

Lesson 1 1 Peter 1; 5:12-14

Introduction

Memory verse: “And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.” (1 Peter 5:10 NIV)

While there’s life, there’s hope!” That ancient Roman saying is still quoted today and, like most adages, it has an element of truth but no guarantee of certainty. It is not the fact of life that determines hope, but the faith of life. A Christian believer has a “living hope” (1 Peter 1:3 NASB) because his faith and hope are in God (1 Peter 1:21). This “living hope” is the major theme of Peter’s first letter. He is saying to all believers, “Be hopeful!”

The emphasis of this epistle then is to teach believers how to live victoriously in the midst of hostility without losing heart, without wavering in faith, without becoming bitter, realizing where your hope is, realizing who your Saviour is, and always looking forward to the glorious coming of Christ when all suffering will cease. In chapter 1 verse 7 he talks about the glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. In verse 9 the ultimate outcome, even the salvation of your souls, that final salvation, when we see the Lord. Verse 13 talks about the revelation of Jesus Christ, meaning the Second Coming. Chapter 2 verse 12 talks about the day of visitation; that’s the Second Coming of Christ. Chapter 4 verse 13 talks about the revelation of His glory, again referring to the Second Coming. Chapter 5, verse 1, the glory that is to be revealed. Chapter 5 verse 4, when the Chief Shepherd appears you’ll receive the unfading crown of glory.

So, you have here then indications of suffering and indications that those who suffer are to keep their heart and mind set on the return of Jesus Christ. No matter what comes in this life we have that promise. So we’re going to be looking then at an epistle that was written to believers in persecution telling them how to be victorious in the midst of it and keep their focus on Christ, who was returning. And in His return, in His coming for them, would come the end of their suffering; how to live victoriously in the face of persecution, suffering and difficulty.

Interestingly, there are also some other subjects that we’re going to learn about in 1 Peter. Every believer must learn about foreknowledge, about election and about the significance of the blood of Christ and what does it mean, what is its significance and why is it precious? We ought to know our eternal inheritance and be taught about the proof of true faith and to learn about salvation, the new birth. As mentioned earlier, we will get into the subject on the Second Coming of Christ, and what it means to be holy, even as God is holy. We’ll study the milk of the Word and how it makes us grow and spiritual growth as a subject itself. We need to know the fact that we’re a holy priesthood and what all that means. Discussion on excellent behaviour and our responsibility to the government is even found in this study. There is the opportunity to talk about marriage relationships between husband and wife and how it is to suffer for righteousness sake and the need to be able to defend our faith. Baptism, humility and how God wants all your anxiety and all your care cast on Him and about the perfecting work God is doing in your life through struggles taught in this epistle are still relevant to us today.

Before we study the details of this fascinating letter, let’s get acquainted with the man who wrote it, the people to whom he sent it, and the particular situation that prompted him to write.

To learn in this lesson: 1) The Writer 2) The Recipients 3) The Message

Discussion Questions:

1). Refer to some scriptural references here and discuss how much more you know about the writer of the epistle of 1 & 2 Peter. (Acts 4:13; 1 Corinthians 1:26–31; John 1:35–42; Gal. 2:1–10; Luke 22:32; John 21:15–17; 1 Peter 5: 12-13; Acts 15:20).

2). Who were the recipients of the epistles and why do you think they were called exiles by the writer?

3). Discuss your findings about the message from the writer in this epistle. (Use the references provided: 1 Peter 1: 2, 6-13, 21; 2:12,19-20; 3:7,18; 4:1; 10-16; 5:1,4-5,10-12)