

1 Peter

Outline

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| Lesson 1 | Living <i>Hope</i> through Christ's Resurrection (1:1-12) |
| Lesson 2 | <i>Hope</i> -produced Holiness of Living (1:13 - 2:12) |
| Lesson 3 | <i>Hope</i> -produced Submission to One Another (2:13 - 3:12) |
| Lesson 4 | <i>Hope</i> in the Midst of Suffering for Christ (3:13 - 4:19) |

Lesson 5 **Shepherds Lead with *Hope* and Humility (5:1-14)**

Don't be surprised: 4:12-19

In what ways did Christians in the Roman Empire suffer?

In what ways do Christians in America suffer?

In what ways do Christians in the rest of the world suffer?

How do you react when you hear reports about Christian persecution on the news?

Peter tells us not to be surprised when Christians suffer. Instead he says, "rejoice" (verse 13)." He says, "Praise God" (verse 16). How can a Christian possibly rejoice in suffering and praise God?

What is the natural human response when a person is suffering injustice and persecution?

What is the Christian's response when he or she suffers trials and persecution? (Verse 19).

Finally, what is a Christian's hope in the midst of suffering?

In this last section, Peter concludes his letter of true hope to Christians who are strangers in a troubled world. With a reality check that suffering is a temporary part a Christian's life and with hope redirected to our risen and ascended Savior, Peter now encourages leaders and members of the church to remain in that eternal hope.

Responsibilities of the shepherd: 5:1-4

What office does Peter address as "elders"?

At what occasional worship service are verses 1-4 read?

What dangers or temptations does Peter warn church leaders, especially pastors, against?

Peter emphasizes the importance of pastoral leadership in a congregation. How do you understand the pastor's role or responsibility in the congregation? How might his responsibility be misunderstood?

Who will receive a crown of glory when the chief shepherd appears? (See Revelation 2:10 and 2 Timothy 4:8)

How does this promise of future glory give every Christian hope here and now?

Responsibilities of the flock: 5:5-11

Who does Peter address in this section?

Peter notes a very important fact about many congregations: they are multigenerational. What generational barriers may exist in a congregation? How can we overcome those barriers and take advantage of the blessings of a multigenerational congregation?

Who does Peter command to be humble?

What does it mean to “clothe yourselves with humility”? Give examples of what this might look like in a congregation.

Verse 7 is a familiar passage. As you look at it in context, what does “casting” our anxiety on the Lord have to do with the humility mentioned in verses 5-7?

How was the devil “looking to devour” Christians in Peter’s day? How does he do the same today?

How can we “be alert” (verse 8) and “resist” (verse 9) the devil?

Agree or disagree: Christians should be afraid of Satan and his powers.

As Peter is about to close his letter, what same reminder from the opening does he repeat? (Verse 10)

Conclusion: 5:12-14

Note on verse 12: “With the help of Silas...” The Greek of 1 Peter is more advanced than that of 2 Peter, which is evidence of Silas’ assistance in writing the letter.

Note on verse 13: “She who is in Babylon...” is very likely the church in Rome, which like Babylon in its day was the world capital, seat of a brutal empire, immoral and ungodly and a dreadful enemy of God’s chosen people.

Peter’s final encouragement is for Christians who suffer trials and temptation to “stand fast” in the true grace of God. How has this study of 1 Peter helped you stand fast in God’s grace as strangers in the world?

Peace to all of you who are in Christ!

For study at home

Reread 1 Peter (only 5 chapters!) to recap Peter’s main theme: “True Hope in a troubled world.”

Read 2 Peter (only 3 chapters!) to get an overview of Peter’s second letter.