

## First Peter

- The primary purpose is to encourage Christians who are being persecuted to remain faithful to God (1:6-9; 2:11-12; 3:13-17; 4:12-16; 5:8-11).
- The author is Peter, one of the twelve apostles.
  - A fisherman – Luke 5:9-11.
  - Always named first when the apostles are listed.
  - “Pillar” of the church – Galatians 2:9.
  - Recorded speaker on Pentecost – Acts 2:15.
  - Taught Cornelius – Acts 10-11.
  - Spoke in Jerusalem about Jew/Gentile conflict – Acts 15.
  - Sometimes unstable – Matthew 14:28-31; Mark 14:66-72; Galatians 2:10-11.
- Outline:
  - 1:1-5 – Greeting.
  - 1:6-12 – States his purpose of writing as encouragement.
  - 1:13-3:12 – Instruction for various areas of Christian living.
  - 3:13-4:19 – Words of strength for sufferers.
  - 5:1-14 – Congregational advice and closing.

### **1:1-5 – Peter’s Greeting to the Dispersed Christians.**

- “Pilgrims” is from a word that literally means, “a foreigner who has settled briefly” (2:11; Hebrews 11:13). This word gives us great insight as to what it means to be a Christian.
- Next, Peter discusses the Godhead and election:
  - Election means, “to choose, select.” The question then is, “What or who has God chosen?” Ephesians 1:4-5 also addresses this issue. The place of salvation has been elected, not the persons (2 Timothy 2:10).
  - “Foreknowledge of God” – again, God predetermined that it would be in Christ that all men could be saved from sin.
  - “Sanctification of the Spirit” – the Spirit revealed the truth to the apostles (John 16:13-14) and it is the truth that sets us free (John 8:32) and sanctifies us (John 17:17).
  - “Sprinkling of the blood” – Leviticus 16 addresses the OT atonement for sin. The blood of a sacrifice was sprinkled on the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place for the sins of the Israelites. Hebrews 9:11-15 states that Christ shed His own blood to forgive sins.
  - The Christian has a living hope because of Christ’s resurrection.
    - “Incorruptible” – not capable of corruption (Revelation 21:25-27).
    - “Undefiled” – unpolluted, unsoiled.

- “Reserved” – guarded, kept.
- The Christian is “kept by the power of God” (v. 5). John 10:25-30 – God will keep those who are His. However, we must remain faithful or we will lose our reservation (Hebrews 3:12-14).

#### **1:6-12 – Encouragement for Persecuted Christians.**

- We can rejoice at the end result of our trials (Matthew 5:10-12).
- They were being afflicted and offended for their faith outwardly (trials) and their faith was being tested (proven).
- Verse 7 in the KJV says “trial” of your faith. NKJV says “genuineness.”
- Their faith would be rewarded with praise (commendation), honor (esteem), and glory (recognition) at the judgment day.
- Verse 8 has three words describing their attitude toward Christ: love, believe, rejoice. Their attitude led them to have joy that was inexpressible!
- The ultimate outcome of their faith would be the salvation of their souls. The Christian has salvation in the present and future (heaven).
- The prophets of the OT spoke of the salvation that would one day be made possible through Christ, but it was not fully revealed in that time.
- Isaiah recorded 53:10-12, but did not realize the nature or time of these future events. He and other prophets spoke of many future events by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- Verse 12 – they spoke those things, but we get to see them as having been fulfilled in Christ.
- “Look” is a compound word in the Greek (*parakupto*) para – beside; kupto – to bend or stoop. Even angels “peered into” or were “looking intently” at what God was doing in order to accomplish salvation through Christ.

#### **1 Peter 1:13-3:12 – Instruction for Daily Life.**

**1:13-21 deals with holiness.** “Therefore” shows a continuation. He had just discussed their trials (1:6-8), the “end of their faith” (1:9), and the gospel that had been preached to them (1:10-12).

- “Gird up” is based on the manner of dress in that day. One wearing a long robe would gird or gather up that robe so that he would not be hindered or tripped when walking somewhere.
- “Sober” implies self-control of one’s thoughts and actions. We should not be “tripped up” with the affairs of this world.
- “Rest your hope.” Our hope is in Christ (Hebrews 6:18-20).
- How? As obedient children, an attitude of complete submission to the will of God. “Conforming” is a compound word literally meaning, “fashioned together with.”

- The Christian is to be holy. Literally, “set apart, sanctified, consecrated.” This is to be done, “In all your conduct.”
- We are also to conduct ourselves in “fear.” This is an attitude of reverence for God and His word.
- This is based on the fact that we have been redeemed by the blood of Christ (v. 18-19).
- Christ was “foreordained.” This is a reference to God’s eternal plan to save man through Christ.

### **1:22-2:3 – Born Again by the Word of God.**

- There is something to be obeyed (v. 22). Romans 10:16 states that not all have obeyed the gospel. It is Scriptural to tell people that they need to obey the gospel today. Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 15:1-4.
- “Born again” is found only here and in John 3:3-5. Jesus said we are born of the water and the Spirit. Peter says we are born again by the word of God.
- Peter quotes Isaiah 40:6-8. The Bible is relevant today and will continue to be relevant for all ages.
- Peter again uses “therefore.” Since you have been born again by the word of God, there is a certain way to live.
  - Malice- bad, wickedness.
  - Guile- deceit, fraud.
  - Hypocrisy- flattery, evil deception.
  - Evil speaking- slander, back-biting.
  - We should be craving the pure, unadulterated word of God. “Pure” literally means, “without deception.”
  - The metaphor of tasting means that they had experienced the goodness of God or partaken of His goodness.

### **2:4-12 – Christians Are God’s Special People.**

- Christ is the living stone and has life within Himself (John 6:51, 68-69). Men held Him in contempt, but He was God’s most valuable gift to man.
- The church is a spiritual house. Many have lost sight of the purpose of the church (1 Timothy 3:15). This house is also the dwelling place of God (Ephesians 2:22). Every Christian is to offer up sacrifice (worship). The clergy/laity system is not Biblical.
- Peter quotes Isaiah 28:16 which was a prophecy of Christ. To us Christ ought to be honorable, worthy of reverence (precious). He then quotes Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14. He then points out that they stumble because they are disobedient to the word.
- The Christian is:
  - A chosen generation – literally, a select family.
  - A royal priesthood – Hebrews 13:15-16.
  - A holy nation – literally, a separate people.

- We are God's own special people – Titus 2:14.
- The Christian is one who has settled here briefly (1:1). While here, we are in a battle (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Our conduct should be such that we put people to silence who would criticize us. We must refrain from the evil practices of the world.

### **2:13-17 – Christians Should Be Submissive To Government.**

- It is very important to remember what type of government the original readers were living under. They did not live in a Constitution based federal-republic.
- King – a monarch, like David or Pharaoh.
- Governors – leader, commander. These people are God's ministers (Romans 13:4).
- God's will is that our conduct cannot be spoken against. If we obey the law we have nothing to fear. Christians are free, but not at liberty to do as they wish.
- Honor all men, the king – esteem, respect.
- Love the brotherhood – the deepest form of love in the Bible.
- Fear God – from *phobeo*. Matthew 10:28.

### **2:18-25 – Servants, Be Submissive As Was Christ.**

- This word does not mean *slave* as Americans have come to think of the word. This word means one who was a hired, household servant. Ephesians 6:5-6; Colossians 3:22; 1 Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:9. The Christian is to be a good servant even if the boss is harsh and unreasonable.
- The example that Christ set was one of humility and honesty. He did retaliate to those who did Him wrong. Revelation 20:13-15. God will make all things right.
- *Example* is from *hupogrammos* which means, a writing (grapho) before (hupo). He has left before us what we should do.
- Jesus suffered the consequences of our guilt (Isaiah 53:5). Christ is our Shepherd and Bishop.

### **1 Peter 3:1-6 – Instruction For Godly Wives.**

- Submissive literally means, "to line up under." Other passages will guard against abusing this verse. Matthew 7:12; Acts 5:29. The wife maintains a different role and fulfills a different purpose from her husband.
- The reason: the way she conducts herself may lead to the conversion of her husband (2:12). Husbands who might not want to listen to a "sermon" might observe the life of a Christian and be convicted.
- Our society is obsessed with "image." Many are more concerned with how they look than with how they behave. The Christian wife is instructed not to do things for the purpose of drawing attention to herself. There is nothing wrong with looking nice, but Christianity goes much deeper than looks.

- 1 Timothy 2:9-10. Modest is from *kosmios* meaning, “order, arrangement, decent.” One can be immodest if over-dressed or under-dressed.
- “Very precious in the sight of God” – this quality is something that is extremely valuable or expensive.
- The model given for the first century Christians were the women of the OT, specifically, Sarah. God did not praise these women for their beauty, even though they possessed great beauty (Genesis 12:11).

### **3:7 – Instruction For Godly Husbands.**

- A husband needs to understand the differences between a man and woman.
- “Honor” is from *time* meaning, “respect or esteem.” This verse also captures the spiritual equality of men and women (heirs together).
- Faithfulness to God involves more than “going to church.” If a husband does not treat his wife with respect and knowledge, he is not right with God.

### **3:8-12 – A Conclusion Of The Current Section On Christian Conduct.**

- Christians are to work for unity (Ephesians 4:1-6). “Compassion” is from *sumpathes* meaning, “suffering together with.” We are to be considerate of one another’s feelings (I Corinthians 12:26-27).
- “Love as brothers” is from *philadelphos*. “Be pitiful” (tenderhearted, NKJV). Don’t become hard-hearted against your brethren. “Be courteous” is from *philophron* meaning, “to have a friendly mindset, be friendly.”
- It takes a strong character not to return evil for evil, but this is a command. Do not return bad for bad or evil speaking for evil speaking.
- Verses 10-12 are a quote from Psalm 34:12-16.
- Psalm 73:3, 5-7, 12 – do the wicked prosper? Psalm 73:17-20 – they do not.

### **3:13-4:19 – How To Handle Suffering.**

- 3:13-17 – Continue in good conduct.
- The same inference here is found in Romans 8:31. Peter then quotes Isaiah 8:12 in order to encourage them. Matthew 5:10-12.
- To sanctify God in our hearts means that we give Him primary placement. “Answer” is from *apologia* meaning, “an answer or speech in defense of oneself.”
- Give your answer with gentleness and respect.
- The best answer to give to critics is a holy life (v. 16).
- Suffering will occur in life. However, we must not seek to bring suffering on ourselves through bad behavior.
- 3:18-22 - Christ Has Suffered For Us.

- The righteous one suffered for the unrighteous ones. His suffering and death on the cross made our salvation possible. He did not weaken and sin during His suffering, nor should we.
- Verses 19-20 have been distorted to teach that when Jesus died, He went into hell and preached to those who were lost. This would contradict Luke 16:26 and Hebrews 9:27. Jesus went to “Paradise” at the time of His death (Luke 23:43).
- Verse 18 states that Jesus was made alive “by the Spirit” and verse 19 continues with “by whom.” The preaching that was done to the people of Noah’s day was done by inspiration of the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5).
- While the ark was being prepared Noah was preaching, but the people were disobedient to the word. Therefore, only eight souls were saved by water. How did water save them when they were actually in a boat?
- This leads to the discussion in verse 21. An antitype is a, “*antitupon*” meaning, “against (anti) a type, model, figure (tupos). In other words, as the water lifted the ark above the flood and saved their lives, baptism does now save us. It is not a physical bath, but knowing that I have done what God commands in order to be saved.
- Verse 22 discusses the placement of Christ after the resurrection.

#### **4:1-11 – Live According To God In The Spirit.**

- Peter was trying to prepare them for suffering by discussing what Christ had gone through (3:18-22). If they were doing what was right they could rejoice in their sufferings (3:13-14).
- They needed to possess the same mind as Christ in that they should be doing the will of God (4:2). The Christian must not allow “sin to reign” (Romans 6:12-14).
- Their past lifetime:
  - Lasciviousness (KJV) (NKJV, lewdness) – literally, “license, debauchery, sexual excess, absence of restraint.”
  - Lusts – “great or strong desire.”
  - Excess of wine (KJV) (NKJV, drunkenness) – “an insatiable desire for wine.”
  - Revellings (KJV) (NKJV, revelries) – “riotous conduct; festivities in honor of several gods, especially Bacchus, the god of wine, hence feastings and drunkenness with impurity and obscenity of the grossest kind.”
  - Baquetings (KJV) (NKJV, drinking parties) – “a drinking match.” Notice, this is distinguished from the previous two words. Drunkenness may not always occur. Alcohol, in any amount, for the Christian is to be avoided.
  - Abominable idolatries (KJV, NKJV) – literally, “unlawful idol service.”

- Believers are supposed to live a different life style from the world (v. 4). “A common reaction is to “speak evil of you” and make cutting accusations such as if one is anti-social, unfriendly, and bigoted.” This is a form of persecution.
- People of the world are going to give an account for their lives just like we are. All men will be judged by the same standard (John 12:48).
- Some who had obeyed the gospel had already died (v. 6), but they will be judged with the same standard as well.
- Because they are going to face judgment Peter states that they need to be serious (NKJV) and prayerful (v. 7).
- They also needed “fervent love” for one another. Fervent literally means, “to stretch out or extend.”
- Hospitality is a manifestation of love. Literally, “love or kindness to strangers.” They were to do this without complaining or murmuring from discontent.
- Verse 11 teaches that if we do things in service to others we are to do it as God would, whether speaking or serving. We are not to seek our own glory in what we do.

#### **4:12-19 – Commit Your Souls To God In Suffering.**

- Because their lives had been changed by the gospel, they were not to be surprised by persecutions. Christ suffered and was exalted to the right hand of God (Philippians 2:5-11). The same will happen with the Christian who remains faithful in trials (Matthew 5:10-12). God has promised to be with His people at all times (Isaiah 43:1-2; Hebrews 13:5-6).
- Busybody is a compound word (allotrioepiskopos) and literally means, another’s (allotrios) superintendent, overseer (episkopos).
- The word Christian is found in three places in the NT (here; Acts 11:26, and 26:28).
- Verse 17 reveals that a time of judgment was coming upon the church at that time. This probably refers to the persecution they were facing at the time. If God’s people are suffering right now, imagine how God’s enemies will suffer after they face Him in judgment!
- Peter quotes Proverbs 11:31. “Scarcely” literally means, “with difficulty or pain.” The persecution they were going through was apparently severe. If that is that case, and it is, how bad will it be for the ungodly?
  - A Christian is one who may suffer for doing what is right, hopefully not for what is wrong. We must entrust ourselves to God.

### **1 Peter 5**

#### **5:1-4 – Instruction For Elders.**

- The leaders of God’s people (elders) need to know how to conduct themselves in times of persecution so they can encourage the members of the church.

## Understanding the Eldership

Words used in the NT:

- Elder, presbyter (*presbuteros*). A person who is older in age. Needs to be applied spiritually as well. 1 Timothy 4:14- KJV uses presbytery; NKJV uses eldership.
- Bishop, overseer (*episkopos*). This word identifies the function of an elder. They are to govern or oversee the church.
- Shepherd, pastor (*poimen*). This word describes the manner of his service. Nurture, protection, concern.
- The eldership is to feed or shepherd the church of God. This comes from the same Greek word translated as pastor (Ephesians 4:11)
- Acts 20:17 uses *presbuteros* and verse 28 uses *episkopos* and *poimen* all in reference to the elders of the church at Ephesus.
- Congregation of the first century were autonomous (Acts 14:23). Elders of one congregation did not oversee the work of another congregation.
- Elders are told not to serve by “compulsion, but willingly” (v. 2). Matthew 14:22 uses the same word when it says that Jesus “made” His disciples get into the boat. The work of an elder then is voluntary, not forced.
- A man is not to serve as elder for the money. It is Scriptural to pay an elder for His work. 1 Timothy 5:17-18.
- *Lords* (v. 3) is from a word that literally means, “to overpower, to subdue.” They do not have the authority to change God’s law, but they do have the authority to make decisions and judgments based on God’s word.
- They are to lead by example (*tupos*). “To strike or smite with repeated strokes.”
- The Chief Shepherd is Jesus, not the Pope. Notice also, Peter was a “fellow-elder” (v. 1).

### **5:5-11 – Various Instructions.**

- Verse 5 deals with respect. The younger submitting to the elder is a teaching throughout the Bible (Leviticus 19:32). Everyone is to “line up under” (be subject) to each other. This phrase is connected with “be clothed with humility.”
- Peter quotes Proverbs 3:34. Pride is one of the seven things the Lord hates (Proverbs 6:17).
- God is “mighty.” He has the power to put down or raise up and we must remember that!
- *Care* (v. 7) is from *merimnao* which means, “anxiety, disruption, distraction.”
- Verse 8 instructs us to be self-controlled (sober) and watchful (vigilant). 2 Corinthians 2:11.
- The good news is that Satan’s power is limited (v. 9). How do we “shake him off?” We must stay strong in the faith (James 4:7). Nothing mysterious!
- God is able to perfect (finish, complete), establish (to set fast, fix firmly), strengthen, and settle (foundational, fundamental) the Christian.

### **5:12-14 – Peter’s Farewell.**

- Sylvanus is the same as Silas who became a traveling companion of Paul’s (Acts 15:22, 32, 40).



- “Church” is not in the Greek text, but was added by the translators to help clarify the meaning.
- Does Babylon refer figuratively to Rome, Peter’s wife, or a congregation? The text does not say.
- Marcus was Peter’s son like Timothy was Paul’s son- “in the faith.” Colossians 4:10 states that Mark was the cousin of Barnabas.
- The kiss was a typical greeting in that society (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26).

### **Second Peter**

- The primary purpose of this second letter is to warn the brethren about false teachers.
- Because false teaching is a reality we need to “give all diligence to make our call and election sure” (1:10).
- Peter was not going to neglect to remind the brethren of some very basic truths before he begins dealing with false teachers. This is the thrust of chapter 1.

#### **1:1-4 – Greeting.**

- “Like precious faith” – this faith is obtained through hearing the gospel (Romans 10:17). It should be precious to us, that is, valuable or worthy.
- The word for “knowledge” is *epignosis* which shows a relationship of the learner to the object of his knowledge.
- A knowledge of God and His Son have been revealed by the Holy Spirit. The word of God contains “all things pertaining to life and godliness.” The Bible tells us how to be saved and what to do to remain saved.
- In God’s word we have exceeding great and precious promises and we are able to have fellowship with deity (divine nature) according to verse 4.

#### **1:5-11 – Adding the Christian Graces.**

- Because of the things mentioned in verse 4, we ought to be adding things to our lives. *Add* is from *epichoregeo* which means, “upon (epi) to furnish (choregeo).” We get our word choreography from this term.
  - Faith (*pistis*) – firm persuasion, conviction.
  - Virtue (*arete*) – moral excellence, goodness.
  - Knowledge (*gnosis*) – power of knowing, intelligence.
  - Temperance (*egkrateia*) – self-control.
  - Patience (*hupomone*) – to persevere, remain under.
  - Godliness (*eusebeia*) – devotion, piety toward God.
  - Brotherly kindness (*philadelphia*) – one who loves his brother.
  - Charity (*agape*) – affectionate regard, goodwill, benevolence.
- Peter then adds that these things must “abound” in the Christian. If these characteristics are within us we will accomplish the Lord’s will.

- If they are not present we will become *tuphlos* or enveloped with smoke so that we cannot see clearly. If our focus is on this life only we are losing sight of things eternal.
- If we do these things we will not be failing in our duty to God.

### **1:12-15 – Peter Will Remind Them of These Things As Long As He Lives.**

- They were “established” in the truth, but he would still remind them. Established is from *steridzo* meaning, set fast or fixed firmly.
- As we age (v. 14) certain things in life lose their significance while others gain importance. His purpose in writing this down was so that they could have it after his death.

### **1:16-21 – The Inspired Word of God.**

- “Cunningly devised” is from *sophidzo* meaning, “skillful, expert.” “Fables” is from *muthos* meaning, “a tale fabricated in the mind.” We get our word *mythology* from this Greek word.
- Chapter 3 will deal with false teaching relative to the second coming, but this was his purpose in writing the letter.
- Peter, James, and John were the three witnesses to the transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36).
- The prophetic word is confirmed because they were eyewitnesses to Jesus’ majesty. His readers need to pay attention (you do well to heed) because prophecy (God’s word) shines as light in darkness. The truth is a light (Psalm 119:105) and Jesus is the True Light (John 1:8-9).
- Scripture is not of any *private* (idios – one’s own or individual) *interpretation* (epilusis – source or will).
- These men (Peter included) were (phero) *carried or brought along* by the Holy Spirit.
- John 14:25-26; 15:26-27; 16:12-14.

### **2:1-3 – Sneaky False Teachers.**

- They would *secretly* (pareisago – para, at the side; eisago, to bring in) bring in false doctrine.
- Notice, false teachers will be destroyed! *Heresies* is from *aiesis* meaning, a form of religious worship. Not everyone who teaches from the Bible is teaching the truth!
- How many will follow their ways (v. 2)? Why do people follow false teachers? When Christians go after false doctrines the truth is blasphemed!
- *Covetousness* is from *pleonexia* meaning, “more (pleion) to have (echo).” These false teachers were then and are today hoarders of money. They are quickly moving towards judgment!

### **2:4-8 – Three Examples of Punishment.**

- Verse 4 – angels.
  - This could be a reference to angels who “left their proper domain” (Jude 6).
  - They were cast down to hell (*tartaroo*). “The subterranean abyss of Greek mythology where demigods were punished.” This is the same as “sheol” in the

OT and “hades” in the NT. This is a place of waiting for the final judgment. Hades is from *hades* meaning, “not” (a) “seen” (eido). This is the unseen realm of man’s existence between death and final judgment. Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 16:23.

- Verse 5 – Noah’s generation.
  - Described in Genesis 6:5-8.
- Verses 6-8 – Sodom and Gomorrah.
  - Genesis 19:23-29.
  - Jude 7.

## **2:9-19 – Various Descriptions of False Teachers.**

- Verse 9 contains a great promise for those who are faithful to God. 2 Timothy 2:19.
- “Lust of uncleanness” – the act of defiling resulting in pollution.
- “Despise authority” – to think evil of power or authority.
- “Presumptuous” – a bold or daring person.
- “Self-willed” – a person who obstinately maintains his own opinion or asserts his rights but is reckless of the rights, feelings, and interests of others.
- “Dignitaries” – from *doxa* which is translated as glory in the NT.
- Angels, who are higher than humans, do not use this type of language and presumption even against those who are lower than themselves. Jude 8-10.
- False teachers are now compared wild animals who are controlled by their appetites (v. 12). They are not afraid to speak boldly about things of which they know nothing. They are going to be punished just like those who “carouse” (delicate living, self-indulgence).
- These men are so evil they look for an opportunity to commit adultery and cannot help themselves (v. 14). While they are doing this themselves, they are “enticing (luring, attracting, baiting) unstable souls.”
- Verses 15-16 compares them to Balaam from Numbers 22-24. Balaam tried to serve both God and gold (Numbers 22:7, 12, 19). The false teachers of Peter’s day were claiming to be from God but were serving only themselves.
- False teachers claim to be spiritual guides and speakers for God, but they are like a well with no water in it (v. 17). They speak “swelling words” (oversized, swollen, boastful) of “vanity” or “emptiness” (futility or worthlessness).
- It is said again in verse 18 that they “allure” (bait, entrap) people and they use “lewdness” (sexual excess, debauchery, licentiousness).
- They promise freedom yet deliver slavery (to sin).

## **2:20-22 – The End Result of False Teachers.**

- Remember, these were people who had been “bought by the Lord” (v. 1). A believer can be secure in his salvation (1:10-11), but he can fall into sin and lose his salvation (Hebrews 3:12-14).
- Luke 12:47-48 reveals why the latter end is worse than the beginning.
- If we turn away from the word of God (v. 21) there is nothing else that can save us (Hebrews 10:26-29).

## **3:1-9 – False Teaching Concerning the Second Coming of Christ.**

- There were in the first century, there are today, and there always will be people who teach things which are contrary to Scripture.

- A prophet is one who makes known the will of God to the people. Prophets foretold the future and also spoke of the current events of the day.
- A “scoffer” is a mocker or a false prophet (Jude 18).
- Some early Christians who had already died were under the impression that Jesus would return during their lifetime.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 reveals that there would be a great departure from the faith that would precede the return of Jesus.
- All things have not continued the same since the creation and these false teachers were “willfully ignorant” of that fact (v. 5).
- Genesis 1:6-10 reveals that in the creation of the world there was water “above the firmament and below the firmament.” Today, we know that there is no water “above the firmament.” What happened to it? Firmament meaning, “expanse, heavens.”
- When the flood came the “windows of heaven were opened” and “the fountains of the deep were opened” (Genesis 7:11-12). As a result, the wicked world of Noah’s day perished.
- The same word that created the world (v. 7) is reserving our present world for destruction at the second coming. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 reveals that Jesus is coming “with flaming fire.”
- Misunderstandings of verse 8 have caused much speculation on one day equaling one thousand years.
  - Peter is simply stating that what may seem like a long delay to man is nothing to God. He is not limited by time as we are.
  - Also, the verse says “one day is as a thousand years.” In other words, the promises of God are not affected by time.
- Jesus promised that He would return (v. 9). At the ascension an angel told the apostles that Jesus would return (Acts 1:9-11). The “delay” in His return is called longsuffering in verse 9. While man is still on earth he has the opportunity to repent.

### **3:10-18 – The Day of the Lord.**

- A thief comes unannounced and usually at a time when the victim is not prepared. Matthew 24:36; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4.
- Notice, the heavens, elements, and earth will all be “burned up” (v. 10). Literally, they will be “consumed with fire.”
- The passage helps us understand Matthew 16:26.
- Based on the above facts, how should we be living?
  - Instead of being baited by the world we should be abstaining from fleshly lusts which war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11).
  - Instead of being focused on the temporary we should be living in view of eternity (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).
- We are looking for a new dwelling place (v. 13). This verse tells us that the present order of life is going to go away. All things will be made new in heaven (Revelation 21:4-5).
- We should be “looking forward” to these things. This word could be translated as “expecting or anticipating.”
  - Without spot – unblemished, pure.

- Blameless – irreproachable, one who cannot be blamed.
  - How is this status acquired? 1 John 1:7.
- Again Peter states that the delay in Christ's return is an opportunity for salvation. In context Peter has been discussing the second coming of Christ and then mentions Paul's writings. Paul dealt in great detail about the return of Christ (1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4-5).
- Peter states that **some** of Paul's writing was **hard** to understand, not impossible. Paul stated that his writings could be read and understood (1 Corinthians 2:9-13; Ephesians 3:1-4).
- He gives the faithful a warning in verse 17. They could be carried off by the delusion or wandering (error) of the wicked.
- Because of this possibility the Christian must grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord. This is the safeguard against any false teaching.