

First Peter

Introduction to the Course

by Milt Langston

Lesson 1

I. CONTEXT OF THE EVENTS OF THE TIME.

- A. AD 30 - The church established.
 - 1. Started in Jerusalem - Jews converted first.
 - 2. Church expanded to Samaritans (Acts 8).
 - 3. Gospel taught to Gentiles (Acts 10).
 - 4. Church considered as a Jewish Sect..
- B. AD 45 to 55 - The church spread to Roman Empire - Paul's Missionary Journeys
- C. AD 60 to 68 - Church first persecuted mainly in Rome & empire by Nero
- D. AD 70 - Jerusalem destroyed and Jews crushed

II. BACKGROUND.

- E. Nero's Persecution - AD 60 to 68.
 - 1. The books of Hebrews and II Timothy were thought to have been written besides I Peter during this time.
 - 2. It is possible that Paul's death has just taken place.
 - 3. It was the beginning of hostilities toward the church.
- F. Nature of the persecution (**Read 3:17**).
 - 1. No martyr of great numbers and it was empire wide.
 - 2. No demands for emperor worship.
 - 3. It was more a slanderous attack by a hostile world (**Read 4:4-6 & 12-16**).
- G. The church's apprehension - beginning of separation of church and state.

III. DESTINATION OF THE LETTER (WHO IT WAS WRITTEN TO).

•A. Peter addresses the recipients of the letter as...

•1. "The Elect" 1:1 = The chosen of God: Christians. The elect are defined by Paul in Colossians 3:12, "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Later in 1 Peter 2:4 Peter refers to Jesus as God's elect. Christians like Jesus are God's choice...His chosen.

•a. The word **eklektos** (eklektos) = "select (implying favorite), chosen, elect."

•b. The word is translated "elect" in the ASV and NIV, and "the chosen" in the NASB and RSV.

•2. "Sojourners": 1:1, 17; 2:11 From **parepidemos** (parepidemos) = "sojourning in a strange place; an alien alongside..." This word comes from **para** (para) = "by the side of" + **epidemew** (epidemeo) = "to make one's self at home; to reside."

•a. Means literally "to dwell (alone) besides others."

•1) Christians are not at home in this world. Like Abraham we look to a better home in a better land.

•2) We live beside those who have made themselves at home in the world....sojourners.

•b. It can also be translated "stranger or foreigner."

•c. Concept - Here on earth for a long while, but we do not belong.

•1) How long will I be a white man? (American, Black, Rich, Poor ?)

•2) The church is our outpost in a hostile land.

•3) Never compromise your morals, goals with earthly goals or involvement.

•3. "Sojourners of the Dispersion" 1:1.

•a. Means "one among the people" or "stranger among the people"

•b. "The Dispersion" was commonly used by Jews to refer to Jews outside of Judea.

•1) Some may say book was written to Jewish Christians.

•2) I rather think it refers to the "dispersion" as Christians as the prophets refer to the church as the "House of Israel" and the "House of Judah".

•c. Concept - Christians are different "Ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellence of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" 2:9.

•B. Written to "Strangers" in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

•1. This area now known as Turkey, then known as Asia Minor.

•2. This was written to Christians converted by Paul.

- a. For this reason some think Paul is dead and Peter is trying to comfort and strengthen them.
- b. However this is just speculation.
- C. The recipients are the "minor group" in Northern Asia-Minor.
- D. Many references to "Gentiles" 2:12; 4:3 however 1:14, 18 & 2:9 shows that after conversion they are seen as Gentiles no more: not written to Jews only
- E. Written to organized churches in Asia-Minor.

IV. PLACE OF WRITING - 5:13 "BABYLON".

- A. Ancient Babylon was a small city during this time.
- B. There was a city in Egypt named Babylon.
- C. Could refer to Rome as in Revelation (It was called Babylon because of its wickedness).

V. AUTHOR OF THE BOOK.

- A. Simon Peter 1:1
- B. "A witness of the sufferings of Christ" 5:1.

VI. PURPOSE OF THE WRITING.

- A. An exhortation to stand fast in the face of persecution, "I have written unto you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God: Stand fast therein" 5:12.
 - 1. Suffering is mentioned 16 times.
 - 2. It is the will of God; 4:19.
 - 3. Christ is our example in suffering; 1:11; 2:21-23.
 - 4. They were to expect it; 4:12; 5:19.
 - 5. Don't be troubled or fear it; 3:14.
 - 6. Be patient in it; 2:23; 3:9.
 - 7. Rejoice in it. 4:13; 5:9.
 - 8. See its values (salvation). 1:6-7.
 - 9. Live righteously in it (don't suffer as evil doer) 4:15.

- B. Peter shows us how to live a redeemed life in the midst of a hostile world. Remembering that we are a "holy nation" 2:9-11.

VII. THEME OF THE LETTER.

Hope in the midst of suffering. In a hostile world "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1:3-5.

VIII. THE FOLLOWING IS THE OUTLINE WE WILL USE FOR OUR STUDY...

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK FOR OUR STUDY

- I. THE GLORY OF OUR INHERITANCE (1:1-25).
- II. THE GLORY OF THE CHURCH (2:1-10).
- III. THE GLORY OF A REDEEMED LIFE (2:11-3:14).
- IV. VICTORY OVER SUFFERING (3:13-4:19).
- V. VICTORY OVER SATAN (5:1-14).

1 Peter 1:1-2:3

by Milt Langston

Lesson 2

REVIEW:

- Can you remember the theme of the book? (Hope in the midst of suffering in a hostile world).

TEXT:

I. THE GLORY OF OUR INHERITANCE (1:1-2:3).

•A. SALUTATION (READ 1:1-2).

•1. THE BOOK IS WRITTEN BY PETER (THE ROCK).

- a. Peter was anything but a rock.
 - 1) He was brash and straight forward.
 - 2) He denied Christ three times.
 - 3) He got himself in trouble in Galatia and Paul rebuked him to his face.
- b. Jesus gave Peter his name...

•2. No doubt Peter now is a full-grown man realizing his weaknesses.

- 1) Probably every time Peter heard his own name, he realized his weakness (himself)...
- 2) ...and his strength (Christ).

•3. IT WAS WRITTEN TO THE ELECT - "THE CHOSEN" THIS IS NOT AN ELECT RACE, BUT ELECT BECAUSE THEY WERE CALLED AND HEDED THAT CALL (II THESS 2:14).

- a. They are called sojourners of the dispersion in North & Central Asia Minor.
- b. Theirs and our election is according to the foreknowledge of God.
 - 1) Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world (1:20).
 - 2) His death was foreknown and controlled by God (Acts 2:23).
 - 3) The cross was not Christ's fate... but it was His desire (John 10:7-18).
 - a) Some teach that foreordination destroys man's will and because of it he cannot escape his fate.

- b) But the Bible teaches that God foreknows without destroying man's choice (John 10:17-18).
- c. Our election is in sanctification of the spirit.
 - 1) It is the work of the spirit to sanctify.
 - a) God sets apart (the chosen, the elite) those who have the Holy Spirit.
 - b) People who do not have the Spirit are not chosen.
 - c) How does a person obtain the Holy Spirit according to the Bible?
 - 2) It is God's plan for Christians to be sanctified (set apart).
 - a) Through "obedience" it is God's plan for us to serve Him. (Man's part)
 - b) Through "sprinkling of the blood" - God's plan is to change us from sinners to followers of God through our faith in Jesus Christ. As members of Christ's body we are enabled by God to provide service. (God's part)
 - c) Above are two conditions for sanctification take one away and there is NO Sanctification.
- d. "The Elect" 1:1 = The chosen of God: Christians.
 - 1) The elect are defined by Paul in Colossians 3:12, "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."
 - 2) Later in 1 Peter 2:4 Peter refers to Jesus as God's elect.
 - 3) Therefore, Christians like Jesus are God's choice...His chosen.
- 4. It was addressed to the "sojourners" or to the "aliens."
 - a. "Sojourners": 1:1, 17; 2:11 From **parepidemos** (parepidemos) = "sojourning in a strange place; an alien alongside..." This word comes from **para** (para) = "by the side of" + **epidemew** (epidemeo) = "to make one's self at home; to reside."
 - b. Means literally "to dwell (alone) besides others."
 - 1) Christians are not at home in this world. Like Abraham we look to a better home in a better land.
 - 2) We live beside those who have made themselves at home in the world....sojourners.
 - c. It can also be translated "stranger or foreigner."
 - d. Concept - Here on earth for a long while, but we do not belong.
 - 1) How long will I be a white man? (American, Black, Rich, Poor ?)
 - 2) The church is our outpost in a hostile land.
 - 3) Never compromise your morals, goals with earthly goals or involvement.

- 5. "Sojourners of the Dispersion" 1:1.
 - a. Means "one among the people" or "stranger among the people"
 - b. "The Dispersion" was commonly used by Jews to refer to Jews outside of Judea.
 - 1) Some may say book was written to Jewish Christians.
 - 2) I rather think it refers to the "dispersion" as Christians as the prophets refer to the church as the "House of Israel" and the "House of Judah".
- B. OUR SALVATION IS OUR HOPE AND INHERITANCE (1:3-12).
 - 1. (READ 1:3-5) OUR HOPE & INHERITANCE...The resurrection of Christ brings the following 4 results...
 - a. (1:3) We are born again unto a living Hope.
 - 1) Not a dead hope.
 - 2) Not an "I hope, I hope."
 - 3) We are alive, we live and we are free from death because of the resurrection of Christ.
 - a) The resurrection shows Christ's deity.
 - b) He kept His word therefore He is worthy of our trust.
 - c) He proved the sanity of the Old Testament prophecies by fulfilling them.
 - b. (1:4a) It provided us with an inheritance.
 - 1) It is incorruptible - relate story of Rumpelstiltskin (wicked fairy who traded gold from straw to a young girl in exchange for her first born child when she became queen). Not like the rewards of sin which come at a price. Not like taking a Mafia gift.
 - 2) God is honest with us in His promises.
 - 3) undefiled - unspoiled by sin.
 - 4) It does wither and wear out.
 - c. (1:4b) It reserved for us a place in Heaven.
 - 1) There will be no competition for your place (illustration a fair we all attended in Bloomfontein where people jammed into the line before you and took your place....).
 - 2) "Reserved" used in perfect tense: "has been reserved, is reserved and always will be reserved."
 - d. (1:5) Power of God guards us through our faith which will all be revealed in our salvation "in the last time."
 - 1) "Guarded" - **frourew** (phroureo) = military term meaning "surrounded by garrisons" (illustrate David vs. Saul).
 - 2) "Power" **dunamis** (dunamis) = Dynamite "force, power, might."

- 3) "Through faith" = The fort wherein we live and are guarded.
- 2. **(READ 1:6-9) FAITH AND TRIALS...THE PURPOSE OF TRIALS IS TO LEAD US TO SALVATION!**
 - a. (1:6-7) Rejoice for the outcome...
 - 1) Our trials are used by God to purify our faith...(READ James 1:2-4).
 - a) As fire purifies gold or silver...trials purify our faith in God.
 - b) The proof of our faith = The endurance of trials.
 - c) The end of our faith = salvation.
 - 2) Therefore the purpose of trials is to lead us to Salvation.
 - a) Please note this revelation.
 - b) God is single in His purpose for us...His desire is to save!
 - 3) Our faith is much more valuable than silver or gold, and only when we see Jesus will the true worth of our faith be known.
 - b. (1:8-9) Through Jesus' work for us, our faith's outcome is our own salvation when we trust in Him
 - 1) This is a powerful statement.!
 - 2) Many have not seen Jesus, but they believe in Him...
 - 3) The end of this kind of faith in Jesus is salvation! Isn't that powerful?!
- 3. **(READ 1:10-12) OUR SALVATION WAS THE SUBJECT OF MUCH PREPARATION!**
 - a. (1:10) Our salvation we enjoy in Christ was a much sought after topic in times past. Prophets who predicted this grace to come searched diligently to know God's plan.
 - b. (1:11) The Spirit of Christ caused prophets to prophecy, but the time and the place of it they did not know.
 - c. (1:12) This grace has been revealed to Christians and we can now see and benefit from what those prophets wrote.
 - 1) READ Ephesians 3:1-12 for Paul's commentary on this same subject!
 - 2) We have revealed to us through inspired writers God's entire plan for man.
 - 3) It was made known to us even before angels knew what the plan was all about.
 - a) What does all this say to us about God's feelings towards us (His creation)?
 - b) God's great love for man is the reason for his wrath...
 - 1] God is angered by the sin that hurts His creation.
 - 2] God's anger is being stored up for those who do not fall in line with His love for His creation.... Selfishness loves self to the sacrifice of others, and it puts us against God.

- a] To thine own self be true, is a motto straight from Satan.
- b] To God be true, is the motto of a believer.
- c] Because a Christian believes and trusts in God's care and keeping, he can consider others as better or more important than self.

•C. (1:13-25) CHRISTIANS LIVE DIFFERENTLY!

•1. (1:13-22) FOUR EXHORTATIONS....

•A. (READ 1:13-14) BE SOBER!

- 1) Remember that this book was written to "sojourners" who live in the world but they are not of the world.
- 2) Wherefore = Get yourself ready; get your mind ready
- 3) What are some things that keep us from being sober?
 - a) Prejudice
 - b) Hatred
 - c) Worry
 - d) Drunkenness

•B. (READ 1:15-16) BE HOLY!

- 1) Holy = Set apart, dedicated (illustration of temple)
- 2) God is Holy by nature
- 3) You and I are Holy by practice

•C. (READ 1:17-21) BE REVERENT!

- 1) (1:17) "Fear" **pobos** (phobos) [from **pebomai** (phebomai) = "to be put to flight"] = respect or "a wholesome dread of displeasing God" (W.E. Vine).
 - a) We are to fear not pleasing God.
 - 1] Unfortunately we usually fear displeasing others more...we succumb to peer pressure.
 - 2] What are some of the things we fear more than God?
 - b) It is our desire to please God.
 - c) We depend upon His help to live and serve.
 - d) It is possible to please God without perfection, but not without dedication.
- 2) (1:18ff) Christ saved us from a life of futility and gave our life purpose.
 - a) Peter uses a powerful play on words in this text when he mentions "silver and gold."

- b) It was possible for a slave to be redeemed if he could raise enough money. However it was very unlikely because the price was so much higher than a slave could save up. However there was an easier way...but the process required that the slave become a willing slave to one of the idol's temples. He could for a lesser fee change the one who owned him which was a more advantageous situation. A slave could go to the idol's temple and give the priests his redemption money plus a fee, and they could demand that the slave be sold to them. A temple could purchase a slave at a reduced redemption price. However, the slave became the possession of the temple. It was understood that this was almost as good as being free for the temple would give the slave more rights than his owner would.

- c) The same happens when we are redeemed by Jesus' blood. We are redeemed from hell and made citizens of heaven, but we are now the willing property of God in Jesus Christ. Dedicated or sanctified objects of God's service.

•D. **(READ 1:22) BE LOVING TOWARDS BROTHERS!**

- 1) "Fervent" comes from **ektenos** (ektenos) which is an adverb

from **ektenes** (ektenes) = to stretch; or stretched, therefore; zealous, earnest." It could be the action of a person who stretches out his hand to rescue a child from drowning. Therefore not a casual response, but one of quickness and purpose and dedication.

- 2) Our souls are all purified by our obedience to truth.

- 3) We are all the same in the church.

- a) No class.

- b) No distraction.

- c) Love for all.

- 4) Why do you suppose there is such an urgency here ("fervently")?

•2. **(READ 1:23-2:3) THE CHRISTIAN AFTER CONVERSION!**

- a. **(1:22)** Love your brethren fervently.

- 1) Fervent love brought us all into Christ.

- 2) Fervent love, therefore; should be fostered in our relationships with one another in Christ.

- b. **(1:23-25)** Recognize the presence of eternity!

- 1) **(1:23)** We have passed from the perishable to the imperishable!

- a) The power of God's word is like a seed....

- 1] It can break concrete.

- 2] It dies in order to bring forth abundant life!

- b) It produces eternal life.

- c) It always produces the same kind of Christian.

- 2) (1:24-25) But this glory is a journey through death!
 - a) Flesh is temporal.
 - b) The word of God will last forever.
 - c) Eternal life can only be possible where the word of God is preached.
 - d) It is the only foundation of our faith which is the vehicle of our journey from death to life.
- 3) (2:1) "Therefore" = in view of what has been said before.... "put away..."
 - a) Malice or Wickedness = Desire to hurt others. This word comes from **kakia** (kakia) = "wickedness, malice, evil or trouble."
 - b) Deceit or Guile = Desire to deceive or fool or misdirect others. This word comes from **doloj** which is a derivative of **dellw** (dello) = "decoy, trick, deceit, guile, subtlety."
 - c) Hypocrisy = empty shams or pretense. Comes from **u/pokrisij** (hupokrisis) = "acting under a feigned part, deceit, dissimulation, hypocrisy."
 - d) Envy = ill will because of other's good fortune. Coming from **fqonoj** (phthonos) = "ill will, spite, envy."
 - e) Slander or Evil speaking = attacking others with tongue. Coming from **katalalia** (katalalia) = "defamation, backbiting, evil speaking, slander."
- 4) (2:2) Desire spiritual milk which is God's word.
 - a) Empty the flesh.
 - b) Fill up the spirit.
- 5) (2:2-3) Grow: Build a new life upon the word.
 - a) Word is spiritual (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 - b) Goal of spiritual growth = Salvation.
 - c) Just a taste of God Things to come.

SERMON SEED

Christians are aware of Eternity

- 1. Be Fervent in Love (1:22).
- 2. Be Aware of Eternity (1:23-25).
- 3. Be Active in Righteousness (2:1-3)

1 Peter 2:4-10

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Lesson 3

REVIEW:

- The purpose for writing the book: "Stand fast in the face of persecution" (5:12).
- Theme of the book: "Live a redeemed life in the midst of a hostile world with hope in the midst of suffering."
- The purpose of trials (1:6-9):

Proof of faith → Endurance of trials.

End of faith → Salvation.

Therefore, the purpose of trials → to lead us to salvation.

TEXT:

I. THE GLORY OF OUR INHERITANCE (1:1-2:3).

II. THE GLORY OF THE CHURCH (2:4-10).

Here Peter will give strength to faith by giving his listeners a new concept of the Lord's church..

•A. (READ 2:4-8) CHRIST IS THE BUILDER OF THE CHURCH.

•1. (2:4) JESUS IS VIEWED DIFFERENTLY BY GOD AND BY BELIEVERS THAN HE IS BY THE WORLD.

•a. In Man's eyes (to the physical) Christ was a failure.

- 1) His own people rejected His word.
- 2) They rejected Him and had Him executed because of His teachings.
- 3) He died alone in the world He came to save.
- 4) He was indeed "Rejected of Men."

•b. But he proved Himself to be a "living stone" which of course refers to prophesy which we'll see in verses 6-9.

- 1) His rejection and seeming defeat did not deter Him from His purpose nor did it defeat Him...
 - a) He is yet alive.
 - b) He turned defeat into victory.
 - c) By His blood He purchased the Church (Acts 20:28).
- 2) His rejection proved Him to be the stone of prophesy (Ps. 118:22)
- c. In God's sight and in Christian's sight, this rejected one is...
 - 1) The Living Stone.
 - 2) "Elect" = chosen.
 - 3) Precious = honorable.
- 2. **(2:5) THE CHURCH IS THE SPIRITUAL HOUSE OF GOD.**
 - a. Christians are living stones also
 - 1) God was not and is not happy in a physical house...as He was in Israel's Tabernacle then temple.
 - a) David had Solomon build God a house ... He left it.
 - b) "God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24).
 - c) Can God live in anything that we build? Why? "The God that made the world and all things therein, He, being Lord of Heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is He served by men's hands, as though He needed anything, seeing He Himself giveth to all life, and breath and all things." (Acts 17:24-25).
 - 2) Christ created for God a spiritual House.
 - a) He put to death the flesh, "Christ also suffered for since once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit." (I Pet. 3:18).
 - b) The church of Christ is a spiritual house that is built for God... It is made on Christ and made of Christians.
 - 1] When does the Christian put to death flesh & become alive in spirit?
 - 2] What did Jesus do to make it possible?
 - c) Paul speaking of the church said, "Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man destroyeth the temple of God, Him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is Holy, and such are ye." (I Cor. 3:16-17)
 - b. Christians are the ministering priests of God in His house

- 1) We offer up spiritual sacrifices to God... "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy, acceptable to God, which is our spiritual service." (Rom. 12:1)
 - a) What is your sacrifice...?
 - b) Total commitment! Or nothing! This is God's formula.
- 2) Sounds tough, but Christ enables us for our sacrifices are "through Jesus Christ."
- 3. (2:6-8) The Church is built upon a rock and that rock is Jesus!
 - a. It was predicted in prophecy. (Isaiah 28:16; Ps. 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14).
 - b. It was not Peter (Matt. 16:13-18).
 - 1) Roman Catholic church teaches that Matthew 16 teaches that Peter is the rock upon which the church is built.
 - 2) Even Peter did not believe such a point which this passage proves.
 - c. The foundation of the Church of Christ is the fact of Jesus'deity.
 - 1) Jesus is "the precious corner stone." He is the "stone which the builders rejected" ...the Jews rejected Jesus, but God accepted Him to build the church; He is the "stone of stumbling and ...rock of offense."
 - 2) Therefore, He is the foundation of the Lord's church which is exactly what Peter confessed in Matthew 16.
 - d. To the unbeliever, Christ becomes a stumbling block.
 - 1) False teachers hate the word of Christ.
 - 2) The unbelievers hate the word of God.
 - 3) And both hate the body or church of Christ.

•B. (READ 2:9-10) SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST...IT IS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

- 1. Church is an "elect race"
 - a. "Race" geno (genos) = "kin" (abstractly or concretely, literally or figuratively, individually or collectively):-born; nation, offspring, kind, race or people of a common descendant or birth. Therefore we are a common people.
 - b. Christians are all alike to God and they have all things in common.
- 2. Church is a "Royal Priesthood."
 - a. One who serves the King.
 - b. Ephesians 2:6 teaches that we (Christians) have been seated with Christ in the "heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6).
 - 1) We dwell upon the earth for there is where God's kingdom now originates.

- 2) But our place is with Christ in glory...even now as we dwell upon the earth, our place is with Him in the heavenly places.
- 3. Church is a "Holy Nation."
 - a. Holy = Set apart or dedicated...
 - b. Nation = Race or tribe
 - c. Therefore unity of all people in church
- 4. Church is a people for God's own possession.
 - a. Isaiah said of us, "But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!" (Isaiah 43:1).
 - b. God paid the price to buy back the church (Acts 20:28)...Christ redeemed us so that we could belong to God!
- 5. The mission of the church...
 - a. To show forth the excellencies of God. Jesus said it this way, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt 5:16).
 - b. To show forth = to speak out (a public proclamation).
 - c. Excellencies:
 - 1) Taken out of darkness (ignorance) into light.
 - 2) Light of the world = Christ's word.
 - 3) Life Provided.
 - 4) Possible to be a people of God!

III. THE GLORY OF A REDEEMED LIFE (2:11-3:12).

First Peter

1 Peter 2:11-3:12

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Lesson 4

REVIEW:

- 1. Purpose for writing book: "To be steadfast in the face of persecution" (5:12).
- 2. Theme of Book: "Live a redeemed life in the midst of a hostile world with hope in the midst of suffering."
- 3. The Purpose of Trials (1:6-9).
 - Proof of Faith = Endurance of Trails
 - End of Faith = Salvation.
 - Therefore the purpose of trials is to lead us to salvation.
- 4. The church of Christ is called:
 - Spiritual House made of Living Stone.
 - Holy Priesthood.
 - Elect Race.
 - Royal Priesthood.
 - Holy Nation.
 - God's Possession.
 - The people of God.

TEXT:

I. THE GLORY OF OUR INHERITANCE (1:1-2:3).

II. THE GLORY OF THE CHURCH (2:4-10).

III. THE GLORY OF A BELIEVING (REDEEMED) LIFE (2:11-3:12).

(Another title for this section could be: Christians are in the World, but not of the world!)

•A. **(2:11-17) GENERAL EXHORTATIONS.**

•1. **(READ 2:11) ABSTAIN FOR FLESHLY LUST...**

- a. Abstain = to hold back.
- b. Fleshly lusts:
 - 1) Any desire not coming from God...
 - a) Sin is desires exceeding wholesome desires given by God.
 - b) Example... Is it wrong for a husband to desire his wife?
 - 2) Satan attempts to get us to give ourselves totally to lusts (desires) and abusing these.
 - 3) Satan's goal is to make war against the soul through the abuse of our desires.
 - 4) We need to constantly remind ourselves that we are at war!

•2. **(READ 2:12) BEHAVE SEEMLY AMONG GENTILES.**

- a. Seemly or "excellent" comes from **kalo/j** (kalos) = Fitting, virtuous, proper, that which is right.
- b. Let your life match your profession is what Peter is saying.
- c. Christians are different from the world, therefore the world condemns Christianity.
 - 1) World looks closely to see if Christians are living up to their profession.
 - 2) God will be glorified through example of our (a Christian's) life.
 - a) Even though Jessie Jackson is a pretender instead of a real believer, because he claims to be a believer; do you think his infidelity has glorified God or brought reproach upon him?
 - b) Every one's life confesses or denies God....Christians are those who have confessed Jesus as God's Son, therefore we must live up to our confession.
- d. "**Day of Visitation**" = day of persecution, world sees how we cope with it.

•3. **(READ 2:13-14) BE SUBJECT TO EVERY ORDINANCE OF MAN.**

- a. Christians respect constituted authority
- b. Background of the times when this was written...
 - 1) Jews hated Roman authority...Peter was raised in this environment.
 - 2) Zealots wanted war with Rome and saw Christ as their leader to throw off Roman oppression, and to lead God's people into a glorious kingdom (very similar to the teaching of premillennialists of our day).
 - 3) AD 70 which will bring about the destruction of Jerusalem is close at hand when this book was written.

- c. Why obey laws? For Christ's sake.
 - 1) The same is true today.
 - 2) Our keeping of commandments will not save us. We will be saved by Christ's keeping of these commandments perfectly for us.
 - 3) We keep these same commandments for His sake...in our devotion and service to Him.
- 4. **(READ 2:15) THE PURPOSE FOR WELL DOING. TO SILENCE THE IGNORANCE OF FOOLISH MAN...**
- 5. **(READ 2:16a) DO NOT USE OUR FREEDOM AS A CLOAK OF WICKEDNESS.**
 - a. This is obviously a problem in first century times because it is the subject of many of the New Testament writers.
 - b. Because we are freed from guilt and sin....some deem this as a license to sin. Later the Gnostics will take this false notion to teach that common "lay" members have to fight against sin; but the "upper class" or clergy are above it...which really means they are free to indulge in it.
- 6. **(READ 2:16b) FREEDOM'S PURPOSE IS TO SERVE GOD!**
- 7. **(READ 2:17a) HONOR MAN.**
 - a. Respect men for what they are...
 - b. Treat all men with dignity and respect...
- 8. **(READ 2:17b) LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD.**
 - a. Brotherhood = Other Christians...
 - b. If you do not love your brother, you can't love God (1 John 4:20).
- 9. **(READ 2:17c) FEAR GOD.**
 - a. Fear **fobew** (phobeo) = from 'to be frightened,' therefore, to be alarmed by or to be in awe.
 - 1) This type of awe does not take God lightly.
 - 2) It means to be afraid of not pleasing God. To have a phobia about displeasing Him.
 - b. Christian life is dedicated to pleasing God.
- 10. **(READ 2:17d) HONOR THE KING.**
- B. **(2:18-25) EXHORTATIONS TO SERVANTS.**

ADDRESSED TO CHRISTIAN HOUSE SERVANTS. (DOMESTIC SERVANT LITERALLY).

- 1. Background of 1st Century.
 - a. Slavery was a way of life in 1st Century.
 - b. Many Christians were servants. Some slaves, some free men.

- 2. Today we can apply the exhortations of this section to the type of attitude Christians should show towards the boss at work.

•1. **(READ 2:18) CHRISTIANS SUBMIT TO MASTERS.**

- a. To gentle masters.
- b. To harsh masters.
 - 1) It's not fair is the cry of the world today.
 - a) Our society claims to be a "Christian Society."
 - b) But our thinking comes from existentialism.
 - 1] God is not actively involved in life.
 - 2] We must act on our own because God is not going to get involved.
 - 3] Humanism, denominationalism and many other isms of today are born of this type of thinking.
 - 2) But submission requires faith in God as an active power in our daily lives.

•2. **(READ 2:19-20) PURPOSE FOR SUBMITTING MASTERS.**

- a. Because God is aware of our lives (private) and He is very much concerned.
 - 1) Our work is to flavor the world for God (Matt. 5:13).
 - 2) We are to be something pleasant in the midst of unpleasant things.
 - a) Matter of faith, "But the righteous shall live by faith."
 - b) Christians believe in God and His justice ... We leave judging to him. (elaborate).
- b. It is our honor if we suffer for God's sake in patience and silence.
 - 1) To suffer when we deserve it is no credit to us.
 - 2) To suffer for righteousness sake gives honor to God. "Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness's sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven." (Matt. 5:10-12).

•3. **(READ 2:21-25) THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST.**

- a. **(2:21-22)** Christ endured suffering for a while because of a higher cause. So must we.
- b. **(2:23)** When Christ suffered...
 - 1) He intrusted himself to God.

- 2) When Christ was on the cross revilers said of Him, "He trusted on God; Let Him deliver Him now, if He desireth Him; for He said; I am the Son of God." (Matt. 27:43)
- 3) He did not revile or threaten His oppressors...but left vengeance up to the Father.
- c. (2:24-25) The purpose of Christ's suffering was to save sinners!

Christians are in the world but not of the world. In a day when everyone is demanding his "rights" (women, men, minorities, etc), Peter exhorts the Christian to honor the rights and feelings of others through active service. Nowhere does he exhort the Christian to stand up for his rights. We represent Christ. He can take care of Himself and us too!

•C. (READ 3:1-6) EXHORTATIONS TO CHRISTIAN WIVES.

- 1. (3:1-2) "Be submissive" comes from **uportassw** (hupotasso) = "to arrange under; or to be subordinate" (Thayer). Take your place under the top; to line up under, or to submit.
 - a. This does not teach that men are superior to women. Remember that submission requires faith in God's higher power.
 - b. This passage teaches women to do what God expects of you as a woman.
 - c. Woman's obligations is to only her "own husband."
 - d. Woman's strongest influence on her husband to do good is through the example of her chaste behavior.
 - 1) This teaches that actions speak louder than words.
 - 2) And righteousness is fairer than physical beauty.
- 2. (3:3-4) Outward appearances are not as important as inward adorning to Christian wives.
 - a. (3:3) Outward adorning will not convert the unbelieving husband. Isn't that amazing!
 - b. (3:4) Inward adorning: by your behavior.
 - 1) Incorruptible.
 - 2) Meek & Quiet spirit ⇒ Loud & overexertive women.
- 3. (3:5-6) Example of Sarah & Women of old.
 - a. Their hope was in God.
 - b. They adorned themselves for their husbands. Women who adorn themselves for others do not understand this spiritual principle and bring grief into their relationship with their husband.
 - c. They were in subjection to their husbands.

•D. (READ 3:7) EXHORTATIONS TO CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS.

•1. "Dwell with wives according to knowledge."

- a. With an understanding of God's word concerning marriage.
- b. With an understanding of women.
- c. Knowing and acknowledging his responsibility in the home.
 - 1) Finances.
 - 2) Worship (it is time that men took the leadership in the area of worship to God).
 - 3) Education.
 - 4) Discipline, etc.

•2. "Give honor as to the weaker vessel."

- a. "Weaker" = Not physically, but in their positions in society. The Christian husband is not to take advantage of his wife because of her God (commanded) given position of submission.
- b. Realize her position on earth and respect it.
- 3. A wife is a joint heir with her husband in life now and for eternity.
- 4. Husbands and wives pray together - Don't let your prayers be hindered...
 - a. Arguments hinder prayer.
 - b. Harmony is necessary.

•E. (3:8-12) THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN.

•1. (READ 3:8-9) CHRISTIANS DO NOT RETALIATE AGAINST THE EVIL. Again this takes faith in the higher power of God and your confession of His Lordship.

- a. God's will is that Christians be:
 - 1) Compassionate.
 - 2) Loving as brethren.
 - 3) Tender Hearted.
 - 4) Humbled Minded.
- b. Christians do not:
 - 1) Render evil for evil.
 - 2) Reviling for reviling.
- c. Instead of evil Christians respond by giving a "blessing" which comes from the word **eu/logew**(eulogeo) = to say good things; blessed; to give a blessing.

•2. (READ 3:10-12) CHRISTIAN FORMULA FOR HAPPINESS TAKEN FROM A QUOTE OF PSALM 34:12-16...

- a. (3:10a) Stop speaking evil.
- b. (3:10b) Don't deceive with your speech.
- c. (3:11a) Turn away from evil (repent).
- d. (3:11b) Do good.
- e. (3:11c) Hunt peace and chase after it... kind of like a sinner does evil.
- f. (3:12) God's way is the way of happiness.
 - 1) That's why we trust Him.
 - 2) That's why we believe in Him.
 - 3) Faith is always the issue.

The Will of God and the Blessings of God come in Paradoxical form

Satan tries to offer mankind the same blessings that God promises.... He suggests happiness through subjugation of others....his plan has at its root the suggestion that God does not exist...you are going to have to do it yourself!

God suggests happiness through submission to others....His plan has at its root the appeal to our faith that He does indeed exist....that He is our creator....that He helps, and that He wants to help.

Illustration... An interesting thing about flight in outer space is that you must "slow down in order to catch up." If two satellites, or spacecraft, desire to rendezvous, the one that is making an approach cannot accelerate, it must decelerate. If it increases its speed, the craft goes into a higher orbit, but if it decreases its speed, it will drop into a lower orbit and actually gain on the craft ahead of it. Most rendezvous are designed so that the approaching craft comes in from a higher orbit and "slows down, in order to catch up." As a result, it drops into place by decelerating.

- In a sense this is how we best discover God's will for our own life.
- If we struggle spiritually and emotionally to please God, we only make it hard on ourselves and will probably move further away from God's perfect will....that is when we try to do it ourselves.
- The best way to serve God is to submit our lives to his control.
- The more we yield ourselves to his power, the more power is available to use for service.
- With our creator it's a case of "If you lose, you win; if you give in, you won't give out."
- James reminds us, "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late

rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near" (James 5:7-8).

- Remember Jacob who was renamed Israel.....because he struggled against God...

1 Peter 3:13-4:11

by Milt Langston

Lesson 5

REVIEW:

- 1. Purpose: "To exhort to be steadfast in the face of persecution."
- 2. Theme: "Live a redeemed life in midst of a hostile world with hope in the midst of suffering."
- 3. Purpose of Trials (1:6-9).
 - Proof of faith = endure trials.
 - End of faith = Salvation.
 - Therefore the purpose of trials = Leads us to Salvation.
- 4. Church Called...
 - Spiritual House (built of living stones).
 - Holy priesthood.
 - Elect (chosen) race.
 - Royal Priesthood.
 - Holy Nation.
 - God's Possession.
 - The People of God.
- 5. Example of Woman of Old:
 - Their hope was in God.
 - Adorned themselves for husbands were in subjection to husbands.

TEXT:

I. THE GLORY OF OUR INHERITANCE (1:1-2:3).

II. THE GLORY OF THE CHURCH (2:4-10).

III. THE GLORY OF A BELIEVING (REDEEMED) LIFE (2:11-3:12).

IV. VICTORY OVER SUFFERING (3:13-4:19).

•A. (3:13-17) SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(DOING THE WILL OF GOD WILL BRING ABOUT TRIBULATION)

•1. (READ 3:13-14) NO ONE CAN HARM THE CHRISTIAN.

- a. The flesh can and will suffer, but it is dead...united with Christ's death...
 - 1) Example...(Rom. 6:6-8).
 - 2) The Christians life cannot be hurt by man, beast or Satan.
 - a) The flesh can and will suffer.
 - b) But the spiritual new life we have with Christ is indestructible.
- b. Therefore when we suffer we should not fear as the world.
 - 1) Fear itself is NOT wrong.
 - 2) It is a God given emotion.
 - 3) Just do not let fear destroy your faith.
- c. Suffering for what is right brings God's blessings, therefore; we should not fear the intimidation of the world...Peter goes to Isaiah 8:12ff where Isaiah warns Judah not to fear the conspiracy of Israel and Syria against her, but to fear the Lord (READ ISAIAH 8:12-13).

•2. (READ 3:15-17) WORSHIP WILL STRENGTHEN US AGAINST FEAR.

- a. "Sanctify" *a/giazw* (hagiazo) = to be venerable or hallow; to separate from profane things and dedicate to God; to set apart
- b. Therefore we are instructed to set apart a place for Jesus in our hearts...
 - 1) Every Christian carries a shrine in his heart.
 - 2) Every Christian carries Christ in his heart.
 - 3) The Christian makes a place for Jesus in his life.
- c. Be ready to give an explanation for your life (remember little girl who's father was a Mennonite at work who wore the simple clothes!).
- d. The attitude of your explanation (apology) = "with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience."

•B. (3:18-22) CHRIST'S TRIUMPH THROUGH SUFFERING.

•1. (READ 3:18) JESUS CONQUERED DEATH BECAUSE HE SUFFERED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- a. This is our example.
- b. When we suffer we follow the example of Christ.
- c. Jesus opened the way to God for us through suffering.

- 1) Remember that the end of our faith = salvation!
 - 2) And the proof of our faith = suffering!
- 2. **(READ 3:19-20) THIS IS A COMMENTARY ON V. 18.**
- a. "Preached unto the spirits in prison" (see also 2 Peter 2:4-5; Jude v.6).
 - 1) They were preached to while ark was being built.
 - 2) They were preached to because Christ died for our sins.
 - b. The preaching was done "in spirit."
 - c. This preaching is a past tense action (something that happened in the past).
 - d. But those in prison is a present tense action (these spirits are presently in prison).
 - e. Summary:
 - 1) The past tense preaching (v. 20) is the preaching to the disobedient in Noah's day.
 - 2) How Christ preached⇒ through Noah who preached according to Christ's Spirit (I Pet. 1: 10-12, II Peter 2:4-5). God preaches when His prophets speak (i.e. Neh. 9:13-14).
 - 3) Reason for their imprisonment shown ⇒ they were disobedient to Christ's preaching (through Noah).
 - 4) We would paraphrase it this way: "Jesus had preached unto those who are now in prison."
 - f. Variation: Disobedient imprisoned by sin were heading for flood ⇒ only 8 saved.
 - g. Because Noah and his family believed they were saved. Therefore he was saved by faith, but he was "saved through water."
 - 1) The phrase "brought safely through" comes from **dieswqhsan** (diesohtsan) which comes from (**dia**[dia]= a preposition meaning through; on account of; because of + **SWZW** [sozo] = to save; to bring safely; to ensure salvation), and it means to be brought safely through. Of course we know that that which brought us to this safety was water as stated in these verses.
 - 2) Noah did nothing but believe, but God's instrument of salvation was water.
- 3. **(READ 3:21-22) THE SALVATION OF NOAH IS A TRUE TYPE OF OUR OWN SALVATION.**
- a. The water (in baptism) is God's instrument in which He (God) saves the believer (passive).
 - b. The washing of the body in the water does not save ⇒ God does.
 - c. Baptism is a matter of conscience

- 1) We know Christ commanded it therefore when we fulfill His desire and command, we have the "interrogation of a good conscience" knowing we are saved having done what Christ requested when he promised forgiveness and life.
 - a) This is not salvation based upon our whim ("let Jesus into your heart")...
 - b) It is salvation based upon the command of Christ and our faith in Jesus.
- 2) Baptism is referred to as the start of a life of faith. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:1-4; I Cor. 12:13 et al.
- d. The power of baptism is Christ and the power of Christ in His resurrection.
 - 1) The fact of Christ's resurrection authenticates baptism, which is in its likeness.
 - 2) Baptism and the resurrection gives us:
 - a) Strength to suffer.
 - b) Hope of Salvation.
 - c) Assurance of Salvation.
- C. **(4:1-6) OUR LIFE IS TO BE HOLY IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING.**
 - 1. **(READ 4:1) KNOWING CHRIST SUFFERED ⇒ ARM YOURSELVES...**
 - a. Have the same mind (will) of God. Phil 2:5.
 - b. Have the same convictions for righteousness.
 - c. The one who is suffering has ceased sinning.
 - 1) The word for "ceased" = is a Greek word that indicates an action in past the consequences of which continue.
 - 2) If you are fighting sin you suffer & if you suffer you know you are winning against sin.
 - 3) If you rest ⇒ you will slip into sin.
 - d. This does not mean that God's plan for Christians is suffering and pain and unhappiness always. NO!
 - 1) Sportsman suffer.
 - 2) Mothers suffer.
 - 3) Workers suffer.
 - 4) None of these are unhappy but content...even exhilarated!
 - 5) God knows what is good for you to keep you constant and happy as he intended. Ecc. 11:9-12:1.
 - a) Satan is our problem.
 - b) He desires to bring pain ⇒ sin.

•2. **(READ 4:2-4) WE DO NOT LIVE FOR THE LUST OF THE FLESH, BUT FOR THE WILL OF GOD.**

•a. Lust of the Flesh:

- 1) Lasciviousness - "The absence of restraint, indecency, wantonness."
- 2) Lust - "Strong desire of any kind."
- 3) Winebibbing - "Drinkers of wine".
- 4) Reveling - "The consequence of drunkenness."
- 5) Carousing - "A Drinking Bout."
- 6) Abominable idolatries = refers to idol worship of the day.
- 7) Riot = Life indulging in the above.

•b. The will of God (not written text):

- 1) A stable family of joy and comfort.
 - a) Includes a man who loves his wife.
 - b) Includes a woman who loves her husband.
 - c) Includes a father who loves his children.
 - d) Includes a mother who loves her children.
 - e) Includes children who are cherished and taught the meaning of love.
- 2) God's desires that man enter heaven and escape sin's pain.

•3. **(READ 4:5) EVIL REBUKERS OF THIS WORLD WHO OPPOSE THE RIGHTEOUS WILL BE JUDGED.**

•4. **(READ 4:6) GOSPEL WAS PREACHED TO DEAD.**

•a. Dead

- 1) Those who are dead to sin. (Rom. 6)...Christians.
- 2) Those who have died? Christians who have since passed away like those written about by Paul in the Thessalonian letters.
- 3) Not the same situation as 3:19-20 ⇒ "The spirits kept in prison" represented the disobedient. But the "dead" here represents those who are obedient Christians.

•b. We live for God in the Spirit.

- 1) The world has a carnal outlook.
- 2) The elect have a spiritual outlook.
- 3) The world is coming to death and destruction.
- 4) The spiritual are coming to glory and eternal life.

•D. **(READ 4:7-11) THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP.**

- 1. (4:7a) Be of sound mind and judgment.
- 2. (4:7b) Be sober unto prayer.
- 3. (4:8-11) Be fervent in love among yourselves!
 - a. Love one another ⇒ be hospitable.
 - b. Love God ⇒ use your talents.

1 Peter 4:12-5:14

by Milt Langston

Lesson 6

REVIEW:

- 1. Purpose: "To exhort to be steadfast in the face of persecution."
- 2. Theme: "Live a redeemed life in midst of a hostile world with hope in the midst of suffering."
- 3. Purpose of Trials (1:6-9).
 - Proof of faith = endure trials.
 - End of faith = Salvation.
 - Therefore the purpose of trials = Leads us to Salvation.
- 4. Church Called...
 - Spiritual House (built of living stones).
 - Holy priesthood.
 - Elect (chosen) race.
 - Royal Priesthood.
 - Holy Nation.
 - God's Possession.
 - The People of God.
- 5. Example of Woman of Old:
 - Their hope was in God.
 - Adorned themselves for husbands were in subjection to husbands.
- 6. Suffering...
 - Why do Christians suffer (4:1)? Because Jesus suffered.
 - What is the purpose of suffering? Our salvation.
 - How do we know we have ceased sinning? We know because we suffer.

RISK

- 1. RISK... There is a certain amount of risk involved in life. Jesus' parable of the talents teaches this. The one talent man refused to risk his talent, and lost everything.
- 2. My aunt 'Bama wrote a poem she gave me as a child....it went like this:

RISK

You can't play the game

Without risking a fall,

For they tackle the man

Who is carrying the ball.

- 3. This seems to be a recurring theme of Peter here in chapter four.
 - a. I think that's what he means in verse 18 when he says, "AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?"
 - b. Salvation was not and is not without risk.
 - c. There are only two destinies for all mankind: heaven or hell....even with the salvation Jesus produced.
- 4. This is not to say that our salvation is unsure....it is to say that our salvation is opposed by Satan, therefore; we dare not go to sleep and neglect it.
 - a. Jesus risked His eternal life to the grace of the Father when He forfeited His life upon the cross. This is not a casual thing, but an exciting and demanding fact of our salvation.
 - b. Our response to it cannot be blasé!
- 5. Sin IS present in the world, and God has provided a way of escape, but just as Jesus did not escape suffering Peter returns to the theme of Christian suffering....nor will we escape suffering in Christ.
 - a. In verses 7-11 Peter has shown us that the very sins present in society which cause suffering will one day result in the ultimate suffering...namely the judgment of God.
 - b. The truth seems to be that we will suffer...
 - 1) Either we will suffer with God at the suffering He allows to call men to repentance.
 - 2) Or we will suffer with Satan in the judgment.
 - c. Jesus has shown us that there is no in-between ground. We are either with God or we are against Him. Christians know that no one survives being against Him!

TEXT:

I. THE GLORY OF OUR INHERITANCE (1:1-2:3).

II. THE GLORY OF THE CHURCH (2:4-10).

III. THE GLORY OF A BELIEVING (REDEEMED) LIFE (2:11-3:12).

IV. VICTORY OVER SUFFERING (3:13-4:19).

- A. (3:13-17) SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- B. (3:18-22) CHRIST'S TRIUMPH THROUGH SUFFERING.
- C. (4:1-6) OUR LIFE IS TO BE HOLY IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING.
- D. (4:7-11) THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP.
- E. (4:12-19) ACCEPT PERSECUTION AND TRUST YOUR LIFE INTO GOD'S CARE AND USE.

- 1. **(READ 4:12) EXPECT IT! TRIALS ARE NOT STRANGE.**
 - a. The world and the Christ are in conflict. Therefore the kingdom of Christ will be in conflict.
 - b. Trials are not to be unexpected; we are even told to expect them for the world and the church are in conflict....Satan and God are yet in conflict.
 - 1) There are two sides to choose.
 - 2) When I was a kid I always tried to be chosen on the team J.R. Brubaker was on...because I always figured his team had a better chance of winning. We would do well to choose Christ's side!
 - c. Purpose of Trials: They come upon us to "prove" us or "for our testing."
 - 1) James said, "Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold trials (temptations) knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:2-3).
 - a) Prove = "To bring out the best."
 - b) Patience = Staying power.
 - 2) God uses trials to correct us giving us discipline when we stray from God growing weak in our faith (Hebrews 12:5-10).
 - a) Again we return to the idea introduced previously in the book... God allows suffering to save the lost.
 - b) But the unmistakable warning is issued....God will punish those who persecute His people without repenting.
 - 3) Example: Paul learned about Christ while persecuting Christians.
 - 4) Their suffering served God's desire to convert Paul.
 - 5) We are going to suffer....God allows suffering...but remember that there is a purpose behind it, and it serves as a reminder to us that we must rejoice because we will miss the BIG SUFFERING which will come at the hand of God in judgment!
 - d. "Fiery trials" = Persecution coming upon first century Christians. The word **purwsij** (purosis) is a word which could be translated "trial by fire," is finds its root in **purow** (puroo) which is a smelting term to refine by fire.
- 2. **(READ 4:13) WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO REJOICE IN TRIALS REJOICE IN TRIALS.**
 - a. **(4:13)** Rejoice in trials...For at the revelation of Christ our joy will be made full.
 - 1) Just look at the suffering right now, and be thankful that you will miss out on judgment on the last day!
 - 2) Sin stings us now, but it is not going to destroy us!
 - 3) This is reason to praise God!
 - b. **(4:14)** The blessings of trials.
 - 1) We are blessed when we are reproached for serving God.

- a) It shows that we are different.
 - b) It shows on who's side we belong.
 - c) It is assurance of our position in Christ.
- 2) What is suffering for our faith? It is a little bit of the "his glory" resting on us.
- a) This is talking about the "shekinah" of God...His glory that resided in the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud and was in the smoke which filled the temple of God.
 - 1] Ex. 40:34 ... "Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle."
 - 2] It was on Jesus, "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:2).
 - 3] And when we suffer it dwells on us.
 - 3) Spiritual Christians suffer; worldly Christians (actors) do not, for they are involved with the world and sin.
- 3. **(READ 4:15-16) DON'T CAUSE SHAME NOR BE ASHAMED IN SUFFERING!**
- 1. God allows suffering for two reasons:
 - ...to give sinners an opportunity to repent.
 - ...to punish sin.
 - 2. Peter here reminds us that we need to suffer for all the right reasons... for doing what is right, not for doing what is wrong.
 - 3. Christians suffer because they do what is right, but the world suffers because they do what is wrong.
 - a. **(4:15)** Don't be guilty of doing these things which cause suffering:
 - 1) Murder - one who hates & rejects others, a son of Cain (not necessarily a literal murder but could be a hater - Matthew 5:21-22).
 - 2) Thief from the word **klepthj** which comes from **kleptw** (klepto) we get our word kleptomaniacs from this root word = it is one who steals when he has no need - greed.
 - 3) Evil doer **kakopioj** (kokopiois) = one who practices evil.
 - 4) Meddler = an inspector of others, a self-appointed overseer. In the Greek this word comes from a compound word, **allotriepiskopoj** (allotriepiskopos; allotri = things belonging to another + episkopos = overseer).
 - 5) It is a shame to suffer as a sinner.
 - b. **(4:16)** But it is an honor to suffer as a Christian.
 - 1) Christian then = one who does not conform to socially accepted sin.

- 2) Trouble is we sometimes grieve when we suffer. What we need to do is what Peter will exhort us to do in the next chapter (**READ 5:6-7**).
- 4. (**READ 4:17-18**) COMMENTARY ON V. 12-16...CHRISTIANS NEED TO EVANGELIZE THE LOST IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS!
 - a. (**4:17**) Get ready for judgment...
 - 1) Trouble in form of persecution is coming because we preach the gospel.
 - 2) The Gospel will be preached, and trouble will come on those who preach...it is more of a struggle between God and Satan.
 - 3) But remember judgment is coming on the wicked.
 - 4) Here is the message to us...
 - a) Salvation is not without risk!
 - b) Faith is the issue here as it is everywhere.
 - 1] If you want to believe that there is no hell...you will risk heaven by disbelieving God if you are wrong.
 - 2] If you want to believe in God's existence and trust Him...you will risk the opposition that comes against God by the adversary.
 - 3] Suffering is ultimate!
 - b. (**4:18**) Compare our situation to the world's situation.
 - 1) What does "it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved" mean? The KJV says, "And if the righteous scarcely be saved..."
 - a) It does not mean that our salvation is insecure!
 - b) It means that our salvation was difficult...it came at a great cost and much trouble...
 - 2) It emphasizes the fact that the godless man and the sinner does not have a chance, and such a person is extremely foolhardy.
- 5. (**READ 4:19**) THE BOTTOM LINE IN SUFFERING: TRUST GOD!
 - a. Commit (lay before God or entrust) your soul to God in well doing. (You can't get away from it).
 - 1) Trust God - do what He says. Put your faith in action.
 - 2) When we give ourselves or "entrust" ourselves to God He will use us and glorify us.
 - a) Give your soul to God.
 - b) Give your money to God.
 - c) Give your children to God.
 - d) Give your family to God.
 - b. If we trust God He will use us and glorify us in His service doing His eternal and victorious will.

- c. It is the way out of all this mess the world is in!

V. VICTORY OVER SATAN (5:1-14).

•A.

ILLUSTRATION

During WWII the bomber squadrons were instructed to fly in formation where each was situated to cover another with its guns. If the top echelon is not right, the whole thing is wrong. This same sort of strategy is being discussed here. So Peter zeroes in on elders first.

(5:1-7) Hold your place in God's Formation!

•1. (READ 5:1-4) BE FAITHFUL - INSTRUCTION TO ELDERS.

- A. (5:1) **"THE ELDERS THEREFORE"**; WHAT IS THAT **"THEREFORE"** THERE FOR? IN OTHER WORDS, **"THE ELDERS IN VIEW OF WHAT HAS JUST BEEN SAID BEFORE....:"**

- 1) Peter was an elder himself someplace.
- 2) "Elder," **presbuteroj** (presbuteros) = elder or older man.
- 3) Peter = witness of suffering therefore an apostle, but here he speaks as an elder.

- B. (5:2-4) WHAT THE ELDERS ARE TO DO DURING A TIME OF PERSECUTION....BE FAITHFUL!

- 1) (5:2) Being faithful...
 - a) Tend or "shepherd" = **poimainw** (poimaino) which comes from **poimen** = to act as a shepherd or pastor, to tend (the flock of God).
 - b) The phrase **"exercising oversight"** comes from **episkopew** (episkopeo). This is a compound word **epi** (epi) = on, upon or above + **skopew** (skopeo) = to look at, to contemplate, to keep your eye upon. Therefore the words together mean to oversee. This word is sometimes translated into English as bishop meaning the same thing.
 - 1] Overseeing does not mean bossing!
 - a] Remember this word is associated with shepherding or pasturing.
 - b] It is leading others and seeing over the service of others within the Lord's church.

- c) "Not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God" = means that a church leader must be a willing servant which is just like Jesus served us.
 - 1] Being an elder in the Lord's church is an activity of spiritual leadership which is according to Christ's Spirit.
 - 2] It is according to the will of God.
- d) "And not for sordid gain, but with eagerness" = not for money.
 - 1] This in no way teaches that it would be wrong to pay an elder to serve full time.
 - 2] It simply means that an elder should never serve simply for the money he might receive for doing so...for sordid gain.
- 2) (5:3) Being a faithful leader...
 - a) Don't boss or lord it over others.
 - b) Elders are not policy makers...Jesus is the policy maker...they are decision makers in matters of choice and expediency.
 - c) They are leaders...out front leading.
 - d) They are examples to all the rest.
- 3) (5:4) Their reward = "glory."
 - a) This is some more of the meaning of "glory" we saw back in chapter 4:13.
 - 1] It is God's glory.
 - 2] It is the glory that was present in the pillar of fire during the wilderness wanderings.
 - 3] Remember from 4:13 that our suffering is an earthly manifestation of this coming glory!
 - b) When the wicked are judged with REAL suffering, the REAL glory will be as easily recognized as the REAL suffering. But the suffering Christians endure is only a manifestation of the REAL glory to come.
 - c) This is the reward of the eldership.
 - d) The Chief Shepherd reminds elders who are under shepherds (or pastors) that Jesus and not they is Lord. He also provides Himself as their example.
 - e) Here is a truism: When the leadership is faithful, the followers become faithful!
 - 1] Their ministry: "Shepherding the flock!"
 - 2] Their motive: "Not of constraint, but of consent!"
 - 3] Their manner: "Leadership does not mean dictatorship."
 - 4] Their reward: "In the future, not today."
- C. SUMMERY...ELDERS SHOULD:
 - 1) Serve for the right reason.

- a) Not because they must do so.
- b) But because they freely choose to do so.
- 2) Serve with right motive:
 - a) Not for material gain ("not for filthy lucre"). It is obvious that elders receive pay from the congregation with whom they serve. However, this pay was not to be the reason for being an elder.
 - b) Elders are to serve for the satisfaction they get from doing the job, not what they can get out of it.
- 3) Serve in the right manner:
 - a) Not driving but leading.
 - b) Not domineering but setting an example.
- 4) Serve with proper awareness:
 - a) Elders serve the chief shepherd, Jesus.
 - b) They must give an answer to Him.
- 2. **(READ 5:5-7) BE HUMBLE!**
 - a. **(5:5a)** An instruction to the Younger.
 - 1) The younger are to be in subjection to the older members.
 - 2) The weakness of the young...
 - a) They are impatient.
 - b) They lack wisdom.
 - 3) Young men who do have a place in God's church with their energy and enthusiasm, but they have NO place in church leadership.
 - b. **(5:5b-7)** The rest of the church...
 - 1) **(5:5b)** "Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another."
 - a) Be humble to others, "...with humility to serve one another" (ASV).
 - 1] Humility cause us to serve one another!
 - 2] To place the needs of others above our own needs is an act of humility.
 - b)
 - c) He gives grace to humble.
 - 2) **(5:6-7)** Be Humble to God...
 - a) Humility causes us to acknowledge power of God! Note the ".

Second Peter

Introduction

by Milt Langston

Lesson 7

I. AUTHOR OF THE BOOK.

- A. Simon Peter (1:1).
- B. Evidence:
 - 1. His death predicted by Lord (1:14; John 21).
 - 2. Eyewitness to Jesus (1:16-18).
 - 3. Same author of first letter (3:1).

II. THE DESTINATION.

- A. Same as the first epistle because in 3:1 Peter says, "This is now, beloved, the second epistle that I write unto you."
- B. Same people who had received letters by Paul (3:15).
- C. No Old Testament quotes... could indicate a predominantly Gentile group of believers.

III. DATE - AD 65 - 68.

- A. It is a time when first generations are gone prompting Peter to say, "For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation" (3:4).
- B. Peter is near death himself, "Knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me" (1:14).
- C. Same internal problems as faced by Paul.
 - 1. God's wisdom, not "cunningly devised fables." (1:16).
 - 2. False teachers (2:17 ff).
 - 3. Problems understanding the second coming of Christ (3:15f).

IV. BACKGROUND TO THE "HERESIES" ATTACKING THE CHURCHES.

•A. THERE WAS A FALSE VIEW OF KNOWLEDGE, CHAPTER 1.

- 1. Gnosticism was a Christianized (syncretistic taking of Greek philosophies making them appear as Christian teachings) doctrine of the times which rose as a false teaching which plagued the early church, and is taught against by Paul. Peter and John.
 - a. Their greatest sin was that they denied the incarnation of Jesus and therefore, his resurrection.
 - b. They claimed that true knowledge comes from within....
 - 1) These Gnostics claimed to have an anointing from God which made them like the apostles and prophets...inspired by God.
 - a) This would prompt Peter to say, "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (1:20-21).
 - b) Gnosticism is still alive today when anyone tells you that his interpretation may differ from your own which is a sneaky way of saying that interpretation determines doctrine.
 - c) Paul will say in 1 Cor. 4:6, "Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other."
 - 2) They were corrupted by certain who claimed to know it all... they claimed a corner on knowledge.
- 2. Gnostic teachers tried to bind their philosophies on disciples.
 - a. They advocated the chastisement of the flesh as a sign of piety.
 - 1) The flesh was the source of all evil according to their teaching. That is why Jesus could not have been God in the flesh.
 - a) They forbade marriage because it involved fleshly activities.
 - b) Gnostics were the first to claim that sexual activity was evil in and of itself because it was a fleshly activity. Because of the sexual perversion of the day it gave them an convincing argument.
 - c) To buffet the flesh to make one more righteous they forbade certain foods which Paul condemns (READ 1 TIM 4:1-4).
 - b. They used the laws of the Jews as rules as a tool to buffet the flesh. It appeared righteous, but was base.
 - c. They advocated and elevated knowledge for knowledge's sake.
 - 1) Worshipped education.
 - 2) Some of the influences of these false teachers still exists today.
 - d. Ultimately these false teachers divided the people into two groups.

- 1) This division still exists today in organized religion and is known as the clergy - laity system.
 - a) Clergy are above sin and live by a different standard...holier than thou.
 - b) And the laity depend upon the wisdom of the Clergy.
 - c) This system has its basis not in the word of God, but "**doctrines**" of demons.
- 2) They imposed restraints upon others which were hard to bear...
- 3) While they themselves considered themselves above the flesh in the mind....and lived without restraint. They want after sin claiming to be above the flesh's contamination intellectually.
- 4) They developed a double standard which would lead the religious world into the dark ages...

•**B. THERE WERE THE FALSE TEACHERS THEMSELVES, CHAPTER 2.**

- 1. They were immoral (2:6, 14).
- 2. They were irreverent and insubordinate to God's will (2:10-11).
- 3. They were antinomian, or against law claiming that there is no absolute truth.

•**C. THERE WAS A "LICENTIOUS MOVEMENT," CHAPTER 3.**

- 1. Licentious means = "lacking legal or moral restraints." Those who are "**following after their own lusts.**"
- 2. This movement was a result of the false teaching.
- 3. It threatened to plunge the gentle Christian right back from where he started...
 - a. Like a dog to vomit.
 - b. Like a sow to the mire.

V. PURPOSE - IT WAS PETER'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.

- A. To stir to growth (1:5-15; 3:18).
- B. To encourage loyalty and patience (3:1-14).
- C. To warn of "brainwashing" by false teaching (3:17).

VI. OUTLINE:

•**I. CHAPTER ONE - AN EXPLANATION: THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.**

•II. CHAPTER TWO - AN EXAMINATION: THE FALSE TEACHERS.

•III.CHAPTER THREE - AN EXHORTATION: THE LORD'S RETURN.

Second Peter

2 Peter 1:1-21

by Milt Langston

Lesson 8

REVIEW:

- 1. Purpose: Peter's Last Will and Testament.
- 2. Theme: The best tool to fight Satan's tool of false teaching is the word of God!

TEXT:

I. AN EXPLANATION OF THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST (1:1-21).

•A. (1:1-4) THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE - A DEFINITION OF TRUE KNOWLEDGE.

•1. (READ 1:1-2) IT IS KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS THE MAN.

•a. (1:1) Peter is a bond slave to Jesus first and he is an apostle second.

•1) Preachers and leaders should adopt this attitude instead of becoming self-important.

•2) "And Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they who are accounted to rule over the gentiles Lord it over them; and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it is not among you: but whosoever would become great among you, shall become your minister and whosoever would be first among you, shall be servant to all." Mk. 10:42-44 v. 45 says... "For the Son of Man also came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

•b. (1:2) An answer to heresy is knowledge of the Lord.

•1) This is the knowledge that was a mystery before, but revealed to us... Paul said... "When you read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ; which in other generations was not made known unto the sons of men, as it hath now been revealed unto His Holy apostles and Prophets in the Spirit;" ...he goes on to say that salvation is in Christ for Gentiles as well as Jews.

•2) At one time these facts were a mystery, but not any more.

•2. (READ 1:3-4) THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST IS TOTALLY SUFFICIENT TO GUIDE US!

•a. (1:3) Through it God has granted all that we need to know.

•1) There is absolutely no need for further knowledge in any other area.

- a) Church does not need preachers who are versed in philosophy!!
- b) Church does not need preachers who are versed in psychology!!
- c) Church need preachers who will determine to know nothing but Christ!!
- 2) There is no need for latter-day prophets we have all we need.
- 3) All knowledge comes to us through Jesus Christ (none from the Gnostics).
- b. (1:4) Through it (knowledge) God has given us His great promises... we are partakers of the divine nature.

This means we are to be like Christ now...

- 1) Paul says in Romans 8:28-31 that God's eternal purpose is that we be conformed to Christ's image.
- 2) Christians are like Christ in this world following His Spirit.
- 3) How did Jesus win others....that is how we should act.
- 4) We should not be reactors, but examples and leaders in active love towards others.
- 5) This basic decision faces ever man... Serve God or suffer the corruption of a lost stinking world.
 - a) Lust brings about corruption when its (lust) temptation (desire) is to escape from it.
 - b) Example: Cigarette adds show a nice crisp green background set in the forest...not a hospital ward for people with throat cancer: A result of smoking.
 - c) Therefore, lust and Satan are liars.
- 6) The way of escape from this corruption is through the knowledge of Christ revealed to us in the word of God.

•B. (1:5-11) THE GROWTH IN TRUE KNOWLEDGE - IS SOMETHING WE CAN DO IN THIS LIFE!

- 1. (READ 1:5-7) "**Now for this very reason**" = BECAUSE WE KNOW THE CORRUPTION OF LUST - BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS WE DO THE FOLLOWING...

"For this very reason, you must make every effort to supplement your faith with moral character, your moral character with knowledge, 6your knowledge with self-control, your self-control with endurance, your endurance with godliness, 7your godliness with brotherly kindness, and your brotherly kindness with love." **ISV** (International Standard Version).

"Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in your virtue knowledge; and in your knowledge self-control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience godliness; and in your godliness brotherly kindness; and in your brotherly kindness love." **ASV.**

"Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love." **NASB.**

- a. (1:5a) Supply all diligence in your faith. "All diligence" comes from **spoudh/** (spoude) = haste, earnestness, diligence. "Spoude" comes from the word **speudw** (speudo) which means "speed." So the idea comes across as an earnestness in action or accomplishment, thus our word diligence.
 - 1) "In your faith" is the key to this entire passage! Faith comes from **pistij** (pistis) = "conviction of the truth of anything, belief." Hebrews 11:1 states that it is "the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen."
 - 2) Christianity is a conviction. It is a diligent faith system in the reality of God and Jesus Christ His Son. Our souls depend on the diligence of our faith.
 - a) Without belief you will not, cannot exercise these Christian Graces.
 - b) Christianity is a faith, from faith to faith (Romans 1:17).
- b. (1:5b) Supplement your faith with moral character.
 - 1) "Moral character" comes from **areth/** (arête) = moral goodness or excellency such as modesty or purity; it is also translated virtue.
 - 2) The root word in Greek (for **areth/**) comes from **arrh/ n** or **arshn** (arrhen or arsen) = manliness.
 - 3) Therefore the idea here for "virtue" or "moral excellence" is an active power or the struggle to do good.
- c. (1:5c) Supplement your moral excellence with knowledge. Knowledge comes from **gnwsij** (gnosis) = knowing; knowledge. This is not like the inner knowledge advocated by the Gnostics, but the ability to know what good we must do. It builds on virtue. It is the foundation of our character: the knowledge of God's word.
 - 1) Knowing is married to virtue!
 - 2) Notice before you look at knowledge, that God expects us to be creatures of character. Grace's purpose is never to condone sin, but to eliminate it!

- 3) To be virtuous there is a need to know what is right and what is wrong...for our moral character's sake we need to pursue knowledge = discrimination; the ability to discriminate between good and evil.
- d. (1:6a) Supplement your knowledge with self-control.
 - 1) "Self-control" comes from the word **egkrateia** (egkrateia) = self-control; mastery (especially of sensual appetites).
 - 2) Literally it is power over one's self.
 - 3) Jesus would call this dying to self in order to serve others.
- e. (1:6b) Supplement your self-control with perseverance.
 - 1) This word is sometimes translated "**patience.**"
 - 2) It comes from the word **u?/pomoh** (hupomone) = it literally means "a staying behind" giving it the idea of patient endurance or perseverance.
 - 3) A person with this type of endurance is the kind of person who is the last one to leave when a job is to be done.
 - 4) In other words a spirit that endures till the job is finished.
 - 5) It is the ability to stand up under the load.
 - 6) It is idling your engine when you feel like stripping the gears.
- f. (1:6c) Supplement your perseverance with godliness.
 - 1) "**Godliness**" comes from the word **eusebia** (eusebia), and it comes from **eusebhj** (eusebes) which means "pious or devout." Therefore **eusebia** means piety or godliness.
 - 2) This is the proper honor to God; worshipping God well.
 - 3) Godliness = God like; "**It is no longer that I live, but Christ liveth in me...**"
- g. (1:7a) Supplement your godliness with brotherly kindness.
 - 1) The word in our text is **filadelfia** (philadelphia) = the love of brothers or brotherly love. This word is derived from **filadelfoj** (philadelphos) = loving one's brother.
 - 2) This indicates a kindness towards brethren!
- h. (1:7b) Supplement your brotherly kindness with love!
 - 1) Of course love comes from the word **agaph** (agape) = undefeatable good will towards others regardless of the response.
 - 2) So we are not only to be kind to our brethren, but we are also to reach out to everyone in need (not just to brothers).

•2. **(READ 1:8) THERE IS A PROMISE! IF A CHRISTIAN PUTS INTO PRACTICE THESE CHRISTIAN GRACES LOOK AT GOD'S PROMISE...**

- a. You will not be idle.
- b. You will be fruitful.
 - 1) Fruit comes from God because we are His creation.
 - a) The fruits of the Spirit are listed in Galatians 5. **READ Galatians 5:22-25...** notice the fruits of the Spirit are almost the same as these Christian Graces.
 - b) Love is defined in 1Corinthians 13. **READ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7...** notice that love contains these same attributes.
 - c) God is love (1 John 4:8), and the fruits of the Spirit are His...Peter wants us to practice at becoming like God because we have become His children.
 - 2) When we practice holiness, God works through us.
- c. Have you noticed that idle people are not fruitful, and unfruitful people are idle?
- d. Here's the cure...it gives us something to do which keeps us from being idle, and the result is that we become producers of the fruit which comes from God!

•3. **(READ 1:9) THERE IS A TEST...**

- a. If a man does not have these graces... he is blind.
 - 1) A doctrinally correct brother who is harsh and unkind and unloving has lost his usefulness to God. He is like a "resounding gong or a clanging cymbal" just making noise because his character speaks louder than his word.
 - a) What is needed is doctrinal correctness in practice.
 - b) Then doctrinal correctness in teaching will be much more powerful.
 - c) I think this is what Peter is trying to communicate to us...Christians are holy in word and in deed.
 - 2) Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount said, "**By their fruit you will know them.**"
 - a) This speaks volumes that we do not have time to go into here.
 - b) But Christianity is a practice not just a profession.
 - c) It starts with the sinless perfection of Christ's practice and continues in the improvement of our own practice as His followers!
 - 3) The blindness mentioned in v.9 is a blindness to spiritual truths which occurs to men and women who have eyes that see only through the flesh. They are carnal.
 - 4) This blindness causes the eyes of faith to be dimmed (go back and see grace in the negative).
- b. He has forgotten his redemption that was purchased by Jesus' perfect life, which included each of these graces in his life.

•4. **(READ 1:10-11)** THERE ARE BLESSINGS...PRACTICING PUTTING THESE CHRISTIAN GRACES IS SOMETHING WE ALL CAN DO NOW. WE CAN WORK ON IT. BUT WHEN WE DO GOD MAKES THESE PROMISES...

- a. Makes our calling and election sure through our practicing the Christian graces.
- b. When one develops these graces he shall NEVER stumble (fall from grace, the faith).
- c. This will exercise our knowledge gaining us entrance to eternal kingdom of God.
- d. Only one who KNOWS Christ will apply these things.

•C. **(1:12-21)** THE GROUND (SOURCE) OF TRUE KNOWLEDGE.

•1. **(READ 1:12-16)** THIS KNOWLEDGE (THE CHRISTIAN GRACES) PETER HAS JUST GIVEN IS NOT FROM PETER, BUT THE LORD.

- a. **(1:12)** Peter is not teaching something new, but reminding of something always taught and known to them, 1:12. It goes back to the Law of Moses...to God Himself!
 - 1) "These things" = the Christian graces just covered.
 - 2) It is not new, but from Jesus.
- b. **(1:13)** Peter will continue to teach this knowledge as long as he is alive and well "put them in remembrance."
- c. **(1:14-15)** Peter's death is near...
 - 1) He uses the word "departure" in verse 15 to refer to his death. This comes from the word **exodoj**(exodos) = a departure; exodus.
 - 2) Death is an exit from this world to a better world....it is a sinner's demise, but a Christian's transfer!
- d. **(1:15)** Peter's last will & testament: That they will remember the knowledge of Christ (the truth).

•2. **(READ 1:16-19)** PETER'S WITNESS OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.

- a. **(1:16a)** Peter did not trick them... His message is from the Lord!
- b. **(1:16b)** Peter was an "eyewitness."
 - 1) "Eyewitness" **epopthj** (epoptes) = "an on looker or an eyewitness."
 - 2) A play on words by Peter.
 - a) The Gnostics used this same word to describe themselves at the time of their initiation into Gnostic groups. They declare themselves to be eyewitnesses to the truth.
 - b) Peter is saying to the Gnostics that only the apostles of Christ are the true eyewitnesses.
 - c) The apostles, not they, have been initiated properly into the truth!

- c. (1:17-18) Peter rubs it in giving an account of his presence with Jesus (his initiation) on the Mount of Transfiguration.
- d. (1:19) The prophecy has been made sure because of the apostolic eye witnessing of it... it don't come from Gnostics (or latter-day "so-called" apostles).
 - 1) "You do well to pay attention" - is to the Gnostics who had a "know it all" attitude.
 - 2) The word of God is a light to lead even the Gnostic from the darkness "...until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts."
 - a) The "daystar" or "sun" = Jesus, Malachi 4:2; Revelation. 2:28; 22:16.
 - b) The bible always leads us to Jesus.
- 3. (READ 1:20-21) THE SOURCE OF PROPHECY IS GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT!
 - a. Prophecies did not come by the feeling or emotions of the prophets.
 - b. True knowledge came through revelation.
 - c. This destroys Gnostics and all false teachers' claims.

Summary:

Chapter one defines true knowledge and contrasts it with false knowledge and then shows how to obtain it and how it was delivered to us.

Second Peter

2 Peter 2:1-22

by Milt Langston

Lesson 9

Review:

Chapter one defines true knowledge and contrasts it with false knowledge and then shows how to obtain true knowledge and how it was delivered to us. It is an activity of Christians to build their faith upon the true knowledge that comes from God.

Now in chapter two we move to the discussion of false teachers who are the enemies of true knowledge.

- ✓ False Christians are full of knowledge for knowledge's sake. They have it to possess it.

- ✓ True Christians are filled with knowledge and pursue it to learn how to behave; to put it into practice.

- ✓ Christians do not practice to purchase...they practice to become perfect in gratitude for salvation's gift...to draw others to the truth practiced and demonstrated!

OUTLINE OF CHAPTER TWO:

- 1. The False Teachers Described (vs. 1-2).
- 2. The False Teacher's Desire (v. 3).
- 3. The False Teacher's Demise (vs. 4-9).
- 4. The False Teacher Defined (vs. 10-19).
- 5. The False Teacher's Destiny (vs. 20-22).

TEXT:

I. AN EXPLANATION OF THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST (1:1-21).

II. AN EXAMINATION OF THE FALSE TEACHER (2:1-22).

•A. (READ 2:1-2) THE FALSE TEACHER DESCRIBED.

- 1. History repeats itself!
 - a. There were false prophets in Israel of old.
 - b. There were false teachers in Peter's day.
 - c. And there will be false teachers in Christianity.
- 2. They will come from "among you..."
 - a. Paul said that elders would draw members away from the truth under similar circumstances recorded in Acts 20:29-30.
 - b. We have to conclude, therefore; that false teachers are believers...
- 3. "Who will secretly introduce destructive heresies..."
 - a. They bring error in slowly, slyly, privately.
 - b. They mix truth with error...
 - 1) They mix teachings.
 - 2) They teach some truth which all agree with
 - 3) Then they mix this teaching with their own wisdom and error.
 - a) They say, " I see a weakness in the Bible's teaching on this subject... I think I'll add some strength here (with their error).
 - b) No group of men is immune to slipping into error... it can happen.
 - c. Faith - a tenacious faith will keep us from it.
 - 1) We need to trust God's wisdom in revealing what he has in His word.
 - a) Many try to second guess God.
 - b) Then they teach for doctrine their conscience on a matter.
 - c) This was how problems threatened the church in Rome when Paul exhorted the stronger brothers to give in on conscience matters without violating conscience.
 - d) Truth resides in the word, not our understanding of it as important as our understanding is.
 - e) In the end we must trust God and what God says over our interpretations and understanding.
 - 2) We need to preach what is revealed then shut up.
 - 3) I believe that God is able to handle the weak areas if I will be faithful and trust in His power!
 - d. Christ our Lord is not without power.

- 4. False teachers deny Christ and His power which provided redemption... "Even denying the Master who bought them..."
 - a. Redemption and salvation is taken for granted by false teachers.
 - b. It is forgotten in false doctrine. It loses its meaning.
 - c. All sects and cults do not preach salvation.
- 5. False teachers are "sensual" instead of spiritual.
 - a. The word "sensuality" is translated "pernicious ways" in the KJV. This comes from the word **aselgeia**(aselgeia) = licentiousness, wantonness, sensual or sensuality.
 - b. False teachers will ridicule the truth so that they can teach their own doctrine. They are not spiritual.
- 6. The problem of false preachers is very grave.
 - a. Our text reads about them that they are "bringing swift destruction upon themselves."
 - b. And not only that, but "Many will follow their sensuality." Which means that many will be lost because of them.
 - 1) Their teaching damns men's souls.
 - 2) False teachers have brought upon themselves swift destruction... they are already being destroyed.
 - a) Error is progressive...
 - b) False teachers find themselves in direct opposition to God and His word.
 - c. "And because of them the way of the truth will be maligned!"
 - 1) The world views followers of Jesus today as greedy tele-evangelists.
 - 2) False teachers make the truth come into disrepute.

•B. (READ 2:3) THE FALSE TEACHER'S DESIRE (AIM).

- 1. Their aim is to gain control and power... "And in their greed they will exploit you with false words." I like the way the ASV reads here: "And in covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you."
 - a. Covetousness = the greed and desire to obtain something that does not belong to you.
 - 1) "Greed" comes from **pleonexia** (pleonexia) which comes from **pleonekthj** (pleonektes) which carries with it the idea of a person trying to carry more than he can hold on to, therefore; it describes a covetous person.
 - 2) In this case they covet the authority and power in the church.
 - 3) They accomplish this by using people (making merchandise of them).

- b. They use "false" or "feigned" words. "False" comes from an interesting word. It comes from **plasto**(plastos) which is derived from the word **plassw** (plasso) = to mold or to form or to create. In the word business when a person seeks to deceive he "fabricates" a story of words. This concept comes from our Greek word used here.

- 1) A deliberate action to deceive.
- 2) "Premeditated false teaching to gain power"

- c. "Make merchandise of you" = they exploit others to get them to serve the false teacher's own desires.

•C. (READ 2:4-9) THE FALSE TEACHER'S DEMISE.

Their destruction is already set. The destruction false teachers bring upon themselves and upon their followers is already set by God revealing His attitude toward false teachers.

•1. (2:4) THE EXAMPLE OF ANGLES.

- a. God did not spare them.

- 1) The implication is that He will not spare us...
- 2) Jude has a parallel thought recorded in Jude v.5-6. "Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day."

- b. They were cast them into pits of darkness.

- c. In the pits these rebellious angels are reserved (continued action) for judgment.

•2. (2:5) EXAMPLE OF ANCIENT WORLD.

- a. Destroyed all life and the world with flood.

- b. He spared Noah and life on earth with Him.

- 1) Noah was a preacher of righteousness.
- 2) He saved the world...
 - a) Noah saved you for if he had not acted in faith...Jesus would not have been born.
 - b) His only converts were his own family!
 - c) Never discount God's power to save by using human standards.

•3. (2:6-8) EXAMPLE OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

- a. For their sinfulness God destroyed them with fire and brimstone (some geologist believe that the cities literally blew up from escaping gasses, and that their site is now covered by the Dead Sea.)

- b. God used their destruction as an example to the entire world... Know any towns called Gomorrah?
- c. God delivered Lot.

•4. **(2:9) GOD KNOWS HOW TO DELIVER THE GODLY OUT (EXIT) OF TEMPTATION, AND HE KNOWS HOW TO PRESERVE THE WICKED FOR DESTRUCTION.**

- a. He knows how to deliver people.
- b. He knows how to keep sin under judgment - and He is capable of bringing destruction upon the ungodly ...
 - 1) Think about it...it is not a wise vocation to become a false teacher.
 - 2) Don't let anyone fool you about the seriousness of the struggle going on for our soul...we need to warn people not to take their choices lightly.
 - 3) Don't trade heaven (which has been purchased for us by Jesus) for a bowl of beans or a few years of fruitless pleasure seeking on this earth.

•D. **(READ 2:10-19) FALSE TEACHER FURTHER DEFINED...**

- 1. **(2:10a)** They walk in their own lusts in the depths of moral decay.
 - a. The NASB says that they are "those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires..."
 - b. Probably the best rendering of the idea comes from the NRSV which states that they are "those who indulge their flesh in depraved lust."
- 2. **(2:10b)** They despise dominion.
 - a. The word "despise" comes from the word **katafroneo** (kataphroneo) which is a compound word (kata = down + phroneo = to view) Therefore, the word means to look down on someone or something; to have an attitude of conceit.
 - b. They looked down on "authority." That would be authority like police, rulers or elders in the church.
- 3. **(2:10c)** They are daring and "bold!"
 - a. "Bold" comes from **tolmhthj** (tolmetes) = uncontrolled boldness; reckless abandon; foolhardiness.
 - b. It carries with it the idea of audacity.
- 4. **(2:10d)** They are "willful."
 - a. Coming from **auqadej** (authades) = self pleasing; arrogant.
 - b. They are stubborn and looking nothing like Christ. Their spirit is not holy!
 - c. Therefore, they cannot be Christians nor are they in subjection to God's will.
- 5. **(2:10e-11)** They tremble not to rail at dignities (spiritual... "glorious ones" NRSV) where Angels of greater knowledge fear.

- a. Rail = attack, oppose; an outright attack.
- b. The word "angelic beings" comes from the word **dokeo** (dokeo) = this word is difficult to interpret, and seems to mean an esteemed person. The old ASV translates this word "dignities."
 - 1) The word could refer to angelic dignitaries of God.
 - 2) It also could mean God's hierarchy - in the church.
- c. They are not afraid to go and do what angelic beings do fear.
- 6. (2:12) They are creatures (not people) without reason (stupid) born mere animals.
 - a. Condemns the utilitarian philosophy = a view that everything is just to be used.
 - b. This philosophy is adopted in nature by ecologists today.
 - c. In their destroying they will be destroyed.
- 7. (2:13a) They are as men who count it pleasant to revel in the daytime (sinning in the open).
 - a. Make an open show of their sin... like the people on the Jerry Springer Show.
 - b. They glory in their sin and boast about it.
- 8. (2:13b) They are spots and blemishes (pimple Christians on God's body).
 - a. Christians are to be without blemish.
 - b. They were a disgrace to Christ.
 - c. An open sinner in congregation is a spot and a blemish.
- 9. (2:14a) Having eyes full of adultery (they view all women/men as prospects for fornication).
 - a. This is the same disposition of the world (i.e. the television programs).
 - b. It is the same motivation for false teachers (like the televangelists who swindle people of their money and live extravagant life styles).
- 10. (2:14b) They are enticing un-steadfast souls (they try to get the weak to depend on them), 2:14.
 - a. They lead and foster clicks in the congregation.
 - b. Then they use others to oppose authority.
- 11. (2:14c) Having a heart exercised in covetousness.
- 12. (2:14d-16) They are children of cursing.
 - a. They abandon Christ for gain.
 - b. Their life is characterized by God's curse though they are too stupid to see it (c.f. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).

- 13. (2:17a) They are wells without water.
 - a. Jeremiah said of the Jews who rejected God's word to worship idols: "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13).
 - b. They do not perform
 - c. They produce nothing
 - d. In the end all good will run out.
- 14. (2:17b) They are mists driven by a storm.
 - a. Talks about things he does not know.
 - b. They are driven about by their fancy ideas.
- 15. (2:18a) They utter great swelling words of vanity.
 - a. It sounds good.
 - b. But it is empty.
- 16. (2:18b) They entice the lusts of the flesh.
 - a. Use Christianity to justify open sin.
 - b. Encourage man to sin... it's all right
 - 1) This is the very attitude of the humanist today.
 - 2) The result is that our contribution to the world = pornography, prostitution, open sin.
- 17. (2:19) They are slaves of corruption.
 - a. They promise freedom to sin...
 - b. They do not realize what they are slaves to corruption.

•E. (READ 2:20-22) The False Teacher's Destination...

- 1. It's a latter end which is worse than the first.
- 2. They know the truth but they have left the "Holy Command" to become a preacher and servant to sin.
- 3. Examples: Dog - Sow.

Second Peter

2 Peter 3:1-18

by Milt Langston

Lesson 10

REVIEW

- 1. List the Christian Virtues...
 - a. Faith
 - b. Virtue
 - c. Knowledge
 - d. Self-Control (Temperance)
 - e. Patience
 - f. Godliness
 - g. Brotherly Kindness
 - h. Love (Charity)
- 2. Which is the most important virtue? (Faith)
- 3. What is the aim of false teachers (2:3)? (They desire control and power over men)
- 4. Give the purpose for 2nd Peter. (It is Peter's last will and testament)
 - a. To stir to growth (1:5-15; 3:18)
 - b. To encourage loyalty and patience (3:1-14)
 - c. To warn of "brainwashing" by false teachers (3:17).

OUTLINE OF CHAPTER THREE:

- 1. Beloved...Be Mindful (vs. 1-7).
- 2. Beloved...Be Not Ignorant (vs. 8-10).

- 3. Beloved...Be Diligent (vs. 11-16).
- 4. Beloved...Beware (vs. 17-18).

TEXT:

I. AN EXPLANATION OF THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST (1:1-21).

II. AN EXAMINATION OF THE FALSE TEACHER (2:1-22).

III. AN EXHORTATION CONCERNING THE LORD'S RETURN (3:1-18).

This section deals with God's promise concerning Jesus' return. People who teach the extra Biblical doctrine (the false teachers we have just studied about in chapter two) concerning Christ's return do not like 2 Peter chapter three. It is obvious from this that the false teachers in this time were teaching false doctrines concerning the Lord's return. That is interesting especially since false teachers who teach premillialism today also muddy the water concerning Christ's return.

•A. (3:1-7) BELOVED...BE MINDFUL.

•1. (READ 3:1-2) EXHORTATION TO REMEMBER THE TRUTH.

•a. (3:1) This is Peter's second epistle.

- 1) His purpose in both was to "stir up their minds."
- 2) To put them in remembrance.

•a) The best safeguard against false teaching is to remember the truth.

•b) A counterfeit expert does not study false copies of the real thing...he memorizes the real thing so that when he sees a counterfeit he will recognize a discrepancy.

•b. (3:2) Things to remember.

•1) Remember words of the Holy Prophets (Acts 11:27; 13:1; 15:22; 21:10; I Cor. 12:28-29; 14:29, 32, 37; Eph. 3:5; 4:11; Rev. 22:9).

•2) Remember apostles' commands.

•a) Apostolic commands are the commands of Jesus Himself.

•b) God spoke the truth and Christ spoke only God's words. He gave his spoken truth to (John 12:48-50) the apostles (John 17:8, 14 and 18), and the apostles and N.T. prophets have given us the word today!

•2. (3:3-7) AN OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLE OF THOSE IN THE PAST WHO SCOFFED AT GOD'S PROMISES.

- a. (READ 3:3-4) Mockers will arise.
 - 1) Will come in last days = in the last of the days.
 - a) "In the last days" is a phrase which first century Christians and Jewish Christians understood better than we do today.
 - b) In 1 Timothy 4:1 Paul uses the term, and the Hebrew writer uses the term in Hebrew 1:2.
 - 1] In the last days of what?
 - a] To the Jews it meant in the last days when Jesus was establishing His kingdom, and as the days of final judgment upon Jerusalem approached (AD 70).
 - b] To the Christians it mean almost the same thing. It was a pregnant time when Jesus was establishing His kingdom. Many even thought that at any time he would return.
 - c] It is obvious that there were differing opinions about what this term meant. The false teachers described in chapter 2 are probably the scoffers who taught false teaching about these very last days under discussion.
 - 2] In prophesy the "last days" always referred to a time of judgment by God. (Look at Isaiah 2:2 and Micah 4:1).
 - c) Everyone does not agree, but there are two possible interpretation of what it means here:
 - 1] Some think it refers to the time when Jesus returns to judge all men (the end of the world).
 - 2] Some thing it refers to the time when He came in judgment upon Jerusalem in AD 70.
 - 2) These mockers will walk after their own lust... false teachers (anytime a teacher teaches to fulfill his own desires, he is a false teacher).
 - a) If we preach to be seen of men... then we are false teachers.
 - b) If we preach to serve our own needs...then we are false teachers.
 - 3) Those who mock the coming of Jesus discredit the coming of Jesus.
 - a) They claim: "Everything has been as it is now, and it will always be so."
 - b) This today is what we call the theory of uniformitarianism.
 - 1] This theory is necessary for the theory of evolution
 - 2] It says: "If I can't see it today, it never happened in past ???"
- b. (READ 3:5-7) Things have not always been the same. God destroyed a former world with the flood.

- 1) These false teachers forgot about the flood that refutes the theory of uniformitarianism.
- 2) (3:6) The Heaven & Earth of old were destroyed.
- 3) (3:5) Those floods made or shaped the world we now know.
- 4) (3:7) Even this present world now will be destroyed by fire.

•B. (3:8-10) BELOVED...BE NOT IGNORANT!

•1. (READ 3:8) GOD'S VIEW OF TIME IS DIFFERENT THAN OUR OWN!

- a. Time is not absolute... This refutes the doctrine of gnosticism which states a beginning point and consequent move outwards.
- b. The fact is that time is relative to God.
 - 1) God has no beginning as he has no end.
 - 2) Time was started by God and will be ended by Him.

•2. (READ 3:9) GOD'S PROMISE TO US IS NOT RESTRICTED BY MAN'S CONCEPT OF TIME!

- a. This is one reason we must have faith!
- b. Our acceptance of God's salvation is restricted by time (Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-2).
 - 1) We only have so much time to live before we die.
 - 2) That is why we need to acknowledge God all the time....
 - 3) And that is also why the only time we have is our "right now" time.
- c. God wants all men to be saved and He is long suffering (He gives more time).
- d. "For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting time?" (Did you see how we changed it?).

•3. (READ 3:10) GOD WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES... IT CAN BE COUNTED UPON.

- a. "The Day of the Lord."
 - 1) It can refer to the destruction of a wicked nation... more specifically ~ Jerusalem.
 - 2) Peter can be using the Jewish Prophetic voice in v. 10-13 to refer to judgment.
 - 3) It can also refer to judgment and destruction of the entire world.
- b. Content here shows in v. 5 that Peter is talking of the destruction of the entire world.
- c. Contrast the coming of the Lord here and in Matthew 24.
 - 1) Here we are to look forward to His coming.
 - 2) In Matthew 24, we are to "run for the hills" at His coming. We are to avoid it.

•d. This chapter deals with the same problems Paul dealt with in I & II Thessalonians which deals with Christ's second coming.

•C. **(3:11-16) BELOVED...BE DILIGENT!**

•1. **(READ 3:11-13) THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NOT TO BE FEARED.**

•a. **(3:11)** What kind of people should you and I be?

•1) "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"(Phil. 3:20).

•2) Therefore, don't entrust yourself in earthly things... it will burn!

•b. **(3:12-13)** Look forward to it for when the earth burns nothing will be between our home and us!

•2. **(READ 3:14-16) Conclusions...**

•a. **(3:14)** Goal of our life is not here... It is in heaven; therefore we should seek it diligently.

•b. **(3:15-16)** Paul spoke of these same things (salvation and the glory of heaven).

•1) Peter tells that there were some who misinterpreted the apostle Paul's writings. (This refutes the doctrine of illumination).

•a) He calls them "ignorant," "untaught" **amaqhj** (amathes) = ones who are not instructed; unlearned; untaught.

•b) They are "unstable" **asterixtoj** (asteriktos) = unfixed, vacillating, unstable. These are those who are unable to reason.

•c) They "wrest" or "distort" the scriptures to their own destruction = "to torture" or "twist the arm" of God.

•2) Their end will be destruction.

•D. **(READ 3:17-18)**

Beloved...Beware!

•1. **(3:17)** It is possible to be carried away with error!

•a. It is possible to fall from your steadfastness (remember chapter one where Peter tells us what we can practice and do which will keep us from falling!).

•b. Don't be brainwashed by false teachers... in what ever guise they come to you in!

•2. **(3:18)** Peter's last positive command.

•a. Grow in the knowledge (Gnostic term) of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- b. To the Christ revealed in God's knowledge (the scriptures) be the glory forever!