

*Bible Study Series on.....*

*The Study of*  
*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Peter*  
*& Jude*

12 Lessons

Prepared by:  
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2005



*The Study of*  
*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Peter & Jude*

**12 Lessons**

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**2005**

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*Lesson One*

## ***“Introduction to 1, 2 Peter”***

The writer of both 1 & 2 Peter identifies himself as ***“Peter, an apostle (bondservant) of Jesus Christ”*** (1:1). The internal evidences lend themselves very well to substantiate this statement:

- 1) The writer must die soon as the Lord had indicated (2 Peter 1:14; John 21:18-19).
- 2) He was one of the three on the Mount that witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus with Moses and Elijah (2 Peter 1:17-18; Matt. 17:1-13).
- 3) He mentions that 2 Peter is his second letter written to them (2 Peter 3:1).
- 4) His references to Paul’s letters (2 Peter 3:15-16).

The external evidences from early writings verified that Peter was the writer of both letters beyond any doubt.

### **THE OVERVIEW OF PETER’S LIFE**

#### **BEFORE BECOMING A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.**

1. He was called Simon or Simeon.
2. His father’s name was Jona or John.
3. His brother was Andrew.
4. At one time he was in the fishing business with his brother and James and John, and their father, Zebedee.
5. Peter and Andrew lived at Bethsaida, but later moved to Capernaum, close to the Sea of Galilee (John 1:44; Mark 1:28-31).
6. He was married and may have had his mother-in-law living with them (Mark 1:28-31).

#### **HE BECOMES A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.**

1. Andrew, his brother, was a disciple of John the baptizer and heard him point out Jesus as the “Lamb of God.” (Jn.1:29).
2. He goes immediately to bring Peter to meet Jesus.
3. At this meeting, Jesus changes his name to Cephas (Aramaic) or Peter (Greek) that means “a stone.” (Jn.1:29-42).
4. At certain times he, alone with others, are with Jesus, but had not given up their fishing business.

#### **HIS CALL TO FULL-TIME DISCIPLESHIP.**

1. Several months later Jesus confronts Peter, Andrew, James and John to become full-time disciples while they worked at fishing. They forsook all (Lk.1:1-11; Matt. 4:18-22; Matt. 19:27).
2. Peter, with Eleven others became constant companions of Jesus as He traveled among the cities and towns of Palestine.
3. He remained such up until Jesus’ death.

#### **PETER’S CHARACTER.**

1. He began to stand out as a natural leader showing energy and enthusiasm.

2. He was impulsive and impetuous.
3. He was granted special privileges along with James and John.
4. Peter stands out as a spokesman for the group at times.
5. He made two great confessions of Jesus (Jn. 6:68-69; Matt. 16:13-17).
6. He witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus and impetuously suggested building three tabernacles (Matt. 17:1-5).
7. He boasted of his devotion to Christ that he would not deny him, but did so three times during Jesus' trial (Mk. 15:29-31).
8. Upon hearing of Jesus' resurrection, Peter and John were the first to the tomb.
9. In John 21 the Lord seems to have used this occasion as a means of restoring Peter to his former zeal.
10. After Jesus' ascension Peter took the lead in replacing Judas (Acts 1).
11. He now begins to exemplify more and more of his new name: Strength of character, courage, and boldness.
  - a) Peter spoke out for he and John when threatened by the Sanhedrin (Acts 4).
  - b) It was Peter who questioned the hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5).
  - c) It was Peter who preached the first sermon to the Jews and also to the Gentiles (Acts 2, 10).
  - d) Even though imprisoned and release, he continued preaching (Acts 9-11).
  - e) He took the lead in the discussion at Jerusalem over the Gentiles having to keep the Law of Moses (Acts 15).
12. An indication of some weakness was shown at Antioch when certain Jews from Jerusalem came up and cause Peter to stop associating with the Gentiles (Gal. 2:12). Paul had to rebuke him openly.
13. There are indications that he traveled among the churches along with his wife (1 Cor. 9:5).
14. The last known place of Peter's whereabouts is mentioned in his first letter—Babylon (5:13).

### **LAST YEARS OF PETER'S LIFE.**

1. Since he was traveling among the churches (1 Cor. 9:5) and writes to churches in Asia Minor (1:1), it is very possible that he traveled and preached in Asia Minor in his later years.
2. From here on, all we have is traditional accounts that state that he went or was taken to Rome where he suffered martyrdom by being crucified upside down about the year 67-68 AD—shortly after the supposed death of the Apostle Paul. We do not know how reliable this account is.

### **TO WHOM THE LETTERS WERE WRITTEN**

1 Peter 1:1 states that he wrote to *“the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.”* (1:1). The 2<sup>nd</sup> letter does not state such in the same way, but he states that he had formerly written to them (2 Peter 3:1), which could indicate that he wrote to the same persons. All the provinces of Asia Minor are mentioned here but one—Cilicia—which was separated from the rest by the Taurus Mountains. At first thought some might suggest that this was addressed to Jewish Christians. However, there are indications of a Gentile audience as well (1:14, 18; 2:10; 3:6; 4:3). It could be that Peter was writing to Christians who had been scattered by persecution throughout that whole area, which seems to be strongly indicated in the letter.

## PURPOSES FOR WRITING THE LETTERS

Several reasons can be suggested for writing both letters from the indications in the letter itself:

1. To reassure them of their heritage in Christ.
2. To remind them of their need to live godly.
3. To be steadfast in the face of persecution.
4. To call to mind the good results to come out of persecution and their hope as Christians.
5. To warn them of the grave dangers of false teachers.
6. To give special instructions.....etc.

## OUTLINE OF 1 PETER

### **I. THE GREAT HOPE THAT GOD’S CHILDREN HAVE (1:1-12).**

### **II. EXHORTATION TO HOLINESS AND BROTHERLY LOVE (1:13-25).**

### **III. THINGS THAT CHRISTIANS ARE COMPARED UNTO (2:1-10).**

- a) As newborn babes (2:1-3)
- b) As lively stones in a spiritual house (2:4-8)
- c) As a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, and a peculiar people (2:9-10)

### **IV. GENERAL EXHORATIONS (2:11-5:11).**

- a) To abstain from fleshly lust (2:11-12)
- b) To submit to every ordinance of man (2:13-16)
- c) Honor all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, and honor the king (2:17)
- d) Servants to their masters (2:18)
- e) On suffering (2:19-25)
- f) To wives (3:1-6)
- g) To husbands (3:7)
- h) Miscellaneous exhortations (3:8-9)
- i) On suffering again (3:10-22)
- j) Prepare themselves for further temptations (4:1-6)
- k) Miscellaneous exhortations (4:7-11)
- l) Rejoice in sufferings for Christ (4:12-19)
- m) To elders of the flock (5:1-4)
- n) Miscellaneous exhortations (5:5-11)

### **V. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS (5:12-14).**

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

1 Peter was probably written from literal “Babylon” which at that time had a strong Jewish element living in that region. 2 Peter may also have been written there or on his journey to Rome to his eventual death, since it seems to have been close at hand (2 Peter 1:14). Both letters could be dated about 65-68 AD.

*Lesson Two*

## **“Joy Amidst Sorrows”**

**(1 Peter 1:1-25)**

The Bible is known for its “paradoxes!” Possibly the best known of all is the cross of Christ. It was such a terrible event, but it brought about the greatest good to mankind that has ever been done. Even the Christian life is a paradox as well. It calls for the greatest of sacrifice—dying to self in order to live eternal with God. The first few verses deal with the trials and even persecution that Christians may need to face, but there can be joy in the midst of such.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. SALUTATION, PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING EXPRESSED TO GOD (1:1-5)**

##### ***A. Salutation to those to whom he wrote.***

- 1) From an Apostle (special messenger, envoy, ambassador) sent by Jesus Christ.
- 2) To scattered Christians through Asia Minor.
- 3) Elect of God—called and chosen by God through the preaching of the Gospel.
  - a) We open our hearts to God’s messenger.
  - b) We believe and are obedient to the Gospel.
  - c) The Holy Spirit then sanctifies us (cleanses, sets us apart unto God).
- 4) He desired God’s grace and peace to be multiplied in their lives!

##### ***B. Praise and Thanksgiving expressed to God.***

- 1) Because He begat us.
  - a) He made us His children through the new birth of water & Spirit.
  - b) He did it because of his unlimited mercy & goodness.
    - Salvation is not by our goodness, but God’s goodness.
    - Man is due eternal death, but God’s mercy helps us to escape it.
- 2) Because He begat us to a living hope.
  - a) This hope is made possible by the resurrection of Jesus.
  - b) It is an undying hope.
  - c) It is our inheritance as children of God.
  - d) It is a hope that is:
    - Incorruptible—will not perish—it is eternal in nature.
    - undefiled—not stained or soiled—it is pure.
    - Fades not away—its beauty and enjoyment does not cease.
  - e) This hope is something we can look forward to.
    - We have God’s assurance—we will receive it upon Jesus’ return.
    - It is assured on the basis of our faith & trust in God.
    - If we lose faith, we lose our hope!

#### **II. THE PARADOX OF JOY IN THE MIDST OF SORROW (1:6-9)**

##### ***A. Reasons for Joy & Rejoicing:***

- 1) We have been promised this great inheritance.
- 2) We have God’s power guarding us through our faith in Him.
- 3) The certainty of this coming eternal salvation.
- 4) Our fellowship with Christ.

- a) Even though we have not seen Him....
- b) We love Him and believe deeply in Him....
- c) And have an assurance of His return someday.

***B. The Nature of this Joy:***

- 1) The Gospel is good news—to make men glad.
  - a) Not just surface joy, but deep joy that comes because of God’s love.
  - b) The greatness and goodness of God is behind it.
- 2) It is unspeakable and full of glory.

***C. But this joy is also in the midst of sorrows.***

- 1) Some have the idea that religion abolishes all trials and sorrows.
- 2) The Christian needs to recognize that he is not exempt from such.

***D. The true nature and purpose of sorrows.***

- 1) They are temptations and trials of our faith in God’s promises.
- 2) They are a testing, a proving of our faith.
- 3) Trials are a great revealer:
  - a) To ourselves about ourselves;
  - b) To God about ourselves;
  - c) Of the need for changes in our lives!
- 4) Sorrows must not pass without our seeing their value.
  - a) They are regarded as discipline for our spiritual lives.
  - b) Our will is made easier to bow in submission to God’s will in the softening furnace of trials.
    - Fire rids the soul of its dross.
    - Fire purifies the heart.

***E. The end results:***

- 1) That our faith might be found unto the praise, honor, and glory when Jesus returns.
- 2) That when we are tried and proven—we will be praised by Jesus.
- 3) The end results is the eternal salvation of our souls.

***F. But also notice the transitoriness of sorrows.***

- 1) *“This too will pass!”*
- 2) It is for a REASONS, and therefore for a SEASON!
- 3) It may appear long to man, but it is short in heaven’s chronology.
- 4) It is when we look back that it becomes short.
- 5) There will be heaviness in bearing such trials.
- 6) But in the midst of heaviness, there is room for joy & rejoicing.

**III. THE GREATNESS OF SALVATION (1:10-12)**

***A. Greatness seen in:***

- 1) The Prophets that prophesied about it.
- 2) They diligently studied & searched these prophecies to come to know what we now know.
- 3) These Prophets foretold about Christ, His sufferings, and His glorification.
- 4) Even Angels desired to understand God’s great mystery.
- 5) What do men do? Are we mostly not interested????

***B. We are privileged to have these things fully revealed to us.***

- 1) By the preaching of the Gospel guided by the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Through the Holy Apostles and Prophets (Eph. 3:3-5).

**IV. THEREFORE—LIVE LIVES OF HOLINESS (1:13-21)**

***A. How they should live in view of the above:***

- 1) Gather up the loose ends of your mind:
  - a) Be of one mind about these things.
  - b) Prepare yourself—don't run after ideas that lead nowhere.
- 2) Be sober—unintoxicated—free from passion, rashness—be calm, collected in spirit—be temperate.
- 3) Hope to the end—don't waver or be weary—be fully persuaded!
- 4) Be obedient children.
- 5) Don't be like you formerly were, when you lived in ignorance of God and in darkness.
- 6) Live holy lives—for God is holy and desires us to be the same.
- 7) Realize that God will judge men:
  - a) So pass your time here in reverential fear of God;
  - b) God will judge every man's work;
  - c) He is no respecter of persons.

***B. Why should we live such lives?***

- 1) Because we have been redeemed to live otherwise.
  - a) We were redeemed with a very precious item—the blood of Jesus.
  - b) God even planned this for us before He created the universe.
  - c) He has now carried it out.
  - d) And we can believe in God through Christ.
- 2) Because our faith & hope is not in men, nor things, but in the living God!

**V. BROTHERLY LOVE IS ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZED (1:22-25)**

***A. Reminds them how they became children of God.***

- 1) You purified your souls by obeying God's truth.
- 2) The Spirit of God gave us God's message and encouraged us to believe it.
- 3) We were born again by the living & abiding Word of God when we obeyed it.

***B. The outcome of this birth should lead us to sincerely love our brethren.***

- 1) We have a common Father.
- 2) All other physical things will perish.
- 3) But the spiritual will last throughout eternity.
- 4) Our love to our brethren must be: SINCERE, PURE OF HEART, and FERVENTLY.

**CONCLUSION**

1. Our hope is a living one—provided we continue believing!
2. What a great privilege it is to be the children of God.
  - a) We are blessed above millions on this earth.
  - b) We can never repay the debt we owe, nor praise God enough.
3. But what a grave responsibility we have as well to live the life God demands of us!

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- 1. Salvation is a paradox.**
- 2. Acts 8:4 indicates that Christians were scattered by persecution and some of them may have gone into Asia Minor.**
- 3. We become the elect of God in reality when we choose to believe and obey the Gospel.**
- 4. A hope is only a living hope if we keep it alive in our heart and lives.**
- 5. Joy in the midst of sorrow is one of the paradoxes of Christianity.**
- 6. Some people have the idea that religion abolishes all trials and sorrows.**
- 7. The purpose of trials is to test or prove our faith to be real and solid.**
- 8. The end result of trials is what our joy is all about.**
- 9. God expects us to be holy just like Him.**
- 10. We are born again by the Word of God.**

*Lesson Three*

## ***“The Necessity to Grow as a Christian”***

**(1 Peter 2:1-10)**

We see things growing all around us—trees, flowers, grass, etc. We generally want them to grow up and be strong and beautiful. However, we cannot command them to grow. We may be able to assist their growth somewhat, but it does no good to tell them they must grow. The reason is obvious—they have no choice in the matter! But Christians are human beings and have a choice in the matter of “spiritual growth!” And, therefore, God can command us to grow and can expect us to respond positively to His Will—because we have the power of choice. Spiritual growth is necessary for the spiritual health of the Christians. Chapter two begins with the emphasis on growth that leads to an emphasis upon the greater influence of the growing Christian.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. THE NEED FOR GROWTH EMPHASIZED (2:1-2)**

##### ***A. Growth involves both a negative & a positive response on our part.***

- 1) In light of the fact that we have been born again, regenerated, by the Word of God upon our obedience to this world;
- 2) We should put away our former evil activities—especially those that are inconsistent to a fervent love of our brethren;
- 3) And start the growing process unto maturity in Christ.

##### ***B. The negative aspects:***

- 1) Lay aside, once for all—all attitudes & actions that destroys brotherly relations.
- 2) Lay them aside like you would a dirty garment.
  - a) Malice—Desire to hurt others, maliciousness, ill-will.
  - b) Guile—Lack of openness, dishonesty, twisted conduct, deceitfulness.
  - c) Hypocrisies—Pretences to be something we are not, two-faced, insincere.
  - d) Envy—Ill feelings towards those who have good things (jealous feelings).
  - e) All evil speaking—Attempts to hurt or injure with tongue, slanderous gossip, backbiting.
- 3) These, and all other actions, unbecoming of one who is a Christian.

##### ***C. The positive aspects:***

- 1) We must take on nourishment, food, for our spiritual growth.
  - a) Just like a baby begins on easily digested foods at first.
  - b) The baby eagerly turns to its mother’s milk for food.
  - c) So should the new Christian turn eagerly to God’s Word for growth.
- 2) It is called the sincere milk of the world.
  - a) Pure, unadulterated.
  - b) Greek word (Logikon)—reason, rational, intelligent.
  - c) It appeals to the reason or the intellect of man.
  - d) It will equip the soul for growth and stability.

## **II. REASONS GIVEN FOR WANTING TO GROW (2:3-10)**

### ***A. Because the Lord has been gracious to us. (3)***

- 1) We have tasted His blessings.
- 2) We should want more.
- 3) He amply provides for us.

### ***B. Because the foundation we are building on is sure & living. (4)***

- 1) Yes, He was rejected by mankind in general.
- 2) But God has appointed Him, chosen Him, and is He is precious in His sight.
- 3) What God has chosen is sure and living.

### ***C. Because of what God has made us into. (5)***

- 1) We are important stones in God's spiritual temple (house).
- 2) He has made us to be a holy priesthood:
  - a) We have been made holy by the blood of Jesus;
  - b) We have been made acceptable to offer up sacrifices to God;
  - c) We have been made such by Jesus Christ.

### ***D. Because of the great worth of Christ to us. (6-8)***

- 1) Isaiah prophesied of Jesus as the precious stone of God.
  - a) His preciousness is seen in them who believe in Him.
  - b) Unbelievers will reject Him and be disobedient to Him.
    - To them, He is a stone to stumble over.
    - He is a rock of offense
    - Which will lead to their appointed doom.
- 2) But, God has chosen Him to be the chief corner stone.
  - a) His position in God's scheme of things is critically important.
  - b) Everything in God's Plan depended upon Him.
  - c) Those who believe in Him will not be disappointed.

### ***E. Because He wants us to glow. (9-10)***

- 1) Through our obedience, we have become:
  - a) An elect race (chosen of God);
  - b) A royal priesthood (chosen to worship before the throne of God);
  - c) A holy nation (peoples set aside for special service to God).
  - d) A people of God's own possession (claimed by Him out of the world).
- 2) So that we may glow!
  - a) In order to demonstrate by our lives the greatness of God's goodness.
  - b) To show that God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- 3) At one time—we were not so blessed by God, but now have received mercy.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The Hebrew writer rebukes and shames the people of God for not growing (5:11-14).
2. If a baby does not take on milk and later solid food, he stand a risk of contacting disease or sickness that will lead to its death.
3. And so it will be with the new Christians in particular.
  - a) He can be easily led astray from the truth.
  - b) He can be caused to doubt and turn away from God.
  - c) He can be pulled back into his old way of life.

4. Growth is a must!
5. But also, Growth is a must if we are to glow as a Christian!
6. Our next lesson will speak more on this.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- \_\_\_ **1. God wants His children to grow but He cannot force us to do so.**
- \_\_\_ **2. Our birth into the family of God came as a results of believing and obeying the word of God.**
- \_\_\_ **3. As a new spiritual baby in Christ, I should eagerly take on the milk of the Word.**
- \_\_\_ **4. The only way our faith can come or grow is by the Word of God.**
- \_\_\_ **5. True spiritual growth requires and putting off certain things before one can grow properly.**
- \_\_\_ **6. Christians are said to be priest of God that can offer up spiritual sacrifices to God.**
- \_\_\_ **7. Christians are built on the best of foundations—Christ Jesus Himself.**
- \_\_\_ **8. Jesus is called a stone of stumbling.**
- \_\_\_ **9. Christians are saved and by their lives demonstrate the greatness of God’s goodness.**
- \_\_\_ **10. Jesus is said to be the chief corner stone of God’s house.**

*Lesson Four*

**“The Necessity to Glow as a Christian”**  
**(1 Peter 2:11-25)**

In all that we say and do as a Christian we should desire to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31). Peter states in 2:12 that the conduct of a Christian must be not only that of spiritual growth, but of living the kind of life before the world that they can be influence for good. But even more, that they might to led to glorify God. So we can see that our growth as a Christian involves more than must for our own good.

**DISCUSSION**

**I. OUR LIVES NEED TO “GLOW” BEFORE UNBELIEVERS (2:11-12)**

***A. We must first realize who we are!***

- 1) We are sojourners, pilgrims on this earth.
- 2) We are exiles of eternity and strangers in this world.
- 3) This is not our permanent abode.
- 4) We don’t live for today, but for tomorrow.

***B. We must grow so we can glow before the world.***

- 1) By staying away from those things that appeal to our fleshly passions.
  - a) Abstain from—hold self back from.
  - b) They seek to bring about our soul’s destruction.
  - c) Such will wage a constant battle for our soul.
- 2) By making our lives honest.
  - a) Seemly, lovely, beautiful, good.
  - b) More than just morally good, but added good works and proper attitudes—an attractive personality—an excellent character.
- 3) Why glow?
  - a) So our former friends and neighbors will be found wrong when they speak evil of us.
  - b) So that their malicious stories, their maligning us as criminals will be found wrong.
  - c) The early Christians were persecuted by:
    - Governmental officials;
    - Religious peoples;
    - Business peoples;
    - And the community at large.
  - d) They were many times blamed even for national evils of the day.
  - e) But a godly life will help disprove such false accusations.
  - f) It can put our accusers to silence.
  - g) It can also help to lead the unbeliever to glorify God in the day of visitation.
    - When the Gospel message of grace comes to their ears;
    - They may be softened and more receptive to God’s message because of how we have conducted ourselves;
    - And be willing to believe & obey the Gospel before it is too late.

## **II. OUR LIVES MUST SHOW RESPECT & SUBMISSION TO RULERS (2:13-17)**

### ***A. Be subject to every ordinance of man.***

- 1) It is to place one's self under.
- 2) Such rulers were generally corrupt at this time.
- 3) So, why be submissive to such rulers?
  - a) One of the most often repeated accusations against early Christians was that they were disobedient to the Laws of the land.
  - b) Acts 17:7—***“And these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.”***
- 4) So, why be submissive?
  - a) For the Lord's sake.
  - b) So that His efforts won't be thwarted in saving the lost by our ungodly actions.
  - c) Because God has appointed rulers to:
    - Punish the evil-doers;
    - To uphold those that do well.
  - d) Because correct actions can put to silence those who speak evil of us.
  - e) Their accusations are ignorant and foolish anyway.

### ***B. Don't misuse your new freedom in Christ.***

- 1) We have been set free (from bondage of sin & a law-keeping system for salvation).
- 2) But, we must not misuse our freedom by using it as it pleases us only....
  - a) Especially to use it for own evil ends.
  - b) We must not take advantage of our freedom as some do.
- 3) We must realize that we are free, but God's servants to do His will.

### ***C. General exhortation:***

- 1) Honor all men—Think highly of all men—think the best.
- 2) Love the brotherhood—Be concerned, helpful, close, and work together.
- 3) Fear God—Show proper reverence and respect for God.
- 4) Honor the king—Show proper respect to the one who rules over you on earth.

## **III. SERVANTS IN PARTICULAR NEED TO BE OBEDIENT TO THEIR MASTERS (2:18-25)**

### ***A. Accept the authority of your masters over you.***

- 1) By showing respect, reverence, to their position over you.
- 2) To which kind of masters?
  - a) To the good and gentle (kind & considerate).
  - b) But also, to the forward (unreasonable, abusive, unfair, overbearing).
- 3) Why?
  - a) For a good conscience towards God.
  - b) He is the primary one we are trying to please anyway.
- 4) The results?
  - a) God will be pleased.
  - b) He will accept our patient suffering of wrong without complaining.
  - c) He will reward us accordingly.

### ***B. The dignity of such actions—we are acting like Christ.***

- 1) Christ actually suffered to leave us an example to follow.
  - a) He did no wrong (committed no sin).
  - b) No guile was found in His mouth.
  - c) He did not revile His abusers.
  - d) He did not threaten those who abused Him.
  - e) He left the matter in God's hands—who would rightfully judge in such a situation.
- 2) Christ also died for us.
  - a) He bared our sins on the cross.
  - b) He died that we might die to sin.
  - c) He died that we might live righteously.
  - d) We can do so because:
    - We have been cleansed by Jesus' stripes.
    - We have His example to follow after.
- 3) He reminds them that they were going away from God until:
  - a) Christ came into their lives to heal their souls.
  - b) And they allowed Christ to become the shepherd and bishop over their souls.
  - c) Thus, they returned to God.

**CONCLUSION**

1. Christ is not only our Savior, but our example, and the bishop (overseer) of our soul.
2. Since we have been redeemed by the blood of Christ:
  - a) We need to grow in spiritual depth;
  - b) We need to glow among those with whom we live;
  - c) That God may be glorified in our lives and others' lives.
3. This will not be easy—for such a life may be fraught with dangers and/or sufferings.
4. But, we have Christ as our example—our leader in all these things.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- 1. For our lives to be effective in service to Christ, we must realize who we really are!**
- 2. Christians are in a constant warfare that wants to lead to our destruction.**
- 3. Just putting away the fleshly things from our lives is not enough to bring glory to God.**
- 4. Early Christians were falsely accused of many misdeeds with reference to the laws of the land.**
- 5. A godly life may help to soften the heart of the unbeliever so that he may hear, believe and obey the gospel when presented to him.**
- 6. We do not have to obey all the laws of the land—only those that are logical.**
- 7. God has ordained that governmental powers be in place for the good of society.**
- 8. Slaves were told to be in subjection to masters even though they were unreasonable and abusive.**
- 9. Obedience to masters gave the Christian a clear conscience.**
- 10. Christ's sufferings is not only for our salvation, but for our example on how to live in the midst of an evil world.**

## Lesson Five

**“Duties of Husbands and Wives”**

(1 Peter 3:1-7)

The word “duty” has a bad concept in the minds of some people. They do not like to have their duty pushed down their throat. In fact, if some feel it is a duty, they won’t do it. This is unfortunate because the concept is a very good one—especially if properly defined!

- a) Defined: *“That which one is bound to do, or to forbear doing, by moral or legal obligation.”*
- b) Bible: **“Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”**

Thus, to say that one is fulfilling his duties well is a compliment to him. **“So likewise you, when you have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which our duty to do.”** (Luke 17:10). It is very important that we realize what our duties are and fulfill them as best we can. This chapter begins with the duties of husbands and wives and then to one another as Christians.

**DISCUSSION****I. DUTIES OF WIVES TO HUSBANDS (3:1-6)*****A. She is to be submissive to her own husband. (1)***

- 1) God’s reasons for this submission:
  - a) God arranged for it to be this way (1 Cor. 11:3).
  - b) Woman was created for the man (1 Cor. 11:9).
  - c) Man was created first—then the woman (1 Tim. 2:13).
  - d) The woman was first deceived, not the man (1 Tim. 2:14).
- 2) Benefit of this submission:
  - a) This passage deals with a woman who has an unbelieving husband.
  - b) Her submissive life may help to win her unbelieving husband to the Lord.
    - The primary efforts to reach the lost is through preaching the Word.
    - But if this fails, there is only one other recourse—a godly life before them.

***B. The kind of godly life defined. (2-4)***

- 1) One that is chaste—pure, modest, innocent, blameless.
- 2) One that is respectful of her husband as her head.
  - a) Not to be a nagging, argumentative, disrespectful wife.
  - b) But one that shows you respect his leadership.
  - c) Her life will prove the sincerity of her claims.
  - d) Hopefully, it will help the husband to see his need to turn to Christ.
- 3) One that adorns the inner person.
  - a) This is in contrast to worldly-minded women.
  - b) They try to attract and hold men by the outward adorning primarily.

- c) God is not forbidding the outward, but showing where the emphasis ought to be—on the inner person.
- d) To adorn the inner person with a meek and quiet spirit.
- 4) To illustrate his point.
  - a) John 6:27—“***Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life.***”
  - b) He does not forbid working for food that perishes.
  - c) It is a way to emphasize—don’t place your chief emphasis on the material or physical person.
- 5) Godly women are warned not to lay so much stress on lavish display of adornment that they do not tend to the most important—the inner person.
- 6) Meek spirit:
  - a) Not one characterized by self-will, envy, pride, presumption or obstinacy.
  - b) But one that is calm, tranquil, and at peace.
  - c) One that is gentle and mild.

***C. Examples to encourage such.*** (5-6)

- 1) Godly women of old did such.
- 2) Sara in particular:
  - a) Reverenced her husband, calling him, “lord.”
  - b) Obeyed—was in subjection to Abraham’s leadership.
- 3) Her children you are if:
  - a) You will do as she did;
  - b) You will not be driven to terror by sudden events;
  - c) You will not be fearful of what your husband might do to you.

**II. DUTIES OF THE HUSBAND TO HIS WIFE (3:7)**

***A. Dwell with them according to knowledge (understanding) or (God’s Will).***

- 1) Husbands have responsibilities as head that are challenging too:
  - a) To love his wife as Christ loved the church and be willing to lay down his life for her (Eph. 5:25).
  - b) To show proper regard & concern for his wife—nourish & cherish Eph. 5:29).
  - c) To act intelligently & wisely with understanding towards her.
  - d) To be considerate & thoughtful.
- 2) A special forbiddance--Not to become bitter towards her (Col. 3:19).

***B. In particular, to give honor unto the wife.***

- 1) Because she is the weaker vessel.
  - a) She is made different to the man—she requires more care & caution.
  - b) She will not hold up under harsh or careless treatment.
- 2) Because you are joint heirs of the Grace of life.
  - a) She is just as much a child of God as anyone else.
  - b) To be treated and respected as such.
- 3) Because, if you do not, your prayers will be hindered.

**CONCLUSION**

1. While it is quite obvious that these admonitions are not all that can be seen about the husband and wife relationship...these were basic to the situation that was being dealt with.
2. A godly life lived among people is a very potent force for good upon the earth.
3. The Gospel must be taught to people, but it is enhanced by godly living.
4. But there are times when neither preaching nor a godly life will effect a change in people just as in the days of Noah.
5. We need to preach and live the Gospel to the best of our ability:
  - a) So that we can be that influence for good;
  - b) That we might be a light in darkness;
  - c) And be the means of helping to save souls from eternal ruin.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- 1. To do something out of duty has no value!**
- 2. The wife is to be in submission to her head because God said so.**
- 3. God has given reasons in His Word why the wife should be in submission to her husband; therefore it is a sin not to be.**
- 4. A wife's godly life can help to cause a change in her husband's life even though he is unwilling to listen to the Word of God.**
- 5. The Bible says that the woman was deceived, but Adam was not.**
- 6. The woman has as much right to be a Christian as the man does.**
- 7. A meek and gentle spirit is of great value in God's eyes—and also the husband's.**
- 8. Women can be looked upon as being daughters of Sara (Abraham's wife) if they will take action like Sara did.**
- 9. Godly women are forbidden to put too much emphasis upon dressing up the outward person, but to put their emphasis upon dressing up the inner person.**
- 10. A man's prayers can be hindered if he does not treat his wife with respect.**

## Lesson Six

**“Duties of Christians to One Another”**

(1 Peter 3:8-21)

It is God’s plan not only to redeem fallen man, but to give him guidance and motivation to live godly lives in the marital relationship as well as with our brothers and sisters in Christ. If these two relationships are correct, it will make it much easier for the other relationships to be carried out or influenced correctly. A list of things are given to help us in maintaining our relationship with one another so that we can exemplify to the world the way man ought to be living.

**DISCUSSION****I. DUTIES OF CHRISTIANS ONE TO ANOTHER (8-12)*****A. Be all of one mind.***

- 1) Be of the same mind, in one accord, one intent, or one purpose.
- 2) Mind the same things.
- 3) It is an attitude that strives for harmony and peace.
- 4) **“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”** (Eph. 5:3).

***B. Be compassionate.***

- 1) Sympathetic—to suffer with others.
- 2) Identify with people in their joys or sorrows.
- 3) **“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”** (Rom. 12:15).

***C. Love as brethren.***

- 1) Show, express brotherly love.
- 2) Exemplify closeness, affection, concern for one another.

***D. Be pitiful (tenderhearted).***

- 1) Tender, kind, or easily touched or moved by sorrow or joy of others.
- 2) Able to be approached with any problem that people have.

***E. Humble-minded (be courteous)***

- 1) Lowly—modest opinion of one’s self.
- 2) Seeing ourselves as we really are before God & others.
- 3) A true estimate of one’s worth, ability and limitations.

***F. Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing—but blessing.***

- 1) Not giving back the same that you receive.
- 2) Do not retaliate.
- 3) But rather, bless them, speak well of them, or praise them.

***G. Refrain tongue from evil and lips that speak no guile.***

- 1) Longer life is one unusual results of such.
- 2) All manner of evil speaking is to be shunned.

***H. Let him turn away from evil and do good.******I. Seek peace and pursue it.***

- 1) Be diligent in seeking peace with all men.
- 2) See the value of peace and help to bring it about.

***J. Results:***

- 1) Eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous.
  - a) His eyes are upon all, but His approval is only upon the righteous.
  - b) He hates the evil he sees.
- 2) Ears are open to their supplications.
- 3) But the face of the Lord is against the evil-doer.

## **II. DUTIES WHEN PERSECUTED (3:13-17)**

### ***A. Normally, no man will do you harm when you are zealous for that which is good.***

- 1) This is one of God's provisions.
- 2) However:
  - a) Even when some harm does befall us, He makes it work for our good.
  - b) Rom. 8:28

### ***B. Thus, when you are persecuted because you serve God:***

- 1) You are blessed!
  - a) ***“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*** (Matt. 5:10).
  - b) There will be an inner prosperity of your soul.
  - c) Your greatest blessing—eternal life!
- 2) Don't be terrified by their deeds.
  - a) Be composed in the face of your enemies.
  - b) Don't be troubled.
  - c) Don't worry.
  - d) Don't let them take away your inner peace, calmness of mind & soul.
- 3) But sanctify (set apart) God in your heart as Lord.
  - a) To show proper reverence to the Lord you serve.
  - b) If Christ has His proper place, nothing can terrify us.
- 4) Be ready to answer every man's question.
  - a) Be ready to give a reason for your hope.
  - b) Do so with proper respect and kindness.
  - c) Answer with reason & logic—not with bold defiance, arrogance, or pride.
  - d) Do so with an attitude free of scorn, haughtiness, and bitterness.
- 5) Have or keep a good conscience.
  - a) Live up to your knowledge.
  - b) Practice what you teach.
  - c) Don't appear to be a hypocrite.
- 6) It is far better to suffer for doing good, rather than doing evil.
- 7) Results:
  - a) Your accusers will be shown to be liars, slanderers & evil doers.
  - b) You will refute them with your godly life.

## **III. CHRIST AGAIN IS OUR EXAMPLE OF SUFFERING (3:18)**

### ***A. Christ has shown us the way.***

- 1) He suffered for well-doing—he was righteous altogether.
- 2) He died for our sins to bring us to God.
- 3) He was put to death, but made alive again.

***B. How God blessed Him (v. 22).***

- 1) He has gone into heaven to be with the Father.
- 2) He is exalted at God's right hand.
- 3) Angels and authorities and powers have been made subject to Him.
- 4) It is obvious that God will bless us in a similar way.

**IV. PARENTHETICAL THOUGHT (3:19-21)**

***A. The Spirit that raised up Jesus is the same Spirit by which Jesus preached to people in Noah's Day.***

- 1) The spirits of these people were no dis-embodied.
- 2) They are now waiting in prison for their final condemnation.
- 3) But at one time, they were given an opportunity to repent and would not.

***B. When was the preaching done?***

- 1) During the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared for sailing.
- 2) Jesus preached to those disobedient people in Noah's day through Noah!
- 3) It was done while the people were living on the earth for a period of 120 years.

***C. The results of that preaching:***

- 1) Only 8 souls were saved by water.
- 2) The spirits of those disobedient people were now imprisoned, awaiting judgment.

**CONCLUSION**

1. We, too, need preached too because we are sinners.
2. We, too, need to be saved through water (baptism) to escape God's wrath.
3. To be noted about baptism:
  - a) This water has no merit in and of itself to save anyone.
  - b) It is not intended to take away the dirt from our bodies.
  - c) But, it is in the act of baptism that the blood of Christ cleanses us.
4. Upon baptism, our conscience will be made good.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- 1. In order to get along with one another, Christians should strive to be like-minded.**
- 2. To be tenderhearted is to be easily touched by people's problems.**
- 3. True humility is to see ourselves as we really are in the sight of God and others.**
- 4. To retaliate is ungodly.**
- 5. Peace is worth the effort to bring it about.**
- 6. The opposite of being terrified is to be composed.**
- 7. To sanctify God in our hearts is to let him be Lord of our life.**
- 8. We must be prepared to give a reason for why we believe what we do about God.**
- 9. It is far better to suffer for doing good than doing evil.**
- 10. Christ set us an example of suffering for right doing.**

## Lesson Seven

## **“The Key to Stopping Sin”**

### **(1 Peter 4:1-19)**

Losing weight is a challenge that most of us have! We work on it for a while and then drift back into our old habits of eating. When a new plan comes out, we tend to jump on it for a while and then back we go to the old ways again. What we need to do is to eat properly all the time. We should gradually lose the excess weight over a period of time and stay on that eating plan the rest of our lives. No...it is not easy, but needed! Sin in our lives can be much like this as well. We make plans to quit it and it works for a while. But then, we lapse back into the old habits again. What can give us the victory over sin? What is the key to stopping sin in our lives? Many things are involved, but 1 Peter 4 has some answers.

**DISCUSSION****I. ENDURING SUFFERING HELPS TO OVERCOME SIN (4:1-6)****A. “For he that has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.” (1-2)**

- 1) It is obvious that Christians will have to face unjust treatment.
  - a) Christ did while He lived among men and taught.
  - b) Therefore, we need to arm ourselves with His mind.
  - c) Our two strong weapons are:
    - An unwavering faith in the righteousness of our cause.
    - Patient resignation in whatever might befall us here.
- 2) But there is a value in suffering—it helps to turn us from fleshly sins.
  - a) Under persecution, the Christian turns further from such sins.
  - b) Suffering only serves to drive us closer to God.
  - c) It helps us to realize more so the truthfulness of God’s Word.
  - d) And, the need to live for eternity and not for this life.

**B. The former life they had lived described. (3-4)**

- 1) Lasciviousness—unbridled lusts, excesses of the age, outward actions and overt deeds, indecent bodily movements to arouse lust.
- 2) Lusts—Inward desires that are wrong.
- 3) Winebibbings—Excess of wine, becoming drunken over wine, or drinking bouts.
- 4) Revellings—First used innocently of village merrymaking, but later to rioting, drinking parties with indulgences.
- 5) Carousings—Party of revelers parading the streets.
- 6) Abominable idolatries—Degrading of the worship of idols into all kinds of fleshly sins. Roman Law forbade such.
- 7) Excess of riot—Extremes in immoral actions.

**C. Their former companions do not understand why you have made the change. (4-5)**

- 1) You have changed from a love of sin to hatred for it.
- 2) They can’t seem to grasp your motivation for such a change.
- 3) Thus, they speak evil of you, malign you, vilify you.
- 4) But for such they will give an accounting.

**D. Remember, other Christians have faced the same and been faithful. (6)**

- 1) Because there will be a judgment—the Gospel had to be preached.
- 2) The Gospel was preached to those who were dead in sin, just like you were.
- 3) They accepted the Gospel and were made alive unto God.
- 4) They too were falsely accused and judged by men.
- 5) But they remained faithful to their commitment.

## **II. BEING SOBER-MINDED HELPS TO OVERCOME SIN (4:7)**

### ***A. The end of all things is at hand.***

- 1) It is obvious that he was not talking about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ, nor the end of the world.
- 2) It is probably referring to the final overthrow of the Jewish System.
  - a) About 5-7 years after this letter, the destruction of the Temple and the city of Jerusalem came by the Romans.
  - b) Persecution came on the Jews in many places—some of which were Christians.
  - c) No distinctions were made.

### ***B. It is important to be sober-minded and watching unto prayer.***

- 1) Keep your wits about you.
- 2) Be aware of what God has said and watch for its fulfillment.
- 3) Turn to God in prayer for your soul.

## **III. EXERCISING LOVE HELPS TO OVERCOME SIN (4:8-9)**

### ***A. The intensity of love at this time was especially needed.***

- 1) It is to be fervent love—intensely shown!
- 2) Love helps to forgive and put away many failings of people.
  - a) Of our own.
  - b) And especially of others.
- 3) Love covers a multitude of sins.
  - a) Love throws a veil over countless sins.
  - b) Thus, helping to give the victory over sin.

### ***B. This love needs to be expressed in hospitality.***

- 1) Times will come when you will need to share with others.
- 2) Calamities, persecutions will bring these conditions on.
- 3) Be willing to share without murmuring—even giving up what you might like to have for yourself.
- 4) God loves a cheerful giver.

## **IV. USING OUR GIFTS HELPS TO OVERCOME SIN (4:10-11)**

### ***A. Use our gifts to help and encourage one another.***

- 1) Because we realize where these gifts come from (God)—by His grace.
- 2) Make good use of them as good stewards.
- 3) If you have a gift to speak—be sure it is God's truth you speak.
- 4) If you can serve others well—be sure God gets the credit for your serving.

### ***B. Proper use of gifts bring glory to God.***

- 1) God is glorified in and through our lives and activities.
- 2) But only when such conforms to His Will.

- 3) God is also glorified in Jesus Christ.
- 4) Who continually is receiving praise and dominion for ever and ever.

**V. THE PROPER WAY TO SUFFER (4:12-16)**

***A. Don't think it a strange thing for Christians to suffer.* (12-13)**

- 1) It is basically his lot in life—it will come (2 Tim. 3:12)
- 2) It may come as a fiery trial at times.
- 3) Look upon suffering as a means of proving your faith as real.
- 4) It identifies us with Christ in suffering, but also in His glory.

***B. It is something to rejoice in.* (14)**

- 1) There is no joy in suffering.
- 2) But the joy is in the great privilege to be identified with Christ, our Lord.
- 3) When we suffer, the Spirit of glory and of God rest upon us.
- 4) Our identity with Christ is reason for their slander, reviling, persecution.
- 5) But our identity with Christ is our source of Joy.

***C. Christians must not suffer for doing evil.* (15-16)**

- 1) We should not suffer as a murderer.
  - a) One who takes human life lightly.
  - b) One who takes life without remorse.
  - c) One who sheds innocent blood.
- 2) Nor as an evil-doer.
  - a) Sums up a law-breaker.
  - b) Any infraction of God's Law.
- 3) Nor as a meddler in other men's matters.
  - a) Gossip, busy-bodies.
  - b) To intrude in those things that do not concern us.
- 4) His suffering should be because he is a Christian.
  - a) Not to be ashamed of such.
  - b) Reminded that we glorify God in doing so.

**VI. SEVERE TRIAL OF THE CHURCH WAS COMING (4:17-19)**

***A. Judgment must begin with the church.***

- 1) Severe persecutions became a way of life for early Christians for almost 250 years—off and on.
  - a) It came fast & furious at times.
  - b) Only the righteous—godly men & women—would survive the trials.
- 2) The ungodly will also suffer, but they won't stand a chance.
  - a) They won't have God's help and strength to see them through.
  - b) They won't have the example of Jesus to comfort them.
  - c) Nor will they have the strong hope that helps them to see it through.
- 3) Upon the destruction of Jerusalem:
  - a) Wide-spread persecution began throughout the Roman Empire.
  - b) No distinctions were made.

***B. To Christians he urges:***

- 1) Commit your souls into God's faithful hands.
- 2) He is dependable, trustworthy, and can be counted on.

3) Do so, by continuing to live godly, righteous lives.

**CONCLUSION**

1. Having trouble with sin?
  - a) Maybe, we are having it too easy.
  - b) Maybe we need a good dose of trials & persecution.
  - c) That may make sin less attractive to us.
2. God has promised to chastise, discipline those whom He loves (Heb. 12:6).
3. It will be for our good and our profit (Heb. 12:10).
4. Suffering brings its rewards:
  - a) It brings glory to God;
  - b) It brings glory to us as righteous people.
  - c) It helps us to be better prepared for our ultimate home in heaven.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- 1. Sin in our lives may indicate we need a little persecution or suffering.**
- 2. Unless people can see a difference in our lives, it may indicate that I was not converted.**
- 3. Peter's stand: "the end of all things is at hand;" does not refer to the end of time.**
- 4. Loving forgiveness can help us deal with sin in our lives.**
- 5. Hospitality was a must in the early churches because of persecution.**
- 6. The correct use of gifts can help Christians better deal with sin in their lives.**
- 7. Proper use of gifts can bring glory to God.**
- 8. Peter indicates that the Christian should rejoice in his sufferings.**
- 9. Only godly men and women can survive successfully the terrible trials that they face at times.**
- 10. God tells us that when He disciplines us, it is showing His love for us.**

## Lesson Eight

**“Leadership & Fellowship in the Church”**

(1 Peter 5:1-14)

Peter has been emphasizing the individual’s responsibilities as a Christian, but in particular in the mist of persecution or undesirable situations. Now, he turns to emphasize the need for good leaders and good followers in the church. Without good leadership, the church will flounder, coast along, or even die spiritually. But with dedicated, loving, and visionary leaders the church can be challenged to do its best. Poor, mediocre, or ungodly leaders will can be the means of allowing the church to drift along and just existing as a group. Poor attitudes on the part of the members of the church towards leadership can keep the church from fulfilling its mission.

**DISCUSSION****I. KIND OF LEADERS GOD WANTS (5:1-4)*****A. He wants leaders who will feel responsible for the church.***

- 1) Who will tend to the flock as a shepherd tends to his sheep.
  - a) He protects them from harm—from the evil one.
  - b) He provides food for spiritual growth.
  - c) He watches for strays—goes after them—and brings them back to the fold.
- 2) There needs to be a bond (spiritual connection) that holds sheep & shepherd together.
  - a) The common bond is Jesus as Savior of both.
  - b) A common mission that gives meaning to their lives.
  - c) A common hope that they both can look forward to.

***B. He wants leaders who have the right spirit.***

- 1) That has a spirit of humility.
  - a) Does not let his leadership opportunity go to his head.
  - b) Not arrogant, but brotherly identification.
  - c) As Peter (fellow-elder)—not emphasizing his apostleship over them, but one with them in their efforts.
- 2) That has a spirit of willingness and readiness to serve.
  - a) *“If called upon, I will be willing to serve.”*
  - b) I make myself available to be used by the church.
  - c) Not looked upon as a great burden, but a great privilege.
- 3) That does not serve out of the wrong motivation.
  - a) ***“Not from base love of gain.”***
  - b) Not for the wrong reasons, such as the money I can get out of it.
  - c) But rather with a ready mind to serve.
  - d) *“Eager for the task”* implies it is done with zeal & enthusiasm.
- 4) That does not have the spirit of ambition.
  - a) Not serve as “lords” over God’s people.
  - b) Not with the desire to domineer over.
  - c) Not with the spirit of wanting to be over people.

d) Not grasping for power to get “my way.”

e) Matt. 20:25-27

***C. Those that will set the right example before the church.***

1) Who pattern their life after Christ.

2) Who persuade the church to live right by both their teaching & godly example.

3) Heb. 13:7—“...whose lives imitate.”

***D. Those that will look to Jesus for their reward.***

1) Leadership in the church is not very rewarding at times.

2) It is not a reward of power over people;

3) Or a means of getting rich;

4) Or to receive the applause of men;

5) But, a reward given by Jesus at the end of the way.

**II. KIND OF FOLLOWERS GOD WANTS IN HIS FAMILY (5:5-11)**

***A. Leaders need submissive followers.***

1) The natural order—the younger to follow the lead of the older.

2) To show respect for their age & experience, as well as their life.

3) But the older are to respect and appreciate the younger members as well.

4) Unity, harmony, peace, and prosperity depends upon being submissive, respectful, and giving in to one another (Eph. 5:21).

5) From a negative standpoint:

a) Not to be lawless and a self-righteous spirit.

b) Not the kind that wants to remodel everything to his own ideas.

c) Not to despise older people as antiquated, obstructive.

***B. Leaders need humble followers.***

1) We are to be clothed with humility.

a) “*Clothes make the man.*”

b) Spiritual clothing makes us right with God.

c) Humility is what Christians need to be known for.

2) Does not have a spirit that stands aloof (I’m better than them).

a) One that cannot bend, nor yield, nor serve.

b) One too good to do certain things.

3) One that humbly submits to God’s directions first and foremost!

a) Who really believes and trusts in God’s promised care over us.

b) Who have no reason to worry—but leave things in God’s hands.

4) Firmly believing that humility is the best and right way to live.

a) That God will bless such a spirit or life.

b) That God will raise that person to a place of honor among men.

***C. Leaders need to have watchful followers.***

1) That do not follow just anything or anyone.

a) Leaders have been known to go wrong also (Acts 20:28-32).

b) Evaluate their leadership decisions to be sure they are scriptural.

2) Also be watchful of our own thoughts, words, and actions.

a) The devil is going to try to find weaknesses in our armor.

b) He is going to look for any weak & wandering sheep to lead astray.

c) He is ravenous with hunger to devour us.

- d) He is restless in his energetic efforts to seduce us.
- e) We need to be aware of him and his ways and withstand him.
  - Take a firm stand against him.
  - Show a rock-like stability.
  - Hold to our trust in God.
- f) Three means of resisting:
  - Confidence in God's Word;
  - Realize that suffering is not peculiar to me alone;
  - The same suffering has been and will be by many of our brethren.

***D. Leaders need followers who are steadfast in suffering.***

- 1) Who realize that trials must come into all of our lives.
- 2) But who also realize that we have been called to eternal glory through Christ.
- 3) Who realize that suffering is a part of living the Christian life (2 Tim. 3:12).
- 4) The end result of steadfastness is:
  - a) Perfection—Mature outlook as a Christian—complete what is lacking.
  - b) Established—Firmly fixed and grounded in Christ.
  - c) Strengthened—Given greater courage and strength to resist.
  - d) Settled—Make us a permanent fixture in God's Temple—a useful tool in God's hands.

***E. Leaders need followers who give glory to God.***

- 1) One who fully remembers the cost of their redemption.
- 2) One who realizes the greatness of their debt to God.
- 3) One who feels compelled to express their gratitude to Him for all He has done.

**III. PURPOSE OF LETTER (5:12-14)**

***A. It was a letter sent by the hand of Silas, who was a faithful brother unto them.***

***B. To reaffirm that this is the true grace of God.***

- 1) Persecution is no sign that this doctrine is of men.
- 2) If anything, it is a sign that it is of God—for they hated Jesus.
- 3) So, don't be shaken by these troubles.
- 4) Don't leave Christ, the true grace of God—but remain steadfast!

***C. To send Greetings from the church where he was.***

- 1) He was at Babylon.
  - a) Old Babylon had been completely destroyed.
  - b) But a new Babylon had arisen a short distance away.
  - c) Many Jews still lived there.
  - d) Some had become Christians—they answered the same call that all others had responded unto.
- 2) John Mark sends his greetings—who had become a faithful worker among the churches.

***D. To encourage them to be sincere in their greetings to one another.***

- 1) Greet one another with a kiss of charity (love).
- 2) A customary way of greeting was kissing on the cheek.
- 3) Be sure that it is out of sincere love for one another—not an outward show.

***E. To express the desire for God's peace to be with them.***

**CONCLUSION**

1. The Christian life is:
  - a) To be one of growth—so they can glow!
  - b) One of joy amidst sorrows or sufferings.
  - c) To be one of living up to the challenging duties God places upon each one.
  - d) To be one of overcoming sin.
  - e) To be one that is submissive, humble, trusting, watchful, and steadfast.
2. All of which is possible with God's help.
  - a) Not only at the beginning of the Christian life....
  - b) But the completing of it in Christ.
  - c) To Him be all the glory!

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- \_\_\_ **1. Leaders have no authority over God's people—they only have their example to place before God's people to follow.**
- \_\_\_ **2. Leaders can have the wrong motives for wanting to be appointed an elder or a deacon.**
- \_\_\_ **3. It is wrong to give support to a man serving as an elder.**
- \_\_\_ **4. Leaders have no real reward for their work in this life.**
- \_\_\_ **5. Unity, harmony, peace, and respectfulness is necessary for the church to go forward with its mission.**
- \_\_\_ **6. Followers need to be watchful that leaders do not mislead them, but at the same time strive to be humble followers.**
- \_\_\_ **7. Leaders can only lead when there are people willing to follow their lead.**
- \_\_\_ **8. Peter mentions both Silas and John Mark as co-workers in this letter.**
- \_\_\_ **9. Peter wrote this letter from the city of Babylon.**
- \_\_\_ **10. God calls upon his people to greet by a holy kiss.**

*Lesson Nine*

## **“The Christian’s Grand Assurances”**

**(2 Peter 1:1-21)**

All of our beliefs and actions should have a firm basis in fact, evident, or proof. Such makes its appeal to our sense of reason, thinking, and logic. We are thinking, reasoning beings. When we do not think or reason correctly, we come up with wrong answers most of the time.

Belief in Christianity is no different! The Word of God appeals to man’s ability to think and reason leading to logical conclusions. Appeals to our emotions are definitely secondary and should be. Emotional conclusions are usually wrong conclusions. One of the strong emphasis of 2 Peter chapter one is the great assurances that we have as Christians.

A brief outline of 2 Peter is given below from a little different standpoint from what we will use to study through these three chapters:

### **OUTLINE OF 2 PETER**

#### **I. THE NEED FOR DILIGENCE (1:1-21)**

**A. To make our calling and election sure (1-11)**

**B. The reason for his reminding them of such (12-21)**

#### **II. WARNING AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS (2:1-22)**

**A. Their coming is sure (1)**

**B. Their methods and destruction (2-11)**

**C. Their sinful ways (12-19)**

**D. Their terrible end (20-22)**

#### **III. THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST’S COMING (3:1-18)**

**A. Scoffers will come and deny it (1-7)**

**B. The certainty of His coming (8-10)**

**C. So live to be ready for it (11-18)**

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. THE ASSURANCE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN TO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE & GODLINESS (1:1-3)**

##### ***A. To whom writer?***

- 1) Possibly to the same people to which the first letter was addressed.
  - a) 1 Pet.1:1-2
  - b) At least it is to those who have a like precious faith in Christ Jesus.
- 2) He also desires that Grace and peace be multiplied unto them.

##### ***B. The first grand assurance is given!***

- 1) God has given to us all things that pertain to life & godliness.
  - a) It first of all emphasizes the completeness of the Message given to the early church.
  - b) John 16:13; Jude 3
  - c) Mankind has had revealed to them all they need to know about God and

- how to obtain and sustain our relationship to Him.
- d) This was given by God's divine power (1 Cor. 1:21).
- 2) This is not just to satisfy intellectual knowledge, but a way of living that is right.
  - a) A knowledge that leads to eternal life (Jn. 17:3).
  - b) A knowledge that makes for an intimate relationship with God.

## **II. AN ASSURANCE OF BECOMING PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE (1:4)**

### ***A. These are great and precious promises.***

- 1) To have access to all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).
- 2) To receive a hundredfold in this life & eternal life (Matt. 19:29).
- 3) Heaven and all its glories awaits the faithful Christian.
- 4) But here, the promise is unique—be a partaker of the divine nature!
  - a) Unique relationship with God in heaven.
  - b) Even here we become children of God in a special way.
  - c) We even become more and more like God as we mature.

### ***B. The assurance is there because of the One who promises.***

- 1) His promises are unimpeachable and dependable.
- 2) He is One who cannot lie, cannot change—who is the true and faithful One (Rev. 19:11).

### ***C. Conditions attached to the promises.***

- 1) The conditions can all be met if we desire to do so.
- 2) They are not impossible conditions that only a small number can meet.
- 3) But conditions all can meet if they decide to do so (Rev. 22:17).
- 4) These promises are not reserved for the elite, but for the elect!
- 5) They are not for the choice ones, but for the chosen!
- 6) The message is to go out to all, for all, for all can respond.
- 7) All can have access to these exceeding great & precious promises.

## **III. AN ASSURANCE OF AN ENTRANCE INTO THE TERNAL KINGDOM (1:5-11)**

### ***A. This entrance is guaranteed upon the condition of our diligence (vs. 5-7).***

- 1) Spiritual maturity & steadfastness comes through diligence.
  - a) It does not come without effort.
  - b) It is not given without my diligent effort.
- 2) These great & desirable virtues are gifts of God, but conditional!

### ***B. This diligence blesses us with three things: (8-11)***

- 1) That we will be fruitful children of God.
- 2) That we will have far-sighted vision rather than near-sighted.
  - a) We no longer see for the moment things at hand.
  - b) But, we look to the future—to eternity—to the real things!
- 3) That we can make our calling & election sure.
  - a) God has called us to live this way.
  - b) To fail to do so destroys our purpose of being called.

**IV. AN ASSURANCE OF A CONTINUAL REMINDER OF THESE PRECIOUS PROMISES (1:12-15)**

***A. The knowledge of these spiritual truths is most vital.***

- 1) Such brings great rewards spiritually.
- 2) To come to doubt these truths or be turned from them is disastrous!

***B. Thus, Peter is saying: "I am aware of what is needed."***

- 1) He saw the need to remind them of these truths continually in written form.
- 2) And thus, provided the means by doing so.
- 3) These letters from God serve their purpose well.

**V. AN ASSURANCE THAT THIS MESSAGE IS FROM GOD (1:16-21)**

***A. These are eye-witness accounts that you can depend upon.***

- 1) These are not made-up things.
  - a) They are not cunningly devised fables—fictitious stories originating with men.
  - b) They are not myths, legends, or tales of men.
  - c) They are not traditions passed down to them from others.
- 2) But, they were eye-witnesses of these great events.
  - a) They beheld his glory that God bestowed upon Him (Mount of Transfiguration).
  - b) They saw His majesty.
  - c) They even heard God's voice from heaven saying: ***"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."***

***B. The Old Testament Prophets give full assurance of these things too.***

- 1) What the Apostles saw first-hand:
  - a) Confirmed what the prophets had prophesied of for hundreds of years.
  - b) In fact, it made their words more sure to be trusted.
- 2) Therefore, do not neglect the reading of these prophecies of Christ.
  - a) Give attention to them—fix them in your minds.
  - b) The two witnesses confirm & strengthen one another.
  - c) The light given by the prophets is made brighter through the revelation of their message of Jesus Christ.

***C. The origination of these prophecies came from God.***

- 1) The prophets did not understand themselves what they were giving.
- 2) Their message did not come out of their own mind and understanding.
- 3) It came by the Holy Spirit moving these men to speak God's message.

**CONCLUSION**

1. If men live in darkness today, it is not God's fault.
  - a) He has given a perfect revelation to mankind.
  - b) It has come through Jesus, His Son.
  - c) So that men can be fully enlightened and be enabled to walk in light.
2. Men no longer need to remain in doubt, unbelief, despair, or hopelessness.
  - a) They can be fully assured of these things.
  - b) Even the living of the Christian life is its own best assurance of its divine origin.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- 1. Emotional decisions are always bad decisions.**
- 2. Decisions based on facts, evidences, and proofs are sound reasoning and logical.**
- 3. This first chapter is helping us see five assurances that these things are from God.**
- 4. Peter says that God has given us a complete revelation.**
- 5. The sureness of God's promises are based upon the nature of God, Himself.**
- 6. God's promises are conditional—man has a part to play in God's scheme of things.**
- 7. Eternal life is promised to the one who diligently tries to make his calling and election sure.**
- 8. It is not all that important to be reminded of these things continually.**
- 9. The apostles were eye-witnesses of these events that has made our salvation possible.**
- 10. Old Testament Prophets gave many prophecies about Jesus that did not come from their own thinking.**

## Lesson Ten

## **“The Imminent Dangers of False Teachers”** (2 Peter 2:1-22)

Chapter one of 2 Peter gave us the grand assurances of our relationship with God and of the everlasting relationship that we can have with Him after this life is over in the “everlasting kingdom.” However, there are also grave dangers of the possibilities of losing those assurances. The Christian must recognize his part, his responsibilities, and the diligence with which he shoulders these responsibilities. 2 Peter 2 gives in detail the deceptive powers of false teachers and how they use us to gain their own ends.

**DISCUSSION****I. WARNING OF THE DANGERS OF FALSE TEACHERS (2:1-3)*****A. False Prophets have been in the past, and today is no different!***

- 1) As in the past, we can expect them now too.
- 2) They are teachers who abuse the truth for their own selfish & wicked ends.
- 3) As Judas betrayed Jesus for money; so we can expect even worse of these false teachers.
- 4) We must be watchful!

***B. The character of the teacher and his teaching:***1) His character:

- a) “Pernicious ways.”
- b) Lascivious, licentious, wanton, immoral, dissolute practices.
- c) They will privily, secretly, cunningly introduce their heresy.
  - His teaching will lead to spiritual destruction.
  - Both teacher and the taught will be destroyed.

2) His teaching:

- a) Such teachings will deny the Lord who bought them.
- b) They will actually turn on Him who saved them.
- c) Various false doctrines came into being shortly after this, such as:
  - They denied the distinction in the Godhead.
  - They denied the Divinity of Jesus.
  - They denied the humanity of Jesus.
  - They denied the reality of Jesus’ death on the cross.
  - They separated Jesus from the Christ.
  - They made a distinction between the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament.

d) Their teachings led to all kinds of licentious practices—indulgences in immoralities.

3) Deals also with their motive for teaching:

- a) They do not care for souls—but for money.
- b) They were not concerned about the flock of God, but fleecing the flock.
- c) With fair words, cunningly devised, carefully thought out fabrications—they will attract & ensnare souls in their destructive doctrines.

***C. Sad thing—many will get caught up & follow their pernicious (ungodly) ways.***

- 1) Souls that belonged to Jesus were given back over to Satan's hold.
- 2) The outcome:
  - a) The truth is evil spoken against.
  - b) The truth is brought into disrepute in the eyes of the world.

## **II. THE DANGER OF BEING CONDEMNED WITH THE FALSE TEACHERS (2:3-9)**

### ***A. Judgment is coming upon such teachers.***

- 1) They richly deserve it—they have for a long time.
- 2) Their sentence has already gone out from long ago.
- 3) And, God's wrath will fall upon them suddenly & consume them in a moment.

### ***B. Examples of God's past judgments upon the wicked.***

#### 1) The Angels who sinned.

- a) If Angels can sin in the presence of God; then, we can expect men to sin in the midst of the church.
- b) Therefore, watch & pray that we rebel not against God.
- c) For these Angels rebelled and received God's wrath:
  - They were cast down into "tartarus" (a waiting place in Hades for the wicked).
  - They were delivered into chains of darkness (restrained, kept under guard).
  - Reserved unto judgment of that great Day (it is coming).

#### 2) The Old World in Noah's Day.

- a) God did not spare that wicked world.
- b) All of mankind was caught up in grievous sinfulness.
- c) Only Noah and his family escaped the destruction in the flood.
- d) Reason—he was a preacher of righteousness—obedient to God—he trusted in God.

#### 3) Cities of Sodom & Gomorrah.

- a) God condemned them with an overthrow—turned cities into ashes.
  - He rained fire & brimstone down upon them.
  - They serve as a sample of God's punishment upon the ungodly.
- b) This punishment should serve as a warning to the ungodly today!
- c) But God preserved Lot from this destruction.
- d) Reason—He was righteous!
  - His righteous soul was vexed (shocked) day after day with their wickedness.
  - Sodomy, Homosexuality, Lesbianism, Lewdness, Licentiousness, Dissolute habits of Lawlessness.
- e) It is obvious them:
  - That God can save the righteous—spare them—deliver them.
  - But, at the same time, reserve the guilty for just punishment.
- f) Just think—if only 10 righteous persons could have been bound in these cities, they would have been spared.
- g) How little does the world realize how God orders the course of this world for the benefit of the faithful!

**III. DANGERS OF BEING MISLED OR DECEIVED BY THEIR TEACHINGS AND WAYS OF LIVING (2:10-19)**

***A. These teachers were presumptuous!***

- 1) They despised Government (Authority)
  - a) They will not be restrained.
  - b) They are self-willed, daring, and do what they want.
  - c) They despise every form of authority, but themselves.
  - d) They speak evil of those nobler and those over them.
  - e) And think they will not be punished for it.
- 2) Contrast between elect Angels & them.
  - a) Angels are higher in power & might.
  - b) Yet:
    - They do not rail against these false teachers.
    - If they announce God's Judgment upon such, it is with solemnity and sadness.
  - c) But these presumptuous teachers are different!
    - They rail at things which they do not understand.
    - They do not hesitate to revile even celestial beings.
    - *"Fools jump in where Angels fear to tread!"*
  - d) Peter likens them to brute beast.
    - They are without reason or common sense.
    - Like beast, they are made to be taken and killed for good.
    - They shall utterly perish in their own corruptions.
    - They shall receive the reward of their unrighteousness.

***B. Their sensuality described:***

- 1) They are gluttonous & drunken.
  - a) They love luxurious living.
  - b) They are worse than their heathen neighbors.
    - The world revels in the night.
    - But these teachers are so caught up in sin, they can't wait for the night.
  - c) They openly join in the love feast with Christians.
    - But it is only a pretense to ensnare.
    - They are spots, blemishes in your midst.
- 2) Their impurity is obvious.
  - a) They indulge openly in vice.
  - b) Their eyes are full of adultery.
  - c) They try to catch men by their wiles.
  - d) Such will end in death.

***C. Their covetousness described:***

- 1) They are like Balaam—seeking to destroy souls for money.
- 2) They are trained in covetous ways.
- 3) By such they can lure men into death.

***D. Their teaching described:***

- 1) It is vain, vanity, of no value spiritually.

- a) Like wells without water.
    - They profess to be teachers, but have nothing of real value to offer.
    - Their teaching leads to death, not life.
  - b) Like clouds that promise rain, but give none.
    - Make great promises, but cannot fulfill them.
    - Make great swelling words, but they are empty, worthless, lifeless.
- 2) It is dangerous!
- a) Their teaching is alluring to the unwary, immature, and the naïve.
  - b) They will succeed in destroying the souls who have just escaped the pollutions of the world.
  - c) They promise liberty, but it is not true liberty.
    - Their liberty is in reality “Libertinism.”
    - It is freedom from moral restraint (like our generation is now).
    - It is a revolt against the Law of God.
    - It is a lie, it is not truth.
    - It shows no real concern for people.

***E. Their miserable condition described:***

- 1) They are slaves, and do not know it.
- 2) They talk loudly about being free, but are in bondage themselves.
  - a) They are caught up in their own evil.
  - b) Vice allures men by deceitful pleasures.
  - c) It makes restraints of virtue seem irksome, undesirable.
  - d) Men want to be free, to throw off all restraints, and do as they please.
  - e) And then, wake up to realize that the deceitfulness of sin has caught them in its destructive net.

**IV. CHRISTIANS ARE WARNED AGAIN OF THE DANGERS OF FALLING AWAY (2:20-22).**

***A. The Christian is described:***

- 1) They have escaped the pollutions of the world.
- 2) They have been led out of it by Jesus.
- 3) It is through a knowledge of Him and obedience to the Gospel.

***B. The falling away described:***

- 1) They become entangled again in sinfulness—they go back into the old life of sin.
- 2) But this time, they are overcome or overpowered in that kind of life.

***C. The terribleness of their condition described:***

- 1) The latter end is worse than the beginning.
  - a) To learn the truth and obey it; and, then turn from it is dangerous.
  - b) To experience the benefits of being a Christian; and, then give it up is said to be worse than not having heard the truth.
  - c) The truth may lose its calling and drawing power—and there is nothing else to turn unto.
- 2) He illustrates the condition:
  - a) Like a dog returning to its vomit and eating it.
  - b) Like a pig that was washed that returns to the mire again.

**CONCLUSION**

1. Warnings are given to be heeded.
2. Let's be aware of the dangers & watch to protect our souls from danger.
3. Keep God's assurances to us alive.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- \_\_\_ 1. False teachers among God's people have been around almost since the beginning.
- \_\_\_ 2. Such teachers change God's truth so they can engage in immoral activities.
- \_\_\_ 3. The false teacher's motive for teaching is money, not souls.
- \_\_\_ 4. Peter said that only a few will get caught up in such.
- \_\_\_ 5. Fallen Angels are said to be cast down into Tartarus.
- \_\_\_ 6. The flood was brought about by God to punish the wicked world in Job's day.
- \_\_\_ 7. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God in spite of their religiousness.
- \_\_\_ 8. False teachers are not respectful of those who are over them or more knowledgeable than they.
- \_\_\_ 9. "Eyes full of adultery" means that these teachers were deeply concerned for ungodly people.
- \_\_\_ 10. These teachers promised liberty from God's Law, but were in slavery themselves.

## Lesson Eleven

**“Standing on the Promises of God”**

(2 Peter 3:1-18)

It is not enough to be fully assured by God that His promises are sure. The reason is obvious—there are false teachers who would like to lure us away from obedience to God to follow their “pernicious” ways! Therefore, there is a very strong need for every Christian to stand firm on the Word of God and God’s promises. There is also a danger of becoming lax and lukewarm and letting these things slip from us as well. God has done and still is doing whatever He can to keep us safe, but we are the ones that must make the decision and stand firm in our responsibilities as a child of God.

**DISCUSSION****I. DON’T LET SCOFFERS CAUSE YOU TO DOUBT GOD’S PROMISES (3:1-9)*****A. Characteristics of scoffers (1-4)***

- 1) Their lives:
  - a) They walk after their own lusts.
  - b) They follow sensual habits.
- 2) Their ungodliness is the reason for their doubts!
- 3) There are different kinds of doubters:
  - a) Like Thomas—honest, but needed to be shown the evidence.
  - b) Those who want to believe, but have hindrances.
  - c) Some are skeptics because they want to doubt to justify their ungodliness, lustfulness, and self-indulgence.
- 4) The pure morality of the Gospel offends their self-indulgent attitude.
  - a) It is a constant reproach.
  - b) A judgment upon them that is repulsive to them.
  - c) Sin has hardened their lives.
  - d) Their eyes are blinded by their sin.
- 5) They try to cause doubt in others by their bold assumptions.
  - a) They assert—“*The Apostles taught that He was coming shortly.*”
  - b) They then ask: “*Where is His coming?*”
  - c) “*Already a generation of Christians have died and He still hasn’t come.*”
  - d) “*We see no difference, nor know of any difference in things from the very beginning of creation.*”
    - They assert that God created all things and set it into motion.
    - But, then he left it—now it is law that operates it.
    - But Jesus said: “***My Father works, and I work....***”

***B. Revelation’s answer to these scoffers (3:5-9)***

- 1) They are willingly ignorant of a great fact about creation:
  - a) The heavens of old were created by the Word of God.
  - b) If God’s Word created them, then His Word is dependable.
- 2) They are also willingly ignorant of another great fact of history:
  - a) The earth was created out of water at the beginning.

- b) With that same water, God completely flooded the world.
  - The world perished in that great flood.
  - Great changes took place in God's creation at that time.
  - So, things have not continued on as from the beginning without change.
  - Their assumptions are false.
- 3) By that same Word, God is preserving the present Heavens and Earth.
  - a) Without God's power upholding all things:
    - The world would perish immediately.
    - Order would turn into Chaos.
  - b) But it too is being preserved for a great calamity:
    - Reserved unto fire in the Day of Judgment.
    - Reserved until the time God has decreed the perdition of ungodly men.
- 4) These scoffers think that God regards time as they do.
  - a) So, don't you become guilty of that same assumption.
  - b) Time is not of key importance to God.
    - Past, Present and the Future are as ONE to Him.
    - A 1000 years is as one day, a day as a 1000 years.
  - c) Souls are important to God—their being saved in particular.
  - d) The carrying out of God's promises will not be on man's basis.
    - Men's system of carrying out promises is often very slack.
    - Most of the time, it is because of selfish reasons.
  - e) The Lord's delay in His coming is not because of:
    - A lack of power.
    - Inability.
    - Unconcern or indifference.
    - That He is not aware of what is going on.
    - Or, that He has forgotten the time.
  - f) But, His delay is because of:
    - His love of souls.
    - It is out of His great longsuffering for sinful man (2 Pet. 3:9).
    - Still giving sinful men an opportunity to come to his senses and repentance.
    - For "***God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.***" (Ezek. 18:23, 32; 33:11).

## **II. THE PROMISES OF GOD IN REGARDS TO JESUS' COMING (3:10-11)**

### ***A. His coming will be like a thief in the night.***

- 1) It will be sudden and when least expected.
- 2) Men will be living heedlessly to God's warnings and His Will.
- 3) His coming will catch men totally unprepared.
- 4) It will be God's decision.

### ***B. At His coming, the heavens will pass away with a great noise.***

- 1) Like a great whizzing sound, rush of wings, sound of a mighty wind or roaring waters.
- 2) It will be the CRASH of a falling world.
- 3) The roar of destruction in flames.
- 4) Verse 12—***“The heavens being on fire shall be dissolved.”***

***C. At His coming, the elements shall melt with fervent heat.***

- 1) The framework of the world will be disorganized, melted down.
- 2) The present structure of things will no longer exist.

***D. At His coming, the earth and the works therein will be burned up.***

- 1) Both the beauty of God’s handiwork and the handiwork of men will be destroyed.
- 2) All will be done away—no longer to exist.

***E. All things will be dissolved.***

- 1) As if the above was not enough.....
- 2) Or, in summary of the above—all things—nothing left!

**III. IN VIEW OF THESE PROMISES, HOW SHOULD WE LIVE? (3:11-18)**

***A. Live holy lives.***

- 1) Need to see the necessity of living pure lives—free of immorality & ungodliness.
- 2) So live, that we can eagerly look for the Lord’s coming.
- 3) To show that we believe and want to hasten His coming.

***B. Live with hope of something far better.***

- 1) This destruction is not the end of things.
- 2) God has promised a “new heavens and earth.”
- 3) It will be a place only for the righteous.
- 4) This destruction is just the ushering in of a newer and greater system of things.

***C. Live a peaceful life.***

- 1) Be at peace with all men.
- 2) Keep your peace with God and men by how you live.
- 3) Be like Christ—without spot or blemish.
- 4) Be ready as a bride adorned for her husband (Eph. 5:26-27).

***D. Realize that the long-suffering of God means salvation for people.***

- 1) Scoffers look upon delay as slackness, indifference, or unconcern.
- 2) But to us, it means salvation for more people.
- 3) Peter states that Paul wrote about these things also.
  - a) This shows a familiarity with Paul’s writings.
  - b) He wrote by inspiration.
  - c) He spoke of these things also in his letters.
- 4) However, some of the things he wrote are not easy to understand at first.
  - a) It infers that the majority was easy to understand.
  - b) That some passages take a little more time and effort.
- 5) Unfortunately:
  - a) The unlearned & unstable take advantage of such passages.
  - b) They wrest or twist or distort them to teach falsehood.
  - c) But they do the other Scriptures that way too.

6) Such actions will bring about their destruction.

***E. Two dangers to beware of:***

- 1) Don't get caught up in the trap of these ungodly heretics.
- 2) Don't be thus deceived into turning from your own steadfast faith and trust in God.

***F. Keep on Growing.***

- 1) To remain steadfast, we must continue to grow.
- 2) Grow in the grace and favor of God by doing His commandments.
- 3) Grow in the knowledge of both the Father and the Son.
- 4) Be grounded and thoroughly convinced of Jesus' Deity, His ability to save, and that He is God's anointed One!

**CONCLUSION**

1. Hope is the anchor of the soul.
2. After this life, what then?
  - a) For the ungodly, disobedient, eternal destruction from the presence of God.
  - b) For the believing, trusting, faithful Christ—a new heaven's & earth wherein dwells righteousness.
3. Do you have this hope based upon your submission to the Lord?

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- \_\_\_ 1. Scoffers and False Teachers are the same breed of people.
- \_\_\_ 2. Scoffers have as their purpose to bring doubt concerning the promises of God.
- \_\_\_ 3. These men had forgotten that God created the earth out of water at the beginning.
- \_\_\_ 4. The water at the beginning was used to destroy wicked mankind in the great flood.
- \_\_\_ 5. God has created all things, set them in motion, and they operate without His interference.
- \_\_\_ 6. God's delay in coming is because of His lack of concern for people.
- \_\_\_ 7. At Jesus' coming, all things will be dissolved.
- \_\_\_ 8. It is necessary to live a holy life in order to be saved.
- \_\_\_ 9. The new heavens and earth is another way of saying "heaven."
- \_\_\_ 10. Paul purposeful wrote some things that are hard to understand.

*Lesson Twelve*

## **“Identifying False Teachers”** **(Jude 1-25)**

Because of the similarity to 2 Peter 2, it was thought wise to cover the book of Jude as a part of the study of 1 & 2 Peter. The two chapters tie together and re-enforce each other. Even though Jude covers the same ground that 2 Peter 2 does, he has his own unique way of doing it. In particular, Jude has eleven listings of 3's in these 25 verses.

The writer identifies himself as Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, but a brother of James. As a believer in the Lordship of Christ, he gladly yields himself to His Will. It is a service that is rendered from motives of Love, Gratitude, and Joy. But he was also a brother of Jesus just like James was.

The ones to whom he wrote were those who had been sanctified, cleansed, and set apart for holy service by Jesus. These saints not only had a close relationship with Jesus but also were kept in this save condition in Christ. They are the called out people of God, but it is understood that they had to answer that call to be among the chosen of God. He desired for them:

- a) God's mercy—God's continual kindness and forgiveness that they needed.
- b) God's peace—Being right with God, self, and fellow-man.
- c) God's love—Shown by His redemption of mankind.

He desired that these be multiplied in their lives.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. HIS STATED PURPOSE FOR WRITING (3-4)**

##### ***A. To exhort them to earnestly contend for the faith.***

- 1) To contend—to fight in defense of—struggle to defend—to enter into a vigorous defense of the faith.
- 2) The faith—that system of beliefs that characterizes Christianity.
  - a) That teaching to be believed that has been given by God.
  - b) The Truth, the Word of God, the God-breathed Scriptures.
- 3) Once for all delivered to God's people.
  - a) For all time—never to be superseded, amended or modified.
  - b) It is perfect (complete) (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 13:10).

##### ***B. To deal with the deceptive false teachers.***

- 1) Men crept in unawares.
  - a) Not recognized for what they really are.
  - b) True beliefs and motives not yet made known—that is, to seduce the saints.
- 2) Yet, their appearance was not un-anticipated.
  - a) They were written about from of old—beforehand.
  - b) That such false teachers would definitely come.
  - c) That their condemnation has already been pronounced upon them.
- 3) Their identity:
  - a) Ungodly—without reverence for God—speak against God—usurp His

- power.
- b) Turning the grace of God into lasciviousness.
    - Twisting God’s grace to be permissive & indulgent in lawlessness.
    - Condoning immorality.
  - c) Denying the only Lord God, and Lord Jesus Christ.
    - By their teachings & practices show they have turned from God.
    - They have turned from Jesus as Lord & Master.

## **II. HE REMINDS THEM OF PAST JUDGMENTS UPON THE DISOBEDIENT (6-7)**

### ***A. Punishment of unbelieving Israel.***

- 1) God delivered Israel out of Egyptian bondage by His power.
- 2) He led them into the wilderness and gave them a great Law to govern them.
- 3) In spite of all the miracles & God’s care, they disbelieved Him. (Num. 14:22-23; Heb. 3:17-19).
- 4) They disbelieved, disobeyed and were punished.

### ***B. Punishment of the Angels that sinned.***

- 1) Angels kept not their first estate.
  - a) Angels are moral creatures that answer to God.
  - b) They are created spiritual beings.
  - c) Their original place was with God.
  - d) But some of them decided to depart—made a decision.
  - e) They abandoned the place God gave them.
- 2) He has reserved such for punishment.
  - a) In everlasting chains:
    - Place of bondage.
    - Place of restraint.
    - Held captive or subdued.
    - In Tartarus (2 Pet. 2:4).
  - b) Under darkness:
    - They love darkness (evil).
    - They are held under that darkness.
  - c) Unto the Judgment of that great Day.
    - This is a final judgment of all.
    - Angels will be judged as all men will be.
    - But, no redemption is offered for them (Heb. 2:16).

### ***C. Punishment of Sodom & Gomorrah & cities of Plains.***

- 1) Their terrible condition described in Gen. 19.
- 2) Described here:
  - a) Given themselves over to fornication (all kinds of immorality).
  - b) Even going after strange flesh (Homosexuality or Lesbians).
- 3) Their punishment:
  - a) Fire & brimstone from heaven will devour them.
  - b) An example of that punishment that is to come.

## **III. DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FALSE TEACHERS (8-10)**

### ***A. Called “filthy dreamers”***

- 1) Likewise, in like manner, so are these false teachers.
- 2) They are like the above examples—provoking God to punish them.

***B. Defile the flesh.***

- 1) Commit unspeakable sins of the flesh.
- 2) Defile, pollute the body.

***C. Despise dominion***

- 1) Have contempt for authority—make light of it.
- 2) Whether civil or religious.

***D. Speak evil of dignitaries.***

- 1) They rail at, malign them, scoff at, deride & insult authorities.
- 2) They speak evil of men in high places or Angelic hosts.
- 3) Yet, in contrast:
  - a) Michael, who is an Archangel (Chief over Angels) (Prince over Israel).
  - b) When debating with the Devil over Moses' body did not bring against the Devil a railing accusation.
  - c) But, rather said: "***The Lord rebuke thee.***"
- 4) These teachers do what holy Angels would not even do to Satan, much less to good men or God.
- 5) They rail at what they do not know about or understand.
- 6) But what they do know, they revel in and corrupt themselves.

**IV. THE PUNISHMENT THREATENED UPON THESE TEACHERS (11-13)**

***A. Three examples to illustrate the way they were traveling.***

- 1) The way of Cain.
  - a) Cain defied a simple Law of Sacrifice that was given by God.
  - b) He was rebuked & warned to deal with sin in his life.
  - c) He did not listen again, but murdered his brother.
  - d) Cain's way is a way of disobedience, hate, murder—ruin!
- 2) The way of Balaam.
  - a) "Error of Balaam."
  - b) He degraded his prophetic gift for gain.
  - c) He tried to seduce Israel for personal gain.
- 3) The way of Korah.
  - a) "gainsaying of Korah."
  - b) He rebelled against God's appointed leader.
  - c) These teachers were following same paths of these people.

***B. Three things that promise but do not deliver that illustrates the lives of these teachers.***

- 1) Spots in your feasts of love.
  - a) Blotches in your fellowship together.
  - b) Early Christians ate common meals together.
    - c) They ate with them as though everything was fine—no fear of punishment.
- 2) They are like clouds without any promised rain.
  - a) Rain is needed—clouds come with the promise of moisture.

- b) But the hot winds quickly blow them away—no rain!
- c) These teachers promise great things, but only to deceive people.
- 3) They are like trees that have no fruit.
  - a) They should have fruit, but have none.
  - b) They promise, but no fruit comes (good fruit, that is!).

***C. Their shame & punishment stated.***

- 1) They are like raging seas.
  - a) They foam out their shame for all to behold.
  - b) Need to see what is left behind after their devastation.
  - c) And yet, they are not concerned with their fate that becomes so obvious.
- 2) Like wandering stars.
  - a) Without direction or orbit.
  - b) Their destiny—the blackness of darkness for ever.

**V. ENOCH'S PROPHECY ABOUT SUCH TEACHERS (14-16)**

***A. He was the 7<sup>th</sup> from Adam.***

- 1) In the genealogical listing—7<sup>th</sup> in decendency from Adam.
- 2) A unique person—walked with God—was taken from the earth (Heb. 11:5).
- 3) He was a prophet (insight from Jude, not in Old Testament).

***B. His Prophecy:***

- 1) The Lord will come with 10,000 of His saints (Holy Ones—Angels).
- 2) To execute Judgment upon all—to bring all men into judgment.
- 3) To convict the ungodly of their ungodly works.
- 4) To convict them of their hard speeches (ungodly spoken against God).

***C. These people characterized.***

- 1) Murmurers—rebelled at their lot in life, saying God was unkind to them.
- 2) Complainers—expressed dissatisfaction continually with everything about them and about God.
- 3) Walking after their own lusts—doing what they wanted—indulging in immorality and fleshly gratification.
- 4) Speak great swelling words:
  - a) Tried to deceive by what they said.
  - b) But also by bombastic & empty words.
  - c) Deceived those influenced by sound, not sense.
- 5) Showed respect of persons—played up to people to get their way—used people to get gain.

**VI. EXHORTATIONS IN VIEW OF THESE THINGS (17-23)**

***A. Beloved—remember words of the Apostles.***

- 1) They had spoken to them.
- 2) They heard their words.
- 3) They warned to look out for mockers.
- 4) Who will walk after their ungodly lusts.
- 5) Who are divisive and will cause factions and divisions in the church.
- 6) They are sensual, live on the lower plane of life.
- 7) They have not the Spirit—they do not allow God's Spirit to direct their lives.

***B. You need to do your part to save your soul.***

- 1) Build yourself up in the most holy faith.
  - a) Grow in faith & trust in God.
  - b) Come to believe Him implicitly.
- 2) Praying in the Holy Spirit.
  - a) Within the framework of His teachings.
  - b) The same as “in the Lord” in Eph. 6:1.
- 3) Keep yourselves in the love of God by keeping His commandments (John 14:15).
- 4) We play an important role in our eternal salvation.
- 5) We need to look for the Lord’s mercy by living such a life as described.

***C. How to treat such teachers or those they influence.***

- 1) Have compassion on some.
  - a) Those who are honest doubters.
  - b) Those who are perplexed, bewildered, confused.
  - c) Be merciful—tenderly help them see the truth.
- 2) Snatch some from the fire.
  - a) They are on the verge of punishment by God.
  - b) In fearfulness of our own soul, strive to save them.
  - c) Hating even the garments stained with sin.

**VII. LOOK TO JESUS FOR HELP (24-25)**

***A. Look to Him who can keep you from falling.***

- 1) He is all-powerful.
- 2) He can present us faultless before the presence of God with Joy.
- 3) We can be without spot or blemish or defilement.

***B. Offer praise to the Lord.***

- 1) Jesus is God—He is Lord.
- 2) But He is also Savior.
- 3) Glory, Majesty, Dominion, and Power belong unto Him.
- 4) Not only now, but always!

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**True or False**

- \_\_\_ 1. Jude states that he is a brother to both John and Jesus.
- \_\_\_ 2. He wrote this letter to God’s people in general.
- \_\_\_ 3. It is a necessity to contend for the faith.
- \_\_\_ 4. Jude also mentions the punishment of Angels that are reserved in Tartarus.
- \_\_\_ 5. Sodom and Gomorrah were guilty of going after strange flesh.
- \_\_\_ 6. These false teachers were referred to as filthy dreamers.
- \_\_\_ 7. Michael is said to be an Archangel that disputed with the Devil over the body of Moses.
- \_\_\_ 8. Cain, Balaam, and Korah were all guilty of rebelling against God.
- \_\_\_ 9. These false teachers were compared to clouds and trees.
- \_\_\_ 10. Enoch was said to have been a prophet.

