



# 1 PETER

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER

### From CROSS to CROWN

#### STUDY OUTLINE

##### INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER

1 PT 1A - PROPHESED SUFFERING AND GLORY

1 PT 1B - LIVING FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

1 PT 1B-2A -FROM DARK STONE TO LIVING

1 PT 2B - HUMBLY FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS

1 PT 3A -LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER

1 PT 3B CONFESS THE CRUCIFIED & RISEN

1 PT 4A -SERVE WHILE SUFFERING

1 PT 4B - REJOICE WHILE SUFFERING

1 PT 5A - SHEPHERD FROM CROSS TO CROWN

1 PT 5B - SHORT SUFFERING; ETERNAL GLORY

#### THE WRITER

Calls himself "apostle" (1:1) "elder, shepherd, overseer" (5:1-2) Peter's authorship was uncontested in the early church. Quoted by Polycarp and Clement of Rome, c. 100 also by Irenaeus, c. 200.

#### TOO FANCY?

Some people contend the Greek is too fancy for someone like Peter whose thick Galilean fisherman accent gave him away even in the dark. But indicates that he wrote this letter with the help of Silas (1Pt 5:12)

#### PLACE & DATE OF WRITING

Appears to have been written from Rome. (5:13)"in Babylon = "in Rome." This was the view of Papias, (around 125 AD), and Clement of Alex, (around 200 AD). The widely accepted tradition is that Peter was executed in Rome under Emperor Nero (63-68AD). However, Paul's letter to the Romans (57-58 AD) do not mention Peter at all. Nor is there any mention of Peter in Paul's prison letters which he wrote from Rome (61-63 AD). This means a likely date between 63-68 AD, after Paul's prison letters and before the death of Nero.

### PETER IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1) Simon Peter was first brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew. The two brothers worked with their father as fishermen at Bethsaida, a town on the northeast of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus gave Simon the nickname "Peter" (Greek) or "Cephas" (Aramaic) which means "Rocky." Peter was privileged, along with James and John, to be part of a close circle with Jesus. That meant he was an early insider witness to some special occasions . List at least four of prominent events from the gospels which highlight Peter as participating. Discuss how these events could have helped shaped his unique ministry.

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2) Relate the following events and use them to describe the character of Peter. Discuss how it is helpful to know God used a man like him.

⇒ Jesus' call of Peter to be a full-time fisherman

⇒ Jesus' announcement that he was going to suffer and die

⇒ Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet

⇒ The arrival of the guards who arrested Jesus

⇒ Jesus' trial in the courtyard of the high priest

⇒ The vision and invitation for Peter to eat unclean food

⇒ Paul's rebuke of Peter in Antioch (Gal 2:11)

3) Peter often speaks up on behalf of the twelve apostles and was reputed as a leader in the early church. Read the following to see what role Peter played in the early church (Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5, Acts 15:6-7, Galatians 2:9).





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#### THE AUDIENCE

The original recipients of 1 Peter are spread out over a wide area. Peter is writing to “the elect... scattered throughout... (Asia Minor).” These are all areas around modern day Turkey. That is why it is arranged in your Bible along with the “general” epistles, letters not written to a specific location or person. Peter addressed his recipients as former unbelievers. They had “lived in ignorance,” (1:14), were once in “darkness, not a people of God”, (2:9-10) and had in the past lived “like pagans.” (4:3,4). However, It is evident that Peter was not the one who first preached to them (1:12,25). These were places which Paul had first reached a decade earlier.

#### ISN'T THIS PAUL'S AREA?

Some of the places Peter writes to were first reached by the apostle Paul on his missionary journeys. And it was understood that Peter would focus on the Jews while Paul reached the Gentiles. (Galatians 2:7-9) Some suggested reasons for Peter writing to them include:

- 1) Paul in prison? But Paul wrote from prison himself.
- 2) Paul dead? But Paul and Peter likely died around the same time.
- 3) Paul is gone on his mission trip to Spain (He had travelled there via Rome after his release in 63 AD.) This makes the most sense, especially since Silas writes with Peter. Silas had been known by many of the Gentiles in this area as a companion of Paul.

#### “BISHOP” PETER IN CHURCH HISTORY

1. Frederick Douglass was a formerly enslaved man who became a prominent activist, author and public speaker. He did all this despite receiving minimal formal education. Peter the apostle was similar in that respect. He became a spokesperson for the early church and a pillar in Jerusalem. He was indisputably an influential overseer in the church. He did this despite his lowly, uneducated origin fishing in Bethsaida. But what type of position did he really hold? Read Matthew 16:16-18. Contrast how Peter’s position is interpreted in the Roman Catholic church with the way the rest of the Christianity views his position. Use the following to discuss and determine which interpretation Peter himself would support.

- ◆ 1 Peter 2a —the cornerstone of the church
- ◆ 1 Peter 2:9 —the universal priesthood of believers
- ◆ 1 Peter 2:13 —the churches’ submission to governing authorities
- ◆ 1 Peter 5:3 —the role of a leader in God’s church

#### MAJOR THEMES

This letter is clearly Christ-focused. It offers gospel-driven comfort for suffering believers and gospel-driven guidance for new and holy living. It directs us to the power of the Word and the saving power of water and the Word in baptism. It offers guidance for husbands and wives. It focuses on both Christ’s humiliation and his exaltation. Martin Luther considered it one of his favorite letters. Scan through the letter to briefly identify what you can find about the following themes:

- ◆ The Word of God
- ◆ Suffering
- ◆ Hope
- ◆ The Resurrection of Jesus
- ◆ Holy Living (Submission, Humility, Love)





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 1:1-12**  
PROPHESED SUFFERING AND GLORY

## From CROSS to CROWN

### WHERE?

These Christians were in Asia Minor, what is modern day Turkey. Pontus is north along the Black Sea, Galatia is in the mountainous central region, Cappadocia is in the east, Asia is along the western coast, Bithynia is in the northwest and near Pontus. Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia were mentioned among the converts at Pentecost (Acts 2:9). Paul had first reached the Galatians.

### THE SCATTERED ELECT

The original recipients of 1 Peter quickly copies and shared this letter. The earliest Apostolic Fathers quoted his letter.

Clement of Rome (late 1st century)

God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Clement 30:2 = 1 Peter 5:5 = Proverbs 3:34).

"Love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Clement 49:5 = 1 Peter 4:8)

Polycarp (early 2nd century)

"Let us be eager to do good" (6:3 = 1 Pt 3:13)  
"Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree (8:1 = 1 Peter 2:24)

"Who committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth" (8:2 = 1 Pt 2:22)

Barnabas (mid 2nd century)

"The Lord will judge the world impartially" (4:12 = 1 Pt 1:17)

Shepherd of Hermas (mid 2nd century)

"Your life has been saved and will be saved through water" (3,3,5 = 1 Pt 3:20-21)

"Cast your care upon God" (4,2 = 1 Pt:7)

"Your sacrifice will be acceptable to God" ( 5,3,8 = 1 Pt 2:5)

### TRIUNE GOD

The Holy Trinity is one God, three persons. Find the Trinity in the opening address. What role does each person of the Trinity have in our salvation?

### SCATTERED ARE GATHERED

Compare with the prophecy of Isaiah 60

## SCATTERED, SANCTIFIED, SPRINKLED

1. This opening address contains the theme of Peter's letter. God's scattered chosen people are only temporary residents, sojourning on the path from cross to crown. Read 1:1-2. Explain how Peter's opening address implies his recipients are enduring trials, and yet destined for glory. Explain how all believers everywhere face that same type of journey today.
2. James also addressed God's people as "scattered." (Ja 1:1) It didn't take long for this scattering to occur. Recall from the previous notes that Peter likely wrote this letter between 63-68 AD. This was very early in the history of the Christian Church. Nonetheless, believers were already spread throughout Asia Minor. Review Bible History: What are some other times in the history of God's Church that his people were scattered by sin or persecution and needed to be gathered again? Summarize some of the new Testament events that scattered the Church and how God gathered them together into his kingdom.
3. Discuss how the grace of God is presented in these verses.

## OUR LIVING HOPE

If you define hope as "an expectation of what good things will come in the future," then what do most people appear to put their hope in? Read 1:3-5. Identify the following about our living hope and contrast it with dead hope. What do you find most comforting about our hope?

	Living Hope	Other Dead Hope
<i>How Received:</i>		
<i>Why Received :</i>		
<i>Based Upon:</i>		
<i>Three Outstanding Characteristics:</i>	- - -	- - -
<i>Secured By:</i>		
<i>When Realized:</i>		





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 1:1-12**  
PROPHESED SUFFERING AND GLORY

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### **GOLD DESTROYED BY FIRE?**

Some will wrongly try to disprove Scripture by saying it is inaccurate in describing scientific concepts. The holy Scriptures are not science manuals. Rather they aim to teach us about sin, death, and our salvation. The Scriptures use observable truths to teach spiritual truths. The context will help us know what is meant. There is always a point. In this case Peter is contrasting perishable with the imperishable. Compare 2 Peter 3:10 to better understand what Peter means by saying even something as precious as gold cannot last. Can you think of some other times it seems like the Bible makes an inaccurate statement about science but is actually using what we observe to make a true spiritual point?

### **EASIER SAID THAN DONE!**

Peter isn't writing from some high throne asking believers to pick themselves up. He himself suffered and would even end up dying as he suffered for Christ. He had to find strength and joy from Christ even when all else failed. Read Acts 5:40-42 to better appreciate how he practiced what he preached.

### **WHO GETS THE PRAISE, GLORY, AND HONOR?**

(1 Pt 1:7)

- ⇒ Is it for believers?
- ⇒ Is it for God alone?
- ⇒ Is it both God and his people?

Compare with 1 Pt 1:9, 1:12, 4:11, 5:4,5:10-11, Mt 5:11-12,16,Rev 4:10-11.

### **THE TRINITY**

Find the two persons of the Triune God mentioned near the end of this portion of the letter. How does Peter expound on their role in our salvation which he mentioned at the start of the letter?

### **"SUFFERINGS OF THE CHRIST AND GLORIES THAT FOLLOWED."**

Share some places in Scripture which we can search and study with great care to look into these topics.

## **JOY IN SUFFERING**

*"There are no happy endings. Endings are the saddest part, so just give me a happy middle and a very happy start."* -Shel Silverstein, American writer. What problem is Silverstein getting at? Read 1:6-9. Peter knows more than dead hope. He knows that our living hope is in our living Savior. (1 Pt 1:3-5) What does that mean for the start, middle, and ending of our lives? Apply: A Christian friend is facing a great challenge and they say it has "sucked all the joy out of life." What would you share to help carry them through their trials?

Recall the opening chapters of Job. We know one reason why Job suffered. What does Peter say is one of the end results from all our various kinds of trials? Explain how this truth helps us keep focused and filled with joy while carrying our crosses.

Peter was an eyewitness of Christ. But he knew Jesus' promise for everyone else, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John 20:29) Read 1 Pt 1:8-9. Describe the essence of Christian faith and one of its fruits.

## **SEARCHING PROPHETS AND LONGING ANGELS**

1. In May 2022 a comedian gave a speech at a dinner with the press and the President of the United States. He warned the crowd not to take for granted their blessings as journalist in the USA. He remarked that it was a blessing to be able to ridicule a nation's ruler and not have to face repercussions. He wanted the journalist and dinner guest to remember that this blessing was unknown in many parts of the world and throughout history and still is rare today. Many others have struggled without it and even died. What about the most important blessings we might take for granted? List some special blessings which we have today in the Church but many others before us didn't enjoy or still don't enjoy.

Consider how many faithful prophets and evangelists endured persecution in order for you to enjoy freely reading God's Word today. How might we fail to appreciate this tremendous blessing?

2. Read 1:10-12. List at least three truths we learn about the Scriptures in these verses. How do those truths help you better appreciate the blessings of what we have? Discuss how this section ties in with 1 Pt 1:2.
3. Brainstorm: Share a few different ways we can join the prophets and angels in pondering the amazing truths about Jesus' journey from cross to crown.





# 1 PETER

1 PETER 1:13-22

LIVING FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

## From CROSS to CROWN

### PROPHETS, EVANGELIST, ANGELS

Peter had just listed three groups (along with the Holy Spirit) who are invested in seeing your salvation carried out (1 Pt 1:10-12). Peter goes on to refer to our three main enemies who would rather see us fall away from faith.

- 1) "Sinful desires wage war against your soul" (1 Pt 2:11)
- 2) "the pagans (unbelieving world) ... accuse you" (1 Pt 1:12)
- 3) "Your enemy the devil prowls around" (1 Pt 5:8)

He wants the reader to be aware of the dangerous spiritual battle taking place. Peter joins the prophets, evangelist, and angels in urging believers to set their hope on Christ.

### GIRD THE LOINS!

The King James Version reads, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind" (1 Pt 2:13). It is a striking picture. In the same way someone with their belt fastened is ready for activity, Peter poetically calls on us to keep "minds that are alert" (NIV). The EHV does a good job of tying this verb with the rest of the verse, "after preparing your minds for action by exercising self-control set your hope..." (EHV)

### AWAKE FOR FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE.

Being spiritually self-controlled or sober-minded is a common theme in Scripture. Here Peter ties it in with sanctified living along with faith, hope, and love. Compare 1 Peter 1:13 with 1 Thessalonians 5:4-10

### "YOU LIVED IN IGNORANCE" (1:14)

Ignorance of God is never able to serve as an excuse for sin. Compare with Ephesians 4:18

### BE READY, SET YOUR HOPE

What are some things you do to get ready for work or ready for a long-day at a hobby or sporting event? Peter is calling on believers to have minds spiritually at ready. Read 1 Pt 1:13. List some things which we might set our minds and hope on which would make us unprepared for action. Describe what we must set out hope on in order to remain sober and self-controlled.

Share the comfort you find in the phrase "the grace to be brought to you ...at his coming."

Peter says we already have God's grace. (1:2) What is meant by this future grace?

### CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

*"Forget Batman: When I really thought about what I wanted to be when I grew up, I wanted to be my dad."* -Paul Asay, Christian blogger and movie critic.

Why does this quote and the phrase "Like father, like son" ring so true?

Read 1Pt 1:14-17. Our relationship to our Father is expressed with a small play on words. God called us (1:14 καλέω) to faith, we now call upon (1:17 ἐπικαλέω) him in faith. List and discuss at least five different reasons for holy living found in these verses.

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(Note: Peter saves the greatest reason for holy living in the next verses!)





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 1:13-22**

LIVING FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### **A CREED: YOU WERE REDEEMED**

Identify several statements in the Apostle's Creed and Nicene Creed which reflect on the content of 1 Pt 1:18-21.

### **PERISHABLE THINGS..**

Peter once again contrasting our hope with the false hope of this world. Even the most precious things which we might set our hope upon like gold are still really worthless. Compare 2 Peter 3:10

### **FAITH, HOPE, LOVE**

Find how Peter ties together 'faith, hope, and love' as central to a Christian's life. In what way are these three things connected? Explain why this axiom is true: "God's love creates our faith and hope. Faith and hope create our love."

### **PURIFIED PRIEST, READY TO SERVE GOD**

Peter is drawing back to priestly pictures and his opening picture of the "sprinkled blood" of Christ. Before any priest (2:9) could serve God they had to be cleansed with ceremonial washing, consecrated, by being sprinkled with blood. (See Heb 10:22)

### **OBEYING THE TRUTH**

See "obedience" in 1 Pt 1:2. Our new obedience to God is a result of faith. It is an obedience worked by God in those brought to faith by the Spirit.

### **CAN WE TAKE CREDIT FOR OUR CONVERSION?**

The immediate context "have been born again" (1 Pt 1:23), and the surrounding context "have been chosen" (1:2) make it clear that our new holy life is not something we chose or earned in any way.

### **IMPERISHABLE**

Our inheritance and God's Word are described with the same Greek word as "undying /imperishable."

## **YOU WERE REDEEMED**

Peter had just urged his readers to sanctified living. He gave several reasons. Now he list the greatest reason for living a new life: we were redeemed from our empty way of life. Read 1 Pt 1:18-19. Discuss what makes even the best inheritance of this world still an "empty way of life."

Peter had mentioned the "sprinkled blood" (1:2) and the "sufferings of Christ." (1:11). But this is his first direct mention of why Christ had to suffer and shed his blood. Use these verses to describe our redemption by Christ. How does this description of our redemption further add to the reasons for living a new life?

## **LIKE GOD'S HOLY SON**

Compare 1 Pt 1:2a with 1 Pt 1:20a. Identify and discuss two parallels Peter draws between the born-again children of the Father and the eternal Son of God. How does this add to the comfort and joy of a suffering believer?

## **REVIEW**

Review this chapter to find the following reoccurring themes and what we learn about each of them.

- ◇ "Christ" (mentioned 9x)
- ◇ "holiness/ sanctified" (5x)
- ◇ "faith" (4x)
- ◇ "hope" (3x)
- ◇ "love" (3x)
- ◇ "resurrection" (2x)
- ◇ "imperishable" (2x)
- ◇ "the (Holy) Spirit" (3x)
- ◇ "(God) the Father" (3x)
- ◇ "The end of time / when Jesus returns" (3x)





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 1:23-2:10**  
FROM DARK STONE TO LIVING

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

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#### PERISHABLE SEED

How was our first birth of “perishable seed”? (compare with John 1:13) .

#### “LIVING” (4X IN 1 PETER)

Chapter 1 focused on our “living hope.” Now we see the “living word, living Stone, and living stones.” It all centers on a resurrected Savior who will never fail us.

#### BORN AGAIN

The new birth into God’s kingdom comes by the power of the gospel. “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth.” (Jas 1:18) The Spirit works this new life through the gospel in both the Word and Sacrament. This includes a new birth given by the Spirit in Christian baptism. Peter mentions baptism in 1 Pt 3 saying “it saves you.” God made the Church “holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.” (Eph 5:26) Compare also with 1 Peter 3:21 & John 3:5-7.

#### CRAVE PURE SPIRITUAL MILK

Apply to spiritual milk: “Milk is milk. Everyone agrees it’s all the same quality, right?”

Evaluate: “It doesn't matter if the spiritual milk is like formula, processed online from a large money-driven media company , or drunk up in personal Bible reading and in-person worship.”

### **BORN AGAIN BY THE LIVING WORD**

“Survival food is designed to last up to 30 years when stored properly.” What thoughts pop into your mind as you ponder that truth. Peter quotes Isaiah 40 to remind us of the glory of the Word of the Lord. Isaiah wrote that 2700 years ago and the Word still hasn’t expired! List some ways we have witnessed the truth, “the Word of the Lord stand forever.” How will we continue to witness that truth?

Read 1 Peter 1:23-25. What is God’s chosen means for giving people new life? How did we receive it? Identify the ways which God’s chosen means for giving new life contrasts with all other foolish man-made means to gain glory.

### **LIKE NEW BORN BABIES**

All evidence shows that if a mother is able to nurse her baby it is the best option for a child’s development. Not all mothers can nurse, but babies rightly crave their mother’s milk! A recent shortage in the supply of baby formula has led some families to water-down their baby formula. What are some of the dangers of this approach? Can this happen spiritually? Read 1 Peter 2:1-3. List some reasons why someone might end up drinking contaminated or watered-down spiritual milk.

Describe the way our first birth left us treating all those around us. What are we urged to do so that we mature in our faith, hope, and love? Give some quick examples of how it is done.

### **LIVING STONES JOIN THE LIVING STONE**

Read 1 Pt 2:4-5. What are some parallels believers share with Christ once connected to him through faith?





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 1:23-2:10**  
FROM DARK STONE TO LIVING

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### TASTED THE LORD IS GOOD

How have we “tasted” of God’s goodness with the gospel? (Ps 34:8, Heb 6:4, John 6:53-56)

### A PRIESTHOOD

Peter has been building up several pictures so far. One of them is the picture of all believers being made priest to serve God. We were “sprinkled” and “purified” the way a priest was consecrated to serve in the temple. We were also “chosen” and appointed by God. The priest had to be born into the right family (the house of Levi) whom God had chosen in grace. 1 Pt 2:5,9 gives the first time Peter directly refers to believers as a holy priesthood. Discuss the significance of the teaching of the “Priesthood of all believers.”

### “ACCEPTABLE THROUGH CHRIST”

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Heb 11:6)

Explain why we cannot say our sacrifices earn any favor with God.

Explain why any sacrifice offered apart from faith in Christ is worthless.

### THE LIVING WORD

Peter doesn’t just tell us to drink up the Word. He pours it out for us! “So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.’” (Isaiah 28:16) What are some ways you can give spiritual milk to those needing it?

### BIBLE TRANSLATION QUESTION

Note Peter quotes the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament Isaiah 28. What does that teach us about using different Bible translations? Why would it be unbiblical to force someone to only use one translation and say all others are wrong.

### “A STONE IN ZION”

See what “Zion” pictures for us by reading Hebrews 12:22-23.

## FROM REJECTED STONE TO CORNERSTONE

Christ was like the rock that the Father said he would use to build his house. But those in charge of laying the stones, the spiritual leaders of Israel, ended up rejecting him. However, he still ended up as the cornerstone of the Church. It is a striking picture of rejection, humiliation, glorification, and irony. Peter is setting the stage for what he will mention next. He wants the reader to ponder the rejection of Christ which led from cross to crown. Because Christ was put to shame in our place we will never be put to shame if we trust in him. “Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example.” (1 Peter 2:21) How does the rejection of the Christ help you when others try to put you to shame for trusting in him?

How do the fulfilled prophecies of the Christ’s humiliation and exaltation give you a living hope?

## NEVER PUT TO SHAME VS STUMBLE AND CRUMBLE

Compare the two different ways of translating 2:8.

- *A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.* (NIV)
- *A stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall. Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.* (EHV)

Some contend that God’s foreknowledge of unbelief means we should teach he has appointed some people to unbelief. Read 2 Peter 3:9 and 1 Timothy 2:4. On the basis of those clear truths which is a better translation above?

List some of the ways people “stumble” over Christ and the gospel message.

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## STUMBLING IN DARKNESS; SERVING IN LIGHT.

Peter continues to convey the picture of a priest serving in God’s temple. Through faith in Christ we are made to be the temple itself and are filling the role of priests! Use 1 Pt 2:9-10 to discuss the following:

- 1) Our change in status
- 2) Our change in purpose
- 3) The cause of these changes







# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 2:11-25**

HUMBLY FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

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#### 1 Pt 1:12 THEY WILL GLORIFY GOD

In what sense will the pagans glorify God on the day he visits us? Does Peter mean they will be forced to acknowledge God was right, or does he mean that by the time God comes to judge they will have been converted on account of the good example of believers? Look at the context of this chapter to defend your answer.

#### SINFUL DESIRES

See Galatians 5:17 to further add to our understanding of Peter's comment that sinful desires "wage war." List the other two enemies which wage war against our soul.

#### EVERY AUTHORITY

Compare with Romans 13:1. Peter would die at the hands of Nero who ruled 54-68 AD. What does this truth add to his urging the scattered believers in the Roman Empire to submit to authorities? John 21:18-19 indicated Peter knew he would be forced to submit to ungodly rulers at his death. What does that add to his urging us to submit?

#### FREE, BUT NOT FREE?

How are we free in Christ (Gal 5:1)?

How are we slaves in Christ (Romans 6)?

### **REFRAIN FROM SINFUL DESIRES**

Read 1 Pt 2:11-12. The Christian is at war with the sinful flesh. Our sinful desires include things such as drunkenness, self-indulgence, envy, strife, sexual immorality, and the love of money. Explain how our identity as "Foreigners and exiles" shapes our mindset toward the desires of the sinful flesh.

List some ways that unbelievers will "accuse you of doing wrong" even though you strive to abstain from sinful desires.

Give some reasons why we would have to disagree with this statement: "The goal of godly living is to persuade and convert unbelievers."

### **FREE, BUT SLAVES**

What do you think most people consider to be part of American freedom? Discuss how the typical idea of American freedom and biblical Christian freedom are the same and yet very different. Give at least two examples of how a Christian might be tempted to "use freedom as a cover-up for evil." (1 Pt 2:16).

Godly living includes submission. Peter doesn't want believers to submit to authority out of fear, but "for the Lord's sake." Read 1 Pt 2:13-15. Identify the reasons we submit to authority "for the Lord's sake." Discuss the significance of what is meant by "every human authority" and "sent by him."

Christian freedom involves a paradox. Analyze what is meant by "live as free people...live as God's slaves." (1 Pt 1:16) Identify the ways that both of those statements can be misapplied or misunderstood.

Describe how Jesus perfectly kept 1 Pt 1:17 as he lived in your place.





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 2:11-25**

HUMBLY FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### **SLAVERY IN ANCIENT ROME**

Many ancient civilizations were slave-dependent. Nations like ancient Egypt heavily relied on slave labor. Ancient upper-class Athenians in the Greek Empire reportedly had four slaves to each household! Ancient Rome was arguably dependent on slave labor, though not as much as other nations had been. They had a large population of enslaved workers and household slaves.

#### Who were these slaves?

Unlike slavery in colonial America and 19th century America, it was not based on ethnicity. Slavery in the ancient Roman Empire was often based on wealth or debt. Most slaves were prisoners of war, marketed by dealers who followed the Roman armies. Some were illegally kidnapped and sold by pirates. Slave markets could be found throughout the Empire.

#### What was it like for slaves in the Empire?

Roman citizens could be enslaved as a debt bond, but were exempt from corporal punishment by their masters. Slaves were considered a possession of their owners but they still had certain liberties. Many were allowed to hold their own property and earn money to buy their freedom. The emperors gradually increased liberties for slaves. Nero granted them the right to appeal in court if they were abused by their masters. Nonetheless, life for many slaves was terribly cruel. Some were branded or made to wear metal collars. Fugitives could be whipped or even crucified.

Peter's letter makes it evident that many slaves had converted to Christianity. Explain how God could both allow something like slavery to be upheld and still be one concerned about all human beings.

For further biblical responses towards slavery see how it was addressed by Paul in his letter to Philemon as he wrote regarding a fugitive slave, Onesimus. Faith changes the attitude of all parties involved!

### **CALLED TO ENDURE HARSH TREATMENT**

See the side bar for an overview of slavery in ancient Rome. Read 1 Peter 2:18-21. Discuss how these verses were misused by Christians in colonial and 19th century America. Respond: *"It doesn't matter how high a position or how much control you have over someone else or they have over you. Attitude matters."*

Although there is no legal form of slavery in our nation, we do have legal debts and obligations to authorities such as our employers. Brainstorm: come up with some possible ways a Christian might suffer for doing good in the workplace due to a harsh employer. Apply Peter's instruction to their setting.

Peter says, "to this you were called," namely, to endure suffering while doing good. Can you think of an example of a slave in Bible history who suffered for doing good? How did knowing God called him help him in the pits of despair? How does the fact that God called us and has foreknowledge of the road we walk a great comfort when we are good but still treated harshly?

Our God didn't purchase us for slavery. He purchased us back from slavery to be his own. He purchased us to "live as free people." (1 Pt 2:16) List three ways that all Christians now freed:

### **CALLED TO WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHRIST**

Review the plan of salvation and identify some ways which Christ lived as the example of an obedient servant who suffered for doing good.

Read 1 Pt 2:21-25 and list three reasons Peter gives for why Christ suffered.

Peter had mentioned the blood of Christ shed to redeem sinners. Now Peter mentions that the redemption price included insults, wounds, and hanging on the cross. Explain how the biblical picture of redemption ties in with the topic of slavery.

In ancient Rome a fugitive slave could be whipped or crucified as punishment. Describe how mankind ran from the Lord and went astray. Peter had just referred urged all believers earlier to "live as God's slaves." (1 Pt 2:16) We have not returned to a harsh slave driver or cruel Shepherd. We have returned to "the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Pt 2:25) List some things which make our return to our Lord different from a return to our former state of slavery.





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 3:1-12**

LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### STUDY OUTLINE

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER

**1 PT 1A - PROPHESED SUFFERING AND GLORY**

**1 PT 1B - LIVING FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE**

**1 PT 1B-2A -FROM DARK STONE TO LIVING.**

**1 PT 2B - HUMBLY FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS**

**1 PT 3A -LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER**

**1 PT 3B CONFESS THE CRUCIFIED & RISEN**

**1 PT 4A -SERVE WHILE SUFFERING**

**1 PT 4B - REJOICE WHILE SUFFERING**

**1 PT 5A - SHEPHERD FROM CROSS TO CROWN**

**1 PT 5B - SHORT SUFFERING; ETERNAL GLORY**

### SUBMIT TO YOUR HUSBANDS

Is this just a cultural adaptation which Peter is urging the women of his day or is it something which applies to Christian women today? Note the context. Peter is writing to Greeks in Asia minor and calls them "daughters" of Sarah who lived in a different culture in Cana 2000 years earlier. He also proceeds to explain what it means to live godly lives by defining beauty in a timeless manner. Finally, see the notes below regarding the biblically defined role of men and women under God.

### GENDER & ROLE OF MEN AND WOMEN

- Regarding the idea that there are two genders see Genesis 1:27; Gen 2;
- Regarding marriage as being between one man and one woman see Mat 19:4-6
- Regarding women's co-status as heirs of heaven and the interdependence of men and women see 1 Pt 3:7; 1 Cor 11:11; Gal 3:26-29.
- Regarding the head and helper relationship between all men and women see 1 Cor 11:3; 1 Tim 2:13
- Regarding the role of men and women in the Church see 1 Tim 2b; 1 Cor 14b.
- Regarding instructions for husbands and wives see Ephesians 5b.

## **WIN OVER WITHOUT WORDS**

*"With wisdom a house is built. With understanding it is established."* (Pr 24:3)

Peter knows that riches and strength cannot make for a strong household. What often happens even in wealthy households where the husband and wife are divided? Read 1 Pt 3:1-3. Peter isn't telling Christian wives they should avoid speaking God's Word to their unbelieving husbands altogether. However, actions can sometimes speak louder than words. Briefly list some methods which non-Christian women will employ to try to "win over" their husbands to their side.

Contrast that approach with how Peter instructs wives to win over their husband to listen to God's Word. Give some examples on how this could be done today in order to win over a close family member who doesn't believe the word. How might this approach to witnessing the faith also be used to spur on a fellow believer who needs to grow in the Word?

## **TRUE BEAUTY**

True beauty can be hard to accurately identify on the basis of appearances. In recent years major entertainment companies like Disney have recognized this and started to produced movies in which the princess is admired for more than just her appearance. And many recent movie villains are not always the most ugly characters. But beauty isn't just in the eye of the beholder. Objective beauty does exist. God created this world to be beautiful. Nonetheless, it is cursed by sin. As a result true beauty is lost and clouded by sin. Scripture makes it clear that appearances can be deceiving. "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Cor 11:14) "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion." (Pr 11:22) See also Isaiah 3:16. Define what makes something truly beautiful.

Read 1 Pt 3:3-6 and explain how Scripture has always put a higher inherent value on women than even the most radical and progressive of women's rights advocates of today. Why does the world so easily place so much value on outward appearances? How might you use this section to help a young women who is facing great peer pressures to dress in ways she might not feel comfortable?

Agree or Disagree: "Peter is saying that women shouldn't ever have any outward adornment or fancy jewelry etc."

Describe how a Christian women today can emulate "women of the past" like Sarah and many others.





# 1 PETER

1 PETER 3:1-12

LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER

## From CROSS to CROWN

### HEIRS WITH YOU

The picture of women as heir was not common in the Roman Empire. Women could not participate in politics or be rulers. The son, not the daughter, would be the one to receive the family estate. If a woman married all her inheritance transferred to her husband. The Christian faith brings women to share the same status as men before God. Men and women still have different roles to fill. Adam was, in fact, given most of the blame for the fall into sin because of the order of creation and his role as head. However, men and women are both fallen sinners and are both heirs of the gift of life. Although their roles may be different in life, their status before God is equal. They are “co-heirs” of salvation.

### NOTHING WILL HINDER YOUR PRAYERS

God is serious when it comes to how husbands treat their wives. Good living cannot earn the right to approach God in prayer. We are only righteous through faith in Christ. Willful and evil living, however, can disqualify you from access to the throne of grace. We should not expect to find grace if we are unable to share God’s love with others. *“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”* (Mt 18:35) We ought to repent for every loveless act. Husbands are warned against their loveless attitudes with a reminder that it is a privilege to have access to God’s throne. Compare 1 Pt 3:7 with 1 Pt 3:12 (quoting Ps 34:16)

### SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT

Our sinful nature is always stirring up conflict with God and ourselves. Peter drags in our senses by quoting Psalm 34. In that Psalm you will find many our senses mentioned from touch, taste, sound, hunger, sight, and our members that sense and produce things such as ears, eyes, lips, face, etc. Try meditating on this Psalm using it to reflect on how you use your body to “seek peace and pursue it.” Recall how Christ sought peace for you with his whole being.

## CONSIDERATE HUSBANDS

“Treat your wife like a queen and she will treat you like a king.” What is wrong with this statement? Read 1 Pt 3:7. Identify three far better reasons Peter gives for husbands being considerate towards their wives. Discuss what is meant by each. Describe what a “considerate” husband will need to do.

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PEACE FOR ALL BELIEVERS

Discuss the seven commands listed in 1 Pt 3:8-9 and how they relate to getting along with fellow believers. How does each command help maintain peace with you and fellow believers?

Describe the calling and inheritance which motivates us to maintain peace with fellow believers.

Peter has now quoted or alluded to the Old Testament around a dozen times. Read 1 Pt 3:10-12. He is quoting from Psalm 34. Read that Psalm to identify how it matches the content and theme of Peter’s letter. Look for ways that Peter has alluded to or mentioned the same topics.

When do you find 1 Pt 3:12 to be especially helpful for you?





# 1 PETER

1 PETER 3:13-22

CONFESS THE CRUCIFIED & RISEN ONE

## From CROSS to CROWN

### STUDY OUTLINE

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER

1 PT 1A - PROPHESED SUFFERING AND GLORY

1 PT 1B - LIVING FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

1 PT 1B-2A -FROM DARK STONE TO LIVING.

1 PT 2B - HUMBLY FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS

1 PT 3A -LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER

1 PT 3B CONFESS THE CRUCIFIED & RISEN

1 PT 4A -SERVE WHILE SUFFERING

1 PT 4B - REJOICE WHILE SUFFERING

1 PT 5A - SHEPHERD FROM CROSS TO CROWN

1 PT 5B - SHORT SUFFERING; ETERNAL GLORY

### SUFFERING FOR DOING GOOD

A reoccurring theme in 1 Peter (compare 1 Pt 2:19-20; 3:14-17; 4:15-16). What temptations are especially hard when good leads only to suffering? What encouragement does Peter give us when this occurs?

### “REVERE CHRIST AS LORD”

Compare with what Jesus teaches us to pray in Mt 6:9; Lk 11:2. Recall and discuss Luther’s explanation of what is meant by the first petition of the Lord’s Prayer.

### “DO NOT FEAR WHAT THEY FEAR”

Peter is continually quoting or alluding to the Old Testament. He has already quoted from or alluded to Genesis, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Hosea, and will soon allude again to Genesis. Here he quotes Isaiah 8:12-13. Read that portion and discuss what it means to “fear” God.

### ANSWER/ DEFENSE ( ΑΠΟΛΟΓΙΑ APOLOGIA)

Sometimes our defense /answer might include what we call apologetics, namely, a defense of the faith. How is Christian apologetics different from evangelism, namely, preaching the gospel? Discuss the proper use of Christian apologetics when dealing with unbelievers.

## SUFFERING FOR DOING GOOD

Peter just urged his readers to pursue peace. Now he urges them to keep at it even when it doesn’t produce the expected results. Read 1 Pt 3:13-15a. The expected ideal answer to “Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?” Should be “nobody.” But there is evil. And it can feel crushing to bear up under suffering for doing good. Compare this section with Matthew 5:9-12. Give some good reasons why we need not fear the threats we face for doing good.

“*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.*” Explain how our reverence for Christ as Lord removes the fear of our enemies.

## BE PREPARED TO CONFESS YOUR HOPE

Have you ever had someone ask you why you were a Christian? What caused them to ask you about it? Read 1 Pt 3:15-17. Describe your hope in Christ as Lord. Give some reasons why you remain confident in that hope no matter what comes your way.

“*But speak with gentleness and respect.*” Social media can be a wasteland for bitter remarks and comments. One time when Rock of Ages was offering free music lessons and promoting it online, an unbeliever attacked it and charged it was not free if it included Christian doctrine. Another person on social media viciously responded back to the bitter commentator trying to defend the Christian program. (They were not connected with Rock of Ages, but wanted to defend it.) What happens when a Christian shares their faith but doesn’t do it in a kind way? How would you respond to a similar attack against your church?

Discuss: “The greater the attack against the Christian faith the greater chance that attack will backfire.”





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 3:13-22**

CONFESS THE CRUCIFIED & RISEN ONE

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### **CONFESS THE CRUCIFIED AND RISEN ONE**

1 Pt 3:18 is the gospel message in a nutshell. Can you share any other gospel in a nutshell verses? Explain why our presentation of the gospel needs to include Christ's death and his resurrection. (See side notes regarding Christ's exaltation and "alive in the spirit.")

#### **HEIRS WITH YOU**

The picture of women as heir was not common in the Roman Empire. Women could not participate in politics or be rulers. The son, not the

#### **Spirit—Flesh Antithesis (1 Pt 3:18b)**

Different translations will render this as "in the Spirit" or "in the spirit." The CSB includes the footnote "or in the spiritual realm." The EHV Bible includes a footnote here which reads: [Here spirit is a reference to Christ's state of exaltation. See Romans 1:4; 1 Timothy 3:16.] There are two other times when the New Testament authors contrast the Greek words for flesh and spirit. Look at the two other occasions to identify how these words are used to refer to the two different states of Christ's humiliation and exaltation. Explain how it fits the context here.

Peter makes the same contrast of flesh and spirit when speaking about us in 1 Pt 4:6. This verse can be difficult to understand. But it fits well if you see flesh and spirit as contrasting our lowly state in life with the glory we forever share with Christ.

#### **TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON (1 Pt 3:19)**

The Scriptures make it clear that there is no second chance after death. All who died in the flood and all the Devil's angels are already condemned and held until the final judgment.

The Greek word κηρύσσω simply means to make an announcement. It can include a proclamation of the gospel, but can also include anything that is proclaimed. It is different from the Greek verb εὐαγγελίζω from which we get "preach the good news" or "evangelize." Explain why the KJV's translation "preach" and many other translations that use a similar approach can be easily misunderstood here.

### **THE RISEN ONE MADE HIS VICTORY ANNOUNCEMENT**

1 Pt 3:19 is one of the rare verses that direct us to consider what we confess in the Apostle's Creed, "he descended into hell." This one is the most direct reference in the New Testament. See also Colossians 2:15. Explain why Jesus' decent into hell must be taken as part of his exaltation and was written down for our comfort. (For further study see bottom side note on this page.)

### **CONFESS AND TREASURE HIS MEANS OF GRACE**

Read 1 Pt 3:20-22 How does Peter use the way the people in the flood were saved (God's means) to teach us about the means of grace God gives us in baptism? Use this part of Scripture to respond to the statement: "Baptism doesn't save you." What other Scriptures tie in baptism as part of God's means for salvation?

What do we mean by the "means of grace"? God could have just rescued Noah with a miracle, but he instead he had Noah trust his Word. God used the means he gave to Noah to rescue him. How do you suppose the people responded to God's chosen means of rescue when the ark was being built? How does it compare to the way the world views God's means of grace today?

What point is Peter making by emphasizing the small number who were saved through God's means of rescue?

Share God's means of grace! Do you see a connection between all of Noah's family saved in the ark despite their unworthiness and Peter urging us (Acts 2:39) to have our entire household baptized?





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 4:1-11**  
SERVE WHILE SUFFERING

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### STUDY OUTLINE

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER

**1 PT 1A - PROPHESED SUFFERING AND GLORY**

**1 PT 1B - LIVING FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE**

**1 PT 1B-2A -FROM DARK STONE TO LIVING.**

**1 PT 2B - HUMBLY FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS**

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**1 PT 4A -SERVE WHILE SUFFERING**

**1 PT 4B - REJOICE WHILE SUFFERING**

**1 PT 5A - SHEPHERD FROM CROSS TO CROWN**

**1 PT 5B - SHORT SUFFERING; ETERNAL GLORY**

### **“DONE WITH SIN” (1 PT 4:1)**

Since Christ suffered in the body to redeem us, (see previous verses) we no longer live for sin. Compare with Romans 6:6-14 to determine what Peter means by this phrase.

### **SPIRIT—FLESH ANTITHESIS (1 Pt 3:18b, 4:6)**

- “In regard to the body” & “In regard to the spirit” contrast two different states for a believer: lowliness and glory. We go from cross to crown.
- See 1 Pt 3:18. When people saw Jesus “in the flesh” he was in his lowly state with veiled glory, but when he was raised to life he had a glorious body. He was “in the spirit,” namely, in his exalted state. In the same way Peter says here that a believer goes from a humble state to exalted state, from cross to crown.
- Compare with 1 Cor.15:44–45. Believers now have a natural body, but when raised they will have a “spiritual body” that will be like Jesus glorious body (Ph 3:21). It is a real body, but glorious.

### **SURPRISED... THEY HEAP ABUSE**

Find God’s surprising answer to all this sinful living and abuse against believers. (1 Pt 4:1,5)

### **SUFFERING BUT WITH NEW DESIRES**

Read 1 Pt 4:1-2. We are instructed to arm ourselves with the same attitude as Christ when we are suffering. Describe Christ’s attitude when he suffered in the body.

“Human desires” and “the will of God” (1 Pt 4:2) are in opposition. When we suffer we are often tempted to turn to human desires as a solution. But the believer has a better solution for suffering, the will of God. List some things which God wills us to do which will necessitate suffering in a sinful world.

### **JOIN SIN’S BANDWAGON, OR FACE FUTURE PAIN**

Read 1 Pt 4:3-4. People will try to make their sinful lifestyles feel normal. Peter lists six areas of sinful living. Briefly explain what each one means. Note Peter indicates that the believers once were living in these types of sins. Share some specific examples of sins which are normalized in our present culture. Discuss the following areas of sinful living which people will normalize and add at least two more.

- 1) Abuse of God’s gift of sex
- 2) Abuse of God’s gift of alcohol
- 3) Abuse of God’s gift of life
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

Read 1 Pt 4:4. Review the categories discussed above. For each identify a way which the unbelieving world will “heap abuse” on those who do not join them.

### **I BELIEVE IN...**

Creed exercise: “He is ready to judge the living and the dead” (1Pt 4:5). Review the previous verses. Underline each part of the 2nd article of Apostles Creed which you can find from 1 Pt 3:18 up to this point. Respond: “We don’t use the Apostles Creed in my church because it isn’t from the Bible.” Explain why the Creed is important for all Christians.

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 4:1-11**  
SERVE WHILE SUFFERING

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### FOR THIS REASON THE GOSPEL WAS PREACHED

- Peter keeps finding reason to point our eyes back to the message of Christ and the power of the Word.
- “For this reason,” (1 Pt 4:6) The coming judgment over sin means we need the gospel. Forgiveness and new life comes through the power of the gospel.
- Compare with 1 Pt 1:23, 25 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ...And this is the word that was preached to you.

### “DEAD, ALIVE, BODY, SPIRIT” 1 Pt 4:6

This verse has been given various interpretations. Some will use it to say that the people who died and are in hell were given a second chance. Use the rest of Scripture to explain why Peter can't be referring to the same people who were mentioned in 3:19. (See also the study guide side note on “preach” and “proclaimed” for 1 Pt 3:18) Use the immediate context to explain why he is limiting his discussion to those who ended up coming to faith in Jesus.

### “WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED.”

There is no categorical listing of spiritual gifts. Some are listed in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Cor 12:4-11, 28 Look at those verses to answer the following:

- ◇ -Who receives a spiritual gift?
- ◇ -What are these gifts for?
- ◇ -Why should we never look down on any gift?

### PRAYER EXERCISE

Use 1 Pt 4:11 to formulate a prayer for yourself and your church body.

### ON THE ONE HAND, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

Contrast how most people regarded Jesus when he walked this earth before his death with how he is regarded now by all the saints and angels.

Believers will suffer and die. They carry a cross and enter the grave. However, God gets to make the final judgment. He declares all who trust in Christ the cornerstone as alive and part of his holy, living temple. Read 1 Pt 4:6. If believers were to be judged according to their lowly life on earth what would the world think of them? On the other hand, if believers were to be seen the way God sees them now and forever, what would we see? (see also flesh – spirit note on previous page.)

### SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN THESE END TIMES

Read 1 Pt 4:7-11 Explain how knowing “the end of all things near” will influence how we use our time. Discuss each command listed below from 1 Pt 4:7-11 and the significance Peter attaches to each command.

- ⇒ Be alert
- ⇒ Love each other
- ⇒ Offer hospitality
- ⇒ Use whatever gift you have received to serve others

Share some comforting truths found with these commands.

Explain how Christ fulfilled all these commands as both our example and as our substitute.







# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 4:12-19**

REJOICE WHILE SUFFERING

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### FIERY TRIALS

*Mark Jeske offers an excellent summary and overview of the types of fiery ordeals faced by the early Christian churches. This description is from his commentary on 1 Peter:*

The emperor Nero (ruled A.D. 54–68), a violent and immoral man, in July of the year 64 chose to blame the Christians in Rome for a terrible fire that had destroyed part of the city. According to the Roman historian Tacitus, hundreds of Christians were arrested, convicted for antisocial beliefs, covered in the skins of wild animals, and torn to death by dogs; others were crucified, coated with pitch, and set on fire, so when darkness fell, they burned like torches in the night.

The emperor Domitian (81–96) demanded that all his subjects recognize him as “Lord and God.” ... was during this time that the apostle John, supervisor of the congregations in the province of Asia, was exiled from Ephesus to the island of Patmos in the Aegean.

Under the emperor Trajan (98–117), regional governors knew that they had full authority to arrest, punish, and even kill Christians just for bearing the Christian name. In A.D. 107, while Trajan was traveling through Antioch, he had Bishop Ignatius arrested, taken to Rome, and thrown to wild beasts. Simeon, head of the church in Jerusalem, was also killed. In A.D. 112 Pliny, governor of Bithynia, wrote to Trajan for advice on how to deal with people accused of being Christians. He was worried about this rapidly spreading movement, since this “contagious superstition is not confined to the cities, but has spread its infection among the neighboring villages and country.” He referred to a well-known edict from Trajan that forbade Christian assembly “according to your commands.” He put two female slaves who were Christians to torture so that they would be more likely to tell the truth under interrogation.

Under the emperor Antoninus Pius (138–161), the governor of the province of Asia arrested Polycarp, the 86-year-old bishop of Smyrna, and ordered him to curse Christ and sacrifice incense to the emperor. Polycarp refused. He was tied to a stake in a stadium with a huge pile of brush at his feet. He still refused to curse Christ and loudly confessed his faith in a prayer to the Trinity. He was burned alive. The emperor Marcus Aurelius (161–180) thoroughly disliked Christians ... There were executions in Rome, and dozens were tortured

### REJOICE IN FIERY TRIALS

The unbelieving world is “surprised” (4:4) that believers don’t join with them in their sinful living. But believers should not be “surprised” (1 Pt 4:12) that the unbelieving world hates them. Read 1 Pt 4:12-13. Peter makes it clear that believers should expect to bear a cross. He calls them “fiery ordeals.” Share some reasons why it is comforting for all of God’s people to be warned of trials ahead of time.

Look at the side notes to review the fiery trials that began around the time Peter first wrote his letters. How do those trials compare with what you face today as a follower of Christ? List the types of trials endured by believers today around the world.

### TO TEST YOU

“*Fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you.*” Enduring suffering is a recurring theme in this letter. Peter indicates our sufferings serve as a time of testing. Look at the following verses and discuss what we learn from 1 Peter to help us when tests and trials come our way.

- ⇒ Regarding our safety: 1 Pt 1:5
- ⇒ The outcome: 1 Pt 1:6-7
- ⇒ Our promise; 1 Pt 2:6
- ⇒ One result: 1 Pt 2:12
- ⇒ Our example: 1 Pt 2:21-23
- ⇒ Our payback: 1 Pt 3:9
- ⇒ Our attitude and hope under God: 1 Pt 5:6
- ⇒ Our true enemy: 1 Pt 5:8
- ⇒ Our company: 1 Pt 5:9
- ⇒ Our God’s response: 1 Pt 5:10





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 4:12-19**  
REJOICE WHILE SUFFERING

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

[Continued from previous page] and killed also in Vienne and Lyons in Gaul (France). Bishop Pothinus, 90 years old, died in jail of wounds received from torture. Aurelius authorized his agents to kill any professing Christian “according to law,” in other words, with a show of perfect legality. The emperor Septimius Severus (193–211) renewed the persecutions, even making Baptism a crime. In A.D. 203 it was Africa’s turn; many Christians were killed in Carthage (present-day Tunisia).

...The emperor Decius (249–251) ordered every citizen to offer an act of homage to the gods of Rome... Christians were beheaded, burned at the stake, and thrown to the beasts. Six years later the emperor Valerian (253–260) again ordered conformity to Roman religious rites. Again Christians resisted. Roman Bishop Sixtus II and four deacons were killed. Bishop Cyprian of Carthage was beheaded; the bishop of Tarragona in Spain was burned alive. Still, as old pagan values crumbled, people kept turning to Christ.

The final persecution was the worst. The emperor Diocletian in ... A.D. 303, ordered the destruction of all Christian churches, the dissolution of all congregations, the confiscation of all Christian property, the exclusion of Christians from public office, and death to any Christian caught in public assembly. The cathedral of Nicomedia was immediately burned to the ground. The arrests and torture began. Infuriated by resistance, Diocletian ordered all provincial governors to seek out every Christian and use any method to compel appeasement of the gods.

... his partners Maximian and Galerius carried out his edict with ferocious zeal. There were many martyrs in every province. Christians were killed in every conceivable way. For eight years the terror raged; perhaps 1,500 people were killed and many times that number tortured. But the tide of public opinion finally turned against the persecution as people saw how faithful Christians were to their Savior and how nobly they offered their lives. Galerius himself lay dying, and in sudden fear implored the Christians to pray for him. In A.D. 311 he issued an edict of toleration, recognizing Christianity as a fully lawful religion. The Christian writer Tertullian was right: “The blood of martyrs is seed.”

-The People’s Bible, Mark Jeske 118–120.

### REJOICE IN FIERY TRIALS

Re-read 1 Pt 4:12-13. Peter so far has mentioned his readers as suffering “griefs in all kinds of trials” (1:6), being tempted by evil desires (2:11), as under authority which they must submit though it hated them (2:13), enduring ignorant talk of foolish people (2:15), bearing up under unjust suffering (2:19), suffering for doing good (2:20, 3:17), being insulted (3:9), “suffering in the body” (4:1), having abuse heaped on them (4:4), and they are insulted (4:14). But he says it shouldn’t seem strange they face all this. Instead they were participating in the same sufferings as Christ. List some examples from the gospels of how the Christ endured all these same types of pains.

Explain this quote: “He who does not bear this suffering with rejoicing, becomes sullen, and wants to be angry with God, will suffer here and will suffer there forever.” (Luther, Sermon from 1522 LW 30:127).

Find the implied resurrection comfort in these verses.

### SUFFERING “ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL”

(Compare also with 1 Pt 3:17 and 4:19) How does knowing God wills our suffering give us strength to endure it?

The devil has not ceased to persecute the Church. Modern day believers are still confronted with fiery ordeals. In her book “In the Lion’s Den,” Christian writer Nina Shea contends that more Christians were killed in the 20th century than in the past 19 centuries combined. Read 1 Pt 4:12-19. Find the titles for believers in this section which give you comfort. Explain why the titles and descriptions of God give you comfort in this section.

The title “Christian” comes up three times in the New Testament. Twice in Acts and once here. It reflects a term of derision. Peter says don’t be ashamed that you bear that name. How is it sometimes still used as a derisive term today?

Review: Recall what gives us joy in our all our trials (see 1 Pt 1).

For further study: Read Romans 8:18 and discuss what Paul adds regarding our journey from cross to crown.





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 5:1-5**  
SHEPHERD FROM CROSS TO CROWN

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### STUDY OUTLINE

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER

1 PT 1A - PROPHESED SUFFERING AND GLORY

1 PT 1B - LIVING FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

1 PT 1B-2A -FROM DARK STONE TO LIVING.

1 PT 2B - HUMBLY FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS

1 PT 3A -LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER

1 PT 3B CONFESS THE CRUCIFIED & RISEN

1 PT 4A -SERVE WHILE SUFFERING

1 PT 4B - REJOICE WHILE SUFFERING

1 PT 5A - SHEPHERD FROM CROSS TO CROWN

1 PT 5B - SHORT SUFFERING; ETERNAL GLORY

### **"A FELLOW ELDER"**

- ◇ Elders were appointed by Christians (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5) But also called by God to their position through his Church (Acts 20:17, 28; Eph 4:11)
- ◇ Apostles like Peter and John also took on the title "elder." Sometimes a distinction is made between an elder and other positions. However, it can be used synonymously with "shepherd" and "overseer."

### **SUFFERINGS... SHARE IN THE GLORY**

- ◆ This section is closely tied to the previous section concerning persecution. That is not always evident since some translations omit the connecting word "therefore" at the start of chapter 5. Peter says, "therefore" (i.e. since there is persecution to endure) you elders should serve as examples.
- ◆ Peter had already served as an example of a shepherd following Christ. In John 20 Jesus reinstated him and called him to feed God's lambs. He also told Peter at that time how he would indeed suffer as he served as a shepherd. Some of the examples recorded in Scripture include Acts 5:40, 12:4-9. Tradition records his death at the hands of Nero. He was crucified upside down.
- ◆ This continues the theme of 1 Peter "from cross to crown." He is constantly trying to help us see that though we will endure a road with trials we are headed to the same glorious place as our King, Jesus.

### **SUFFERING SHEPHERD; GLORIFIED SHEPHERD**

Respond: "A pastor's job is easy. They only work one day a week." Recall the things which made Peter an especially unique witness of Christ's sufferings and resurrection. Read 1 Pt 5:1. Look at the context to determine what point he makes by focusing here on his position as "a fellow elder" and "a witness of Christ's sufferings."

Look at the following to see what other spiritual leaders taught about suffering and glory.

⇒ Moses — Hebrews 11:24-26

⇒ David — Psalm 27

⇒ The Sons of Korah — Psalm 42:9-11

⇒ Asaph — Psalm 73:23-26

⇒ Paul — Romans 8:17-18

Agree or Disagree: "From Cross to Crown' could fit as the theme of all of Scripture."

"In the glory to be revealed." List the glorious things which we will share in when Christ comes again in glory.

### **HUMBLE ELDERS AND SHEPHERDS**

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them." (1 Pt 5:2a) Pastors are supposed to "shepherd" and "watch over" those entrusted to their care. List some ways that a herdsman literally cares for a flock and discuss how this is done by a pastor, a spiritual shepherd.

Read Jesus rebuke of the spiritual leaders in Matthew 23:1-12. Look at the context and explain the main point Jesus is making. Some mistakenly use this portion of Scripture to argue that it is wrong to have spiritual leaders. Explain why that is a misinterpretation which contradicts Scripture.

Identify at least two parallel points between what Jesus taught regarding spiritual leaders (Mt 23:1-12) and what Peter teaches in 1 Peter 5:2-5.





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 5:1-5**  
SHEPHERD FROM CROSS TO CROWN

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### “ELDER, SHEPHERD, OVERSEER.”

⇒ The New Testament lists many different titles for workers in the Church such as pastor, teacher, evangelist, minister or servant, elder, overseer, etc. But it does not give any specific detailed description. What does this tell us?

⇒ WELS Doctrinal Statements p. 50 reads, “The one public ministry of the Gospel may assume various forms, as circumstances demand. The specific forms in which Christians establish the public ministry have not been prescribed by the Lord to his New Testament Church.” In Christian freedom any body of believers can formulate any type of job description necessary for those who serve with the gospel. Why is this important to keep in mind?

⇒ “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service (ministry), but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” 1 Co 12:4–6.

### CHIEF SHEPHERD

Our Lord provides for us and rescues us (Ps 23) The Chief Shepherd is specifically identified by the work of the Christ, the Son of David and Son of God, who rules on this eternal throne.

- ◇ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. -Jn 10:11. (See also Heb 13:20; Ps 80:1)
- ◇ “My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd.” (Eze 37:24)

The title “Chief Shepherd,” implies there are under-shepherds who serve under Christ.

- ◇ “I will place shepherds over them who will tend them... declares the LORD.” (Je 23:4)
- ◇ Jesus to Peter, “Take care of my sheep.” (Jn 21:16)
- ◇ Paul said to the elders, “Be shepherds of the Church of God.” (Acts 20:28)
- ◇ Peter wrote to the elders, “Shepherd the flock.” (1 Pt 5)

### SHEPHERD GOD’S FLOCK

Reread 1 Pt 5:2. Share several important reminders for Christians and pastors which can we draw from the title “God’s flock.”

Peter’s words apply to anyone who wants to serve God’s church by preaching or teaching the gospel. List some of the different types of positions filled by people as they serve as spiritual leaders and teachers in our congregations.

Read 1 Pt 5:2-3. Discuss what pitfalls must be avoided by a minister of the gospel. How does a body of believers watch out for these dangers when they call someone to serve?

- ⇒ “willing / eager to serve”
- ⇒ “not pursuing dishonest gain”
- ⇒ “not lording it over”

Share what you consider to be some of the top priorities a pastor or church worker should have in order to “be an example to the flock.”

### A CROWN OF GLORY

Read 1 Pt 5:4. This is one verse which helped formulate our study theme: “FROM CROSS TO CROWN.” Compare with Dan 12:2-3. Who else will receive a crown of glory? (2 Ti 4:8, Rev 2:10, 3:11)

Compare with the theme repeated by Isaiah:

*Those the Lord has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away (Is 35:10; 51:11)*

No one will take our crown from us. But what will we do with it in the end? (Rev 4:10)





# 1 PETER

**1 PETER 5:5-14**

SHORT SUFFERING; ETERNAL GLORY

## From **CROSS** to **CROWN**

### STUDY OUTLINE

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER

1 PT 1A - PROPHESED SUFFERING AND GLORY

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1 PT 5B - SHORT SUFFERING; ETERNAL GLORY

### **"SPIRITUALLY SOBER-MINDED"**

- ⇒ Greek νήφω. Used figuratively to mean spiritually sober-minded, avoiding any sin that leaves one unbalanced.
- ⇒ Paul uses it with a direct comparison to avoiding drunken stupors: "To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober." (1 Th 5:7-8)
- ⇒ Peter uses the term three times in his letter. Each time he pairs it with another verb for being spiritually at-ready. ( 1 Pt 1:13, 4:7; 5:8)

### **NEW CLOTHES!**

- 1 Pt 1:13 "gird the loins of your mind," namely putting on a spiritual belt of readiness.
  - 1 Pt 2:1 urged to cast off sinful attitudes (with a word used for casting off clothes).
  - 1 Pt 5:5 clothe yourselves in humility.
- Compare this wardrobe instruction with Paul's instruction for believers
- ◇ "As far as your former way of life is concerned, you were taught to take off the old self, which is corrupted by its deceitful desires, and to be renewed continually in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self, which has been created to be like God in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph 4:22-24)

### **HUMBLE YOURSELF UNDER GOD**

Defiance of authority is sometimes treated as if it were a virtue in American culture. Describe the insubordination we witness each day in our society. Read 1 Pt 5:5-7. Identify some ways we are tempted to clothe ourselves in defiance, arrogance, and insubordination. Find at least three reasons in these verses for humbly submitting to authority.

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Describe how each of those promises above tied to the completed work of Christ as he journeyed from cross to crown.

### **JOIN WITH THE SUFFERING FAMILY OF BELIEVERS**

What will a lion look for when targeting its prey? Read 1 Pt 5:8-9. Share some ways that the devil will identify a target that is weak and ready to devour. Peter urges us to resist the devil as we stand firm in the faith. Identify two ways we can say that we don't do this alone.

*Conquerors through Christ* is a para-synodical ministry of the WELS. It uses the mantra "Resist, Reject, Recover" to help those battling addiction to pornography. Evaluate and explain how that mantra fits Peter's response to the devil's temptations. Briefly review Peter's letter to share how Christ guides and empowers the embattled believer who faces temptation.

Share some other types of addictions, abuse, or trauma which place a person in a dangerous place of temptation to fall into sin or despair. How do we create an environment that keeps us "alert" to the devil's roaming, strong, and enabled to resist his attacks? (compare with 1 Pt 5:10 & 2 Pt 1:3)

Explain: "When Christians are suffering they might be at the same time at their most vulnerable and yet also find their greatest strength."

Review Jesus' response to temptation and great trials while he lived in our place. How can we be so sure the devil will flee Christians who resist him?





# 1 PETER

1 PETER 5:5-14

SHORT SUFFERING; ETERNAL GLORY

## From CROSS to CROWN

### “SHE WHO IS IN BABYLON”

- It is unlikely this is literally referring to the ancient city of Babylon.
- One of the greatest enemies in the Old Testament was the Babylonian Empire. In 605 they carted tens of thousands of the people into exile. In 586 they destroyed Solomon’s temple. They were a dominant nation which made it seem for a time (seventy years) as if God had forsaken his people. But God had promised he would deliver his people. After a period of exile he allowed them to return to Jerusalem. After a relatively fast period of decline, Babylon fell to the Persian Empire. Thus, they were a symbol of a great power that greatly oppressed God’s people, but which would eventually lose its grip and fail.
- The city of Babylon became a symbol of the godless rulers and places of this world which persecute God’s people. Rome was the capital city of the Empire which now oppressed Christians during Peter’s time. It was considered like Babylon. It proved to be a center of opposition for centuries, starting at the time of Peter’s letters.
- The apostle John equates “Babylon” with the center of opposition against God’s people and the city of Rome (Rev 17,18).
- While Peter was originally centered in Jerusalem, it is apparent he made his way to Rome and served there for a time, where tradition states he was crucified upside-down under Nero’s oppressive rule.
- Many other places throughout history also fit the description and deserve this title.

### SILAS AND MARK

Silas was a leader among the believers in Jerusalem, a prophet, apostle, evangelist, and Roman citizen. He accompanied Paul on his second journey after Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement about whether to bring along John Mark. Note, Peter shares John Mark’s greetings here. Peter worked with both Silas and Mark. And Paul later welcomed Mark back as a faithful helper. What must eventually happen to all the divisions between believers?

### “GREET WITH A KISS OF LOVE”

In their culture this greeting marked the love between believers. What else identifies the love Christians have for one another?

### A LITTLE SUFFERING; ETERNAL GLORY

Read 1 Pt 5:10-11. As Peter closes this letter he returns to the theme of our study: *FROM CROSS TO CROWN*. Review 1 Peter and find how the following truths from these closing verses are described throughout his letter.

- ⇒ “The God of all Grace”
- ⇒ “...called... to his eternal glory”
- ⇒ “suffered a little while”
- ⇒ “will himself restore, strengthen, establish you...”
- ⇒ “to God be the glory”

### YOU’RE NOT ALONE; YOU NEVER WILL BE

Silas and Peter testified about “*the true grace of God.*” Peter’s letter pours out the “*pure spiritual milk*” he urged us to drink earlier. (2:2-3) Scan through this letter once again and share what you found to be some of the most encouraging truths which you will stand firm in and drink up daily by God’s grace.

### CHOSEN & CALLED: FROM CROSS TO CROWN

Read 1 Pt 5:12-14. “*She who is in Babylon, who was chosen along with you.*” (see side notes regarding Babylon.) Peter isn’t referring to an individual believer in Babylon, but the body of believers, the Church found in “Babylon.” Christians were living where believers were facing the greatest persecution. (compare 1 Pt 5:9) But from there they write to the rest of the church offering encouragement! Look at the following to see how we share in God’s calling with all those called to suffer on their way to eternal glory with Christ.

#### “chosen”

1 Pt 1:2

1 Pt 2:4-6

1 Pt 2:9

1 Pt 5:13

#### “called”

1 Pt 1:15

1 Pt 2:9

1 Pt 2:21

1 Pt 3:9

1 Pt 5:10

