

## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter

### V.1

-This book, as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Peter was obviously written by Peter  
-this should give many of us hope who thought we were too imperfect to be used by God

-Remember Peter, whose name was actually Simon before Jesus named him Peter

-Peter was known for many things and most of them were not very flattering

-**Mat 16:21** From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

**Mat 16:22** Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You."

**Mat 16:23** But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.**"

**Luk 22:60** But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

**Luk 22:61** The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "**Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.**"

-On the mountain of transfiguration:

**Mat 17:4** Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

**Mat 17:5** While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

-Don't get me wrong, Peter did a lot of great things too, but the point is you don't have to be anywhere close to perfect for God to use you

-This is about 60 years after Jesus was crucified and being a Christian was pretty risky

- Nero was the emperor of Rome and he was not a moral man and definitely not a friend of believers

-he had his own mother and step brother executed

-it is said that he set captured Christians on fire to light his garden

-this is why the believers are scattered throughout the land

### V.2

-Peter references the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the life of a believer

-The Foreknowledge of the Father:

-God is all knowing so naturally from His point of view He knows who will choose to inherit salvation

-since God is not limited or bound by the confines of time and space, He has no trouble knowing the outcome of people's lives

-from our point of view, it sounds like people are then predestined to go to heaven or hell

-this is absolutely not the case  
-the fact that God is in all times present doesn't change the fact that we have free will

-if that was the case then it would have been pointless for Jesus to give the great commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"

-the sanctifying work of the Spirit:  
-this word means "purification"  
-that is what the Spirit of God does inside us: it convicts us and removes the impurities from our lives  
-when the Holy Spirit lives in us, it is hard to keep doing the immoral things we did before we knew Christ  
-Mal 3:3 "He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.

-Obeying Jesus Christ:  
-this is so simple but many people confuse this issue  
-some people say that obeying Jesus Christ means following the Law; The Ten Commandments  
-Jesus said: Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."  
-The entire Christian faith is based on love  
-God Love us so He sent His Son  
-Jesus loved us so He died on the cross  
-if we love each other, then we have very few problems to deal with  
-that's why Jesus said:

Mat 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"  
Mat 22:37 And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."  
Mat 22:38 "This is the great and foremost commandment."  
Mat 22:39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'  
Mat 22:40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

-interesting that the first time sprinkling of blood is mentioned in the bible is after Moses tells the people to obey what God told him on the mountain  
Exo 24:6 Moses took half of the blood and put *it* in basins, and the *other* half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.  
Exo 24:7 Then he took the book of the covenant and read *it* in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!"

V.3

-it is the power of God that causes us to be born again  
-even though we have the free will to choose if we want to be born again, it is the Spirit of God that draws us to Him to begin with

**Rom 2:4** Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

-there is nothing good within ourselves that is worthy to be in the presence of God  
**Rom 3:10** as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

**Rom 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

-The hope of a believer is not in the birth of Christ but in His resurrection

-although it is important to believe that Jesus Christ actually was born and lived on this earth, that fact isn't really in question

-the existence of Jesus is one of the most documented facts in History

-Ancient historians from as early as the first century such as Flavius Josephus and Justin Martyr, Modern historians and Christian historians all agree that Jesus lived.

-the question is do you believe that he rose from the dead?

-that is the most important question that you will need to come to terms with

-the fact that He was born and was crucified was important but that can happen to anyone

-but rising from the dead is the evidence that He was no mere man, but God Himself

-Paul says:

**1Co 15:16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

**1Co 15:17** and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

**1Co 15:18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

**1Co 15:19** If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

-Paul understands that the entire Christian faith hinges on the resurrection of Christ

V.4-5

-no matter what your life is like on earth; no matter how poor you are or what kind of family you come from, if you are a believer, you have an inheritance waiting for you in heaven

-you may be thinking "I don't have any treasure stored up in heaven... I'm not a missionary or pastor and I've never even lead anyone to the Lord"

**Heb 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

-God Is a loving God who wants to reward His children.

-He doesn't just reward us for the big stuff

**Mat 25:35** 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

**Mat 25:36** naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

**Mat 25:37** "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink?

**Mat 25:38** 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?

**Mat 25:39** 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

**Mat 25:40** "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.'

**Mar 9:41** "For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.

- and it's not just for the good that you do, but also the influence you had
- imagine if you did lead just one person to the Lord or encouraged someone to get passionate about their faith through teaching a Sunday school class, and they went on to be an evangelist for the next 50 years
- imagine how many people will be in heaven because of that man
- now imagine the snowball effect of some of those people getting motivated and telling leading others to Christ
- that cycle can go on for generations and impact hundreds of thousands of lives!
- have you ever heard of Mordecai Ham?
- most people haven't but I can assure you God has
- he was the man that lead the revival meeting that converted Billy Graham in 1934
- Billy Graham has preached the gospel to more people than anyone else in history
- as of 1993, more than 2.5 million people have stepped forward to give their lives to Christ during his alter calls
- his entire audience in his lifetime is estimated between 2-3 billion people
- can you imagine his rewards when he gets to heaven?
- now imagine those same rewards of Mordecai Ham
- without him being faithful, who knows if Billy Graham would have ever committed his life to Christ?
- that's why Jesus does not hand out the final rewards until the end of all things at the great white throne judgment

**Rev 20:11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

**Rev 20:12** And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

**Rev 20:13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.

- yes we will all be judged according to our works
- Notice it says that there are more than one book that is opened
- one book (the book of life) which determine our destination
- and other books that are kept as a record of our deeds (which determine our level of rewards or punishment)
- the believers are not judged on the basis of salvation, but for rewards
- to help you better set the scene of what this will look like, look at the powerful vision Daniel has:

**Dan 7:9** "I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took *His* seat; His vesture *was* like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne *was* ablaze with flames, Its wheels *were* a burning fire.

**Dan 7:10** "A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.

V.6-7

-We are to see the bigger picture

- the world tells us to live for today and to look for immediate pleasures in life
- Paul says we are to rejoice greatly in the fact that we have treasures stored up in heaven waiting for us
- this sort of thinking is not very popular with some groups today
- There is a whole movement that basically says that God's main concern for you is your present happiness
- the "prosperity gospel" started to become very popular during the revivals in the 1950's
  - it basically teaches that a large part of God's blessings on Christians is financial
  - that true obedience to the Lord is rewarded with wealth and physical well being
- the "word of faith" movement is largely the same
  - it teaches that if you speak a verse and believe it, that God will give you what you desire
  - the problem is that this just isn't true
  - this sort of theology comes from taking several verses from the bible out of context
- although the Christian life is a life of victory, the bible is very clear that believers will be "distressed by various trials"

**2Ti 3:12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

- the reason is that this world is not our home
- our citizenship is in heaven
- we are in a war zone, this is enemy territory we are in
- and often it is these trials that refine us
  - just like fire brings impurities of gold to the surface to be removed, the trials we face reveal the impurities in us so that we can remove them

#### V.8

- so many people today want to see a vision, and for good reason
  - it seems like it would make our faith a little easier to grasp
  - our faith is based completely on something we have not seen
- Heb 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
  - when Thomas refused to believe until he physically saw Jesus after the resurrection, Jesus responded by saying:
    - Joh 20:29** Jesus \*said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

#### V.9

- this is a short verse but one of the most meaningful in the New Testament
  - there are many reasons to be a Christian
    - to help others in need
    - to know that what you are doing is right
    - to learn and teach your kids morality
  - the truth is that all of those things can be done even if you are not a Christian

-if you boil it all down to its core, the reason we sign up for this Christian thing is for the salvation of our souls

-the ultimate reward for us is being spared from God's judgment and spending eternity in a perfect paradise with God

#### V.10-12

-people often wonder how people in the Old Testament could be saved through faith since Jesus hadn't been born yet

-they prophesied of the Christ that was to come the same way we look back in faith to Christ that has already come

-there are over 40 Old Testament prophecies predicting Messiah's first coming

-the fact is that they believed in faith Messiah would come as much as we believe in faith that He did come

-we have experienced something that angels in all their splendor don't have; redemption

-Angels have the privilege of being in the presence of God and not having to deal with sin

-but what they haven't experienced is the grace of God

#### V.13

-there are three things Peter reminds us of

-prepare your minds for action:

-the gospel and the Christian life is expected to be active, not passive

-even though most of us believers expect other people to advance God's kingdom and to tell everyone about Christ, it is our job

-one of the best ways to be a terrible witness is to be unprepared

-imagine someone coming to you with a real curiosity about the gospel and need you to explain some things to them

-what happens if the best you can manage is "...yeah....uummm...well..." and then all you can do is quote John 3:16 to them?

-Later, Peter reminds us

-**1Pe 3:15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

-Keep sober in spirit

-this is the same word meaning to keep away from wine

-you need to have a clear mind and to remain focused on Jesus

-this world offers an endless supply of distractions to take our minds off of Jesus

-we are enticed by the flesh, by bombarded with sexual imagery, tempted by the promise of riches, power, and popularity

-when Satan tempted Jesus:

"**Mat 4:8** Again, the devil \*took Him to a very high mountain and \*showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;

**Mat 4:9** and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

-if the devil tempted Jesus with all these things, don't you think we will be offered them too?

-Fix your hope on completely the Grace of Jesus  
-this is a biggie  
-we as humans have the tendency to fix our hope on Jesus....plus a little bit of works  
-some groups have gotten to the point where they still call themselves Christians but rely almost completely n works to save them  
-they won't eat certain foods, work on certain days, use certain words and so on  
-and all the while they don't seem to know how dangerous this is  
-Paul says to the Galatians:  
**Gal 5:4** You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

-Paul says:  
**Rom 14:1** Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.  
**Rom 14:2** One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.  
**Rom 14:3** The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.  
**Rom 14:4** Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.  
**Rom 14:5** One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

V.14-16

-most of us are not proud of the things we did before we knew the Lord.  
-the good news is that God doesn't care where we've been, He only cares where we are going  
-if we aren't careful, the world will mold us and shape us into what it wants us to be  
-and that is very different than what God wants us to be  
-when we become believers, we are to imitate God  
-we can never be Holy in the same way God is holy  
-but we can strive to be loving, merciful, kind and forgiving of others  
-in a way, God does see us as holy since the Holy Spirit lives in us and Jesus has taken away our sins

V.17

-If we really had a good understanding of who God is and the power He has, it would probably change the way we live our lives  
-some of us call Him "Father" yet live like we don't know Him at all  
-Maybe it's related to the family structure today  
-I am amazed to see how some kids act and treat their parents  
-many of them basically do whatever they want and constantly disobey their parents  
-I know this is the fault of the parents, not the kids but it is a huge problem  
-it all comes down to the kids having no fear of the parents  
-the dad tells the kid to do something and then doesn't give the kid any consequences when he doesn't obey  
-these parents are doing a huge disservice to their kids

-the picture of God that kids develop comes from their dad  
-we don't need to be mean to our kids but they need a healthy respect for dad and a fear of consequences when they disobey

-how will they ever fear God if they have no fear or respect of their parents?

-Jesus told His disciples:

**Luk 12:4** "I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do.

**Luk 12:5** "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"

V.18-19

-We often speak of being redeemed, but probably don't spend much time thinking about what that means

-it means "to ransom" or to "buy back"

-when you pay a ransom for something it usually involves paying a lot more for something than it is actually worth just because it has value to you

-if Jesus redeems us, that means we once belonged to Him but now we belong to someone else

-before the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden, mankind belonged to God

-when they decided to listen to the Devil, they died spiritually and gave themselves and all future generations into the hands of the Devil

-but at the cross, Jesus broke that power and set us free

**Heb 2:14** Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

**Heb 2:15** and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

-it is amazing to think that we matter that much to God that He would pay the ultimate price to redeem us

-even all the money in the world is no comparison to paying with the life of your own Son

-I don't know what's more insulting to God?:

-knowing how big of a sacrifice He made for us and choosing to reject it

-or knowing about it but acting like it's not that big of a deal and we will get through life on our own

**Joh 15:13** "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

-we were purchased with a very high price

**1Co 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

**1Co 6:20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

V.20-21

-Jesus didn't begin in a manger in Bethlehem

-John 1:1-2 says:

**Joh 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**Joh 1:2** He was in the beginning with God.

-at the very beginning of creation, God said:

"Let Us make man in Our image" and "'Behold, the man has become like one of Us"

-before the crucifixion, Jesus prays

**Joh 17:5** "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- Jesus is not a created being
- He is not just a good teacher
- He is not Michael the archangel
- and He definitely isn't the spirit brother of Lucifer
- He is, always was, and will always be God

#### V.22

-how have our souls been purified?

-by obedience to the truth which is the Word

**Eph 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

**Eph 5:26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

**Eph 5:27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

-without love for each other, the Christian life is dead

-The reason that Peter tells us to love is that it isn't something that comes naturally to us

-All four books written by John seem to have the same theme; to love one another

-If loving each other came naturally, it wouldn't have to be addressed so often in the

bible.

-loving our family and close friends is easy, but there are some people that are just not easy to love

-ever seen the sticker that says "God loves you....and I'm trying"?

-loving others fervently from the heart isn't something we can do without the help of the Holy Spirit

#### V.23

-Jesus said:

**Mar 13:31** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

-it is of this same power that believers are born

-our spirit, our conciseness will endure forever

-this life, this short little span of time on earth is such a small part of our existence

-since this life is all we have ever known, it is hard to really believe that this is just the

beginning

-speaking of the rapture of the church, Paul says:

**1Th 4:17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

-*Always* means *Every when* or *at all times*

-but it isn't only believers who will live for eternity

-every soul that has ever lived is immortal

-no consciousness ever ceases to exist

-what we do in this life determines where we spend eternity and how many people will spend it there with us

#### V.24-25

-we are reminded over and over how short this life is

**Psa 103:15** As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

**Psa 144:4** Man is like a mere breath; His days are like a passing shadow.

**Jas 4:14** Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

- but as short as our lives are, we still plan and build and accumulate as if we will be here forever
- during our lives, we assign prestige, popularity and power to people, especially people with wealth
- it doesn't matter if you were poor homeless person, a middle class worker or a king living in a palace your whole life, we are all on the same ground the moment we take our final breath on this earth