Sin came into the world through one man (Rom. 5:12).
- Christ came to the world of the dead and preached the gospel, giving us a chance to live in the Spirit of God.
- The approaching end (4:7).
  - Paul speaks of the idea (Rom. 13:12; Phil. 4:5).
  - James speaks of it (James 5:8).
  - John says it is the last hour (1 John 2:18; Rev. 1:3; 22:20)
- The end has come (1 Cor. 10:11; Acts 2:16-21).

The Christian must be study minded, sober minded, preserve our prayer life, and our love (4:7, 8).

#### **IV. Christian Conduct Within the Brotherhood 4:8-11**

- Hospitality (Acts 10:16; 21:16; Num. 16:5; 1 Cor. 12).
- Service to the community (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12).
- Christians are stewards of God.
- Christian service should bring glory to God.

#### **V. The Fiery Trial 4:12-19**

- Persecution is inevitable (4:12, 13).
- Persecution is a test, an opportunity to share in the suffering of Christ (Rom. 8:17; Phil. 10; 2 Tim. 2:12).
- Suffering is the way to glory.
- We are blessed if we suffer for Christ's sake. (4:14-16).
- We must entrust all of life to Christ (4:17-19; Ezek. 9:6; Prov. 11:31; Luke 23:46).

#### **VI. Final Exhortation and Greeting 5:1-14**

1. The elders of the church are to accept the office freely, eagerly, shepherd the members like Jesus (John 21:15-17; Matt. 18:12-14; Luke 15:4-7; John 10:1-18).
  - a. Elders are to be humble (Prov. 3:34; John 13:4, 5).
  - b. Calm/Peaceable (Psa. 55:22; Matt. 6:25-34; Rom. 8:32).
  - c. Vigilant (Matt. 26:38-46). Resistance for the Devil.
    - i. Suffering – restores a man, establishes a man, strengthens a man, settles a man.



**INTRODUCTION****A Study in Second Peter**

Second Peter is written to combat the beliefs and activities of certain men who were a threat to the church. The Christian has escaped from the corruption of the world (1:4). He has been purged from his old sins (1:9). He has the moral duty of goodness which culminates in love (1:5-8).

- Salutation (1:1, 2)
- Challenge to zeal (1:3-5)
- The certainty of God's promise (1:6-21)
- Warning against false teachers (2:1-22)
- God's future plan (3:1-10)
- Practical lessons and conclusion (3:11-18)

**SECTION I****Threats to the Church****Who are the Men Who Threaten the Church?**

- Those who twist Scripture to suit their purpose (1:20; 3:16).
- Those who bring the Christian faith into disrepute (2:2).
- Those who are covetous and exploit others (2:3, 14, 15).
- Those who are doomed and will receive the fate of sinning angels (2:4).
- They are like men before the flood (2:5).
- Citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah (2:6).
- False prophets of Balaam (2:15).
- Bestial creatures ruled by their brute instincts (2:12).
- Dominated by lusts (2:10, 18).
- Eyes full of adultery (2:14).
- Presumptuous, self-willed and arrogant (2:10, 18).
- Spend their time in unrestrained luxurious revelry (2:13).
- False liberty (2:19)
- Deluded and they delude others (2:14, 18).
- They know what's right, but relapsed into evil (2:20-22).

- They are antinomians who use God's grace as a justification for sinning. They live the most immoral lives and encourage others to do so.
- They deny the second coming (3:3, 4).

Christians are to stand fast, firmly planted in the faith, and grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ (3:17, 18).

## SECTION II

## Servants of Jesus Christ

1. Peter considers himself the servant of Jesus Christ; a title of humility. Other Bible writers consider themselves to be servants of God.
  - a. Moses (Deut. 34:5; Psa. 105:26; Mal. 4:4)
  - b. Joshua (Josh. 24:29)
  - c. David a servant of God (2 Sam. 3:18; Psa. 78:70).
  - d. Paul a slave of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:1).
  - e. James (1:1; Jude 1)
  - f. Amos (3:7; Isa. 20:3)
  - g. Christians (Acts 2:18; 1 Cor. 7:22; Eph. 6:6; Col. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:24)
2. The Christian is inalienably possessed by God, unqualifiedly at the disposal of God; owes an unquestioning obedience to God; constantly in the service of God.
3. Jesus is the Christ of power, generosity, precious and great promises. He is the one by whom we escape the world's corruption and makes us share in the divine nature.
4. We receive faith, courage, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, piety, motherly affection, and Christian love (1:3-7).

**SECTION III**

**Warnings and Admonitions**

1. False prophets—their sins and their end (2:1-3).
2. The fate of the wicked and the rescue of the righteous (2:4-11)
3. Deluding self and others (2:12-14).
4. Those on the wrong road (2:15, 16; Num. 22:24).
5. The perils of relapse (2:17-22).
6. The principles of preaching (3:1, 2).
  - a. Peter believed in the value of repetition, the need for reminders; the value of compliment and the unity of Scripture.
7. The denial of the second coming (2:3, 4).
8. Modes of destruction—flood, fire.
9. The delay is a reflection of God’s mercy (3:8, 9).
10. The Day of the Lord will be dreadful (3:10; Isa. 13:9-13).
11. The moral Implication of the Day of the Lord (3:11-14).
  - a. Pray for the kingdom to come (Matt. 6:10).
  - b. Preach the gospel (Matt. 24:14).
  - c. Penitence and obedience.
12. The perverters of Scripture (3:15, 16).

Christians are called upon to be forewarned, be on guard, and grow in grace, and in understanding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

