

1 Peter Overview

Author: Simon...

- a simple fisherman...in partnership with the sons of Zebedee, James and John
- married
- lived in Capernaum, at northern end of Sea of Galilee (beautiful!)
- baptized by John the Baptist before his brother Andrew took him to the Lord
- called by the Lord Jesus Christ
 - A. Peter...“rock”...”stone”
 - B. to be a fisher of men...

in the four gospels, Peter talks more than any other disciple...it's Peter “unplugged”

bold
courageous
a natural born leader
hot-headed
enthusiastic
impulsive
fearless
sensitive to the Spirit...

timid
clueless
boastful
suffered from foot-in-mouth disease
“Ready...fire...aim!”

From “Depart from me for I am a sinful man!”

To “Not so, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.”

From “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

To “Be it far from thee, Lord, this shall not be unto thee.”

From “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

To “We have left all to follow You. (What shall we get out of this?)”

From “Lord, if it be You, bid me come to You on the water.”

To “Save me, Lord!”

From “Lord, will you wash my feet? You shall never wash my feet.”

To “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!”

From “Lord, why cannot I follow You? I will lay down my life for Your sake.
Though all be offended, I will never be offended.”
To “I never knew the man!”

From fearless...single-handedly taking on a Roman legion in the Garden of
Gethsemane and chopping off the ear of a servant
To scared silly...fleeing in fear...after having seen “I AM” knock all of His
“captors” to the ground with merely His Word

From “I go a fishing.”
To “Lord, You know all things. You know I love you.”

But...in the Book of Acts of the Apostles, Peter initially takes the point...
it's Peter empowered

“You men of Judea and all you that dwell in Jerusalem, be this known unto you
and hearken unto my words.”
(opening of the 1st sermon in Church history...and 3000 souls were saved)

“Silver and gold have I none but such as I have I give you: in the name of Jesus
of Nazareth arise up and walk.”
(and a man born lame leaped up and walked)

“Men of Israel...you denied the Holy One and the Just...you killed the Prince of
Life...repent! Therefore and be converted that your sins be blotted out...”
(and he was arrested by the priests and the Sadducees and thrown in
prison)

“Rulers of the people and elders of Israel...this is the stone which was set at
nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is
there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven
given among men whereby we must be saved....we cannot but speak the
things which have seen and heard.”
(and he was threatened by the religious and cultural leaders)

“We ought to obey God rather than men.”
(and he was beaten)

“Tabitha, arise.”
(and a dead women arose from the dead)

“Of a truth, I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons but in every nation he
that fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”
(and the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles in Cornelius' house)

Written in about 64 AD

- from Babylon (Ch 5:13) or Rome/"Babylon" (Rev 17-18)
- during the persecution of the Church by Nero...about the time Paul was martyred

Audience: Christians dispersed in Asia Minor suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ...so his words have credibility

Theme: Hope and encouragement, and exhortation to persevere

- You are born again by the will of God
- Keep God's perspective
- Don't be surprised by persecution and affliction...
expect it...
prepare for it...
respond as Jesus did
- Victory is already yours!
- Imitate Jesus, you are His ambassadors

After being sifted like wheat by Satan and denying Jesus three times, Peter is restored by the risen Lord

- three times Jesus asked, "Do you love Me?"
- three times Jesus encouraged, "Feed my sheep."
- twice He commanded, "Follow Me."

The Lord that Peter loved, obeyed, and followed

- Source of hope (1:3)
- The Lamb of God (1:19)
- Perfect example of suffering for righteousness' sake (2:21-23)
- Sin-bearer (2:24)
- Shepherd and Bishop of our souls (2:25)
- Exalted Lord (3:22)

7 things Peter holds precious

1. fiery trials (1:7)
2. blood of Christ (1:19)
3. the Living Stone (2:4)
4. Cornerstone (2:6-7)
5. meek and quiet spirit (3:4)
6. the believer's faith (2 P 1:1)
7. God's promises (2 P 1:4)

In the introduction of his exhortation (v1-5), Peter reminds his "audience" of just who they are...because, in the midst of persecution, they have lost sight of their identity...we lose sight of that also so the introduction is very meaningful

1 Peter Chapter 1

v1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ:
“sent” by Jesus Christ...out into a dark and hostile world

notice, it does not say

- “Chief Apostle”
- “Greatest among the disciples”
- “Pope”

strangers:

“alien alongside...resident foreigner...pilgrim”

Abraham was a pilgrim...as are we

Like him, we look for a city made in heaven by God, not on earth by man.

This is why God is the Defender of strangers and takes great offense to those oppress them...we are strangers, the world in which we reside is a foreign land (Phil 3:20)

scattered throughout:
dispersed...

the Church grew by persecution

Acts 1:8

Acts 8:1...then driven further by Saul of Tarsus...

to be evangelized by Paul

turning the “white light” on the world

Peter is writing to those dispersed in

- Pontus – part of the “Acts 2 crowd” he addressed in the 1st sermon
- Galatia – later visited with Paul
- Cappadocia – also part of “Acts 2 crowd”
- Asia – also part of “Acts 2 crowd” and where Paul was forbidden to go by the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6)
- Bithynia – Holy Spirit also forbade Paul from going here (Acts 16:7)

Peter begins immediately to correct a perception problem by reminding the persecuted saints of some essential doctrine

v2 elect:

chosen

John 15:15-16

...as revealed to Peter in Cornelius' house

The Lord chose Peter...these saints...us

God chooses His children

how is one qualified to be part of the chosen?

1. by the foreknowledge of the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-seeing God

Eph 1:1-6

man has free will, God has foreknowledge...

He knows all choices by all men

2. through the sanctification...purification and separation... of the Spirit...a statement of our position before God given to us by the power of God the Holy Spirit

2 Thes 2:13

our role: believe God

God's role: purify us and to separate us unto Himself and from the world...to take us out of the world and put us into Jesus Christ

3. obedience...submission

4. the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ... as Paul wrote in Heb 7-9 of the superiority of the priesthood of Jesus Christ

the blood of Jesus Christ...of the Word that became flesh... of God the Son...is the ONLY way

- to cleanse us of the filthiness of sin
- to remove the separation from God caused by our sin

the “hinge” of being part of the chosen appears to be obedience

A. of the elected saints...thru the sanctification of the Holy Spirit

B. of Jesus Christ...to the sprinkling of His blood

Phil 2:5-8

1 Cor 11:3

God’s order is based on submission

Note: the Trinity is present

The saints are elected/chosen by the work of

1. God the Father (foreknowledge)
2. God the Son (blood)
3. God the Spirit (sanctification)

Grace...and peace:

the result of God’s election is

- grace (of God)
- peace (with God, then of God)

echoes of Paul’s letters...The Holy Spirit inspired both writers

I imagine Paul and Peter...

men having nothing in common from the world’s perspective
one highly educated and highly cultured,
the other a common, unlearned fisherman
one physically laughable and pathetic,
the other most likely physically imposing

yet having all things in common in Christ

sitting down, talking about the Lord and sharing what He has
revealed to them...

at times like Acts 15 and Gal 2:7-9...

discussing the deep things of God

- Grace
- Free will of man
- Foreknowledge of God
- Election
- Justification by faith alone
- Circumcision of the heart
- Sanctification of the Holy Spirit
- The Messiah – suffering Servant AND Conquering King
- Resurrection
- All the shadows of Jesus Christ in Scripture...
- Iron sharpening iron

Gal 2:11-17

2 Peter 3:15-18

Grace...peace...multiplied...

it is Peter's desire that God's grace and peace to be multiplied unto the elect

v3 Blessed:
adored...our gratitude to be heaped upon

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Joseph of Nazareth was not Jesus' father...
he was the husband of Mary and the father of James, Jude, etc

why should we heap our gratitude upon God the Father?

according to His abundant mercy:
because, in keeping with His loving nature –
gracious, merciful, slow to anger, of great kindness
Jonah 4:2, Neh 9:17, Joel 2:13, Ps 103:8

Lam 3:22-23

He has...

Begotten us again:

- By an act of mercy of the Sovereign God, we are born again (John 3:3-7)
- He has regenerated us...in the spirit (2 Cor 5:17, Titus 3:5-7)

unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:
the expectation of living...
the anticipation of eternal life...
the truth to be realized in the future that death cannot hold us down either!

We were dead...in the spirit...but are now born-again!
We will die...in the flesh...but will be raised from the dead with a
glorified body!
A house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (2 Cor 5:1)
A house being prepared for us by the risen Lord (John 14:1-3)

Resurrection is

- the great hope of believers in Jesus Christ
Titus 2:13-14
1 Cor 15:12-23
- it was the central message of every sermon in the Book of Acts

and for that awesome reality...we heap our gratitude upon the One, True, and
Living God

...but that's not all...

- v4 To an inheritance:
To riches not earned but bequeathed by our Father...we are joint-heirs
with Christ
1. incorruptible – immortal
 2. undefiled – pure, unsoiled...no more fallen nature...no more
“civil war”
 3. fadeth not away – eternal...untouchable by decay, corrosion,
degeneration
 4. reserved in heaven – riches not of this world...riches being
closely guarded by the watchful eye of the all-seeing,
all-powerful God

...but that's not all...

v5 who are kept...unto salvation:
we are "hemmed in" ...
we have "armed guards posted" about us...
we are protected in the world as long as we are in the world
(John 17:9, 15-16)

by the power of God:
How are we kept? By the power of the all-powerful God
Jude 24-25
2 Tim 1:12

through faith unto salvation:
God's keeping power is accessible through faith
Our role: to believe God can and will do what He says
God's role: to keep us, sealed unto the day of redemption

We are saved by grace thru faith...we stay saved by grace thru
faith...until...

ready to be revealed:
the appointed time to take the covers off...to be unwrapped like a child's
Christmas gift!
1 John 3:1-2
1 Cor 13:12
ala Matt 17

PTL! We pilgrims in a strange land...

- elect...chosen of God the Father
- sanctified by God the Spirit
- sprinkled by the blood of God the Son

are by God's abundant mercy

- born again...made spiritually alive
- joint-heirs with Christ of an eternal inheritance
- to be resurrected from the dead
- kept by His power thru faith unto salvation

v6 Peter is giving them a perspective adjustment (“Do you know who you are?”) in order to give them an attitude adjustment (“Do you know how to suffer?”)

wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season...ye are in heaviness:
because of v2-5...because of who you are...jump for joy!
...even though you are temporarily distressed by various trials

The trials that test our faith bring sorrow...but for only a passing time

We must keep suffering for righteousness sake in perspective

- This is not our home...the world hates us
so we should expect suffering in the world...and even rejoice if we are counted worthy to suffer for His name
(Acts 5:41)
if the world does not hate us, then the world thinks we are one of them...and we have even bigger problems!
(Matt 10:28-33)
- James 4:14...how fleeting a season it is
- Rom 8:18...how insignificant it really is
- v7...the glorious purpose it serves

v7 that the trial of your faith...more precious than of gold:
faith is more valuable and costly than gold

- supernatural vs natural
- pleases God...is the only acceptable response to His work on our behalf and is the channel of God’s grace, mercy, and forgiveness (my greatest need)
- how we are allowed into God’s kingdom...where the asphalt is gold

this precious thing...faith...must be tested to determine its authenticity.
Only by trials and tribulations do WE know if our faith is real or counterfeit

the sorrows of affliction allowed by God burn away the chaff and result in a faith that is more commendable, valuable, and glorious...
authentic

Suffering is not an end, it is a means to an end

- a stronger, refined faith in the Lord
- being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ

revelation of Jesus Christ:

what is the end for which we are being prepared? The Return of the King

- personally at physical death
- corporately at the Rapture

and remember...Jesus always go first

- in humiliation
- in suffering
- in death and resurrection
- in glory

v8-9 not seen, ye love:

like Rebekah in Gen 24

Heb 11:1...substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen

we do not see Jesus, we see the evidence of Jesus

we are not eyewitnesses, we are spirit-witnesses

we do not see Jesus by sight, but by faith

and by faith, we *agapao* Him

see not, yet believing...ye rejoice...receiving:

seeing is not believing, believing is seeing

John 20:24-29

we do not see but we believe in Jesus Christ...and we

- rejoice with an exuberance that cannot be expressed with mere words
- receive our salvation...the ultimate goal of our faith

by faith...with eyes on the glory of the King instead of on the suffering in the world...

- we believe and are saved (Acts 16:29-31, Eph 2:8-9)
- we love Jesus and are filled with joy regardless of the circumstances
- we wait for the promises of God (Heb 11:13, 39)

v10-11 of which salvation the prophets inquired:
the prophets also waited, desperately longing to see the salvation of the
Messiah!

While waiting, they investigated...searched out the Scripture...
to uncover God's plan of
Who
What
When
How
fallen men would be snatched out of death and hell

who prophesied of the grace unto you:
they, in fact, were God's inspired instruments to communicate...
in advance...His plan of redemption...a plan involving

- justification by faith
- hopeless man being rescued from the wrath of God by grace,
not works
- salvation made available to all men, both Jew and Gentile
- the saved being chosen by the sovereign God
- an act of mercy...the filth of sin being cleansed by the blood of
the Lamb...the Messiah...Who would suffer, die for, and
purchase with His own blood a bunch of wretches

Notice God's sequence: suffering...then glory (remember Rom 8:18)

Prophets of Christ's suffering

David	Ps 22
Isaiah	Is 50, 53
Daniel	Dan 9
Zechariah	Zech 14

Jesus Christ...His life, His ministry, His death, His resurrection,
His return...none of it was/is to be a surprise to His people...
because the Lord will do nothing
But that which He revealed to His servants the prophets (Amos 3:7)

...but, in their unbelief, the people were blind to those prophesies when
the Messiah did come
"Who would afflict and kill the Messiah?! God?! Us?! Unthinkable!"...
in fulfillment of the prophesies!

Note: Is Jesus merely a good man?
If so, how could His Spirit reveal His coming to the prophets
centuries before He was born in Bethlehem? (Micah 5:2)

Jesus is from everlasting...eternity.
Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God
(Paul speaking of Jesus Christ in 1 Tim 1:17)

v12 unto whom it was revealed...unto us...by them that have preached the gospel:
God's plan of redemption was revealed to the OT prophets...not for their
time but for the fullness of time...God's perfect time

preaching the Gospel...the Good News of God...was
by God the Holy Spirit...

Spirit of Christ (v11) = Holy Spirit
to men (prophets – what is going to happen)...
to other men (apostles and us – it happened, just as promised!)

while the angels watch...contemplate...meditate...and go "Wow!"

1 Cor 4:9 apostles made a spectacle to the world, angels, and
men

the angels are Bible students, since they were not clued into God's
plan
they are watching in awe and amazement as it unfolds
...until one angel preaches the gospel to the world in
Rev 14:6-7

- v13 Gird up the loins of your mind:
prepare your mind for battle...
- learn to use your sword, the Word of God
 - pray for wisdom and discernment

be sober:

be clear-thinking...be rational

- alcohol is a weapon of the enemy to dull the mind...
it's irrational
- the cares of the world invade the mind to choke out the seed...
they're irrational

the mind (rationality) is the battleground in spiritual warfare

- our minds need to be renewed day by day
(Rom 12, 1 Cor 4, Eph 4, Col 3)
- we need to live with purpose of mind (Dan 1:8)
- we need to be single-minded (James 1:8)
- we need to wait unwaveringly...
not distracted or discouraged...in the grace of God until our
King returns in glory

- v14-16 as obedient children, not:
get ready for the coming King...
be prepared...be sober...

be obedient, trusting in the Lord regardless of circumstances...

sojourn in the Spirit, not in the flesh...that old man, which was crucified
in Christ...

don't sojourn with a dulled mind, prone to ignorance...disobedience...sin

He which hath called you:

God has called us out of the darkness of the world and into the Light of
His holiness

we are called to be particular and holy/separate

1 Peter 1:13-16

“Since you are mine, be like Me. I AM holy, so be holy.”

Our role is to submit to His holiness, His is to make us holy

So the Q is...Do you want to be holy?

If so, walk worthy of your calling (Eph 4-6)

submit in thought, deed, and word...abstaining even from the
appearance of evil (how you dress, places you go...)

v17 if ye call on the Father...pass the time...in fear:
if you appeal to God...if you are called His child...sojourn in this strange
land as long as your vapor lasts by being

1. completely focused on the Lord

- redeeming the time...busy about the Father's business
- looking for a city whose builder is God

2. fearing the lusts of the flesh and the destruction they lead to

v18-19 ye were not redeemed with...from...by...but:

we were not rescued from

- death
- hell
- wrath of God

with...perishable goods (James 5:2-3)...

we were not delivered from...empty, worthless, idolatrous behavior

by...the traditions of men

traditions of men that make void the Word of God...

family traditions that keep you from the gathering of the brethren

but...we were rescued by

- the precious blood of God's perfect Passover Lamb...
the Messiah who suffered and died...
- the blood of God

v20-21 who was foreordained before the foundation of the world:

That the Messiah would come to suffer and die was established before
Gen 1...

the plan of redemption was agreed upon by Elohim before the act of
creation

If that was to be the result, why even start?

Because God held the free will love of His beloved creature to be
worth it!

God's plan of redemption is all about Love

- His nature...love (1 John 4:4)
- The love of The Father for The Son (Gen 22)
- The love of The Son for The Father
- The love of God for us...before we loved Him (Rom 5:8)

Jesus Christ came to

- reveal God to us (Love, Light, Spirit)
- do the work of God (seeking and saving the lost, redemption)
- direct our faith and hope in God

the things and the ways of the world are worthless rubbish in God's eyes.
He commands us to not covet them

He sees our souls as precious, so the redemption of our lost souls must be
that which is priceless and apart from this world...His Son
and we are commanded to covet Him and His ways!

v22 purified your souls:

we are purified by

1. obeying the Truth...submitting to the Pure and Holy God...Jesus Christ
2. loving others as God loves us
 - sincerely
 - unconditionally
 - fervently...with all His strength

love and obedience

- are inseparable...have both or neither
fight with teenager about chores...
fights...but obeys...all I remember is the fight, not
the obedience
OR
agrees...but disobeys...remember only the
disobedience
so are we with God (why we have teenagers!)
- BOTH will purify your spirit and heart
spiritual cleansing comes only by the blood of Jesus
Christ...
spiritual purification only by love and obedience
(John 15:12-14)

unconditional love is the supernatural love of God

obedience to God is a supernatural response to the supernatural love of
God

purity is a supernatural work of God in a loving, obedient heart

v23 born again:

2nd birth comes from the Word of God

(Is 55:10-11, Eph 2:8-10, Rom 10:17)

the Word of God has the power to transform lives, to save lives

v24-25 the word of the Lord endureth forever:

we are appointed a number of days...the Word of God is forever
(Matt 24:35)

So faith in Jesus Christ...and obedience to the word of God...are rational

1 Peter Chapter 2

Peter is writing a letter to encourage fellow believers facing hostile persecution

the last chapter was a discussion of

- being chosen by God
- faith is tested for its authenticity by trials
- holiness
- being purified by love and obedience, never compromising with the world

v1 Wherefore, laying aside all:

therefore, to be holy, we must cast aside ALL...not most...not toward everyone but 1...

- malice: depravity, evil
- guile: deceit
- hypocrisies:
 1. acting like a believer when in reality are a false/counterfeit believer
(will be exposed when the “heat is on”...
trial of faith)
 2. when your “yes” is not “yes” and your “No” is not “no”
- envies: spiteful jealousy, ill will
- evil speakings: backbiting, character assassinations/slander, gossip, flattery

v2 As newborn babes...milk of the word:

“As young converts to the faith, crave the whole, unadulterated Word of God.”

For an infant, milk is needed to grow.

But as the baby matures, milk is not enough and meat is needed to fuel necessary growth and sustain health

The metaphor is applied to the stages of spiritual development also.

in Heb 5 Paul prescribed a change in diet so the believers would mature... from milk to meat

We were saved at a “dairy” (topical teaching...shallow depth and limited growth)...

we are matured at a “butcher shop” (verse-by-verse teaching entire counsel of God)

Spiritual growth and maturity is the motive for the “How to study the Bible” class on the next several Thursdays

The essential need for every believer is to grow
we either grow or we atrophy...use it or lose it
we gain ground in our walk with the Lord or we lose it
There is no steady state in the spiritual realm...because there is no cease fire in spiritual warfare

v3 tasted that the Lord is gracious:
quoting Ps 34:8

“Seeing that you have experienced the grace of God, the goodness of God,

- cast off evil (v1)
- crave and grow in the Word of God.” (v2)

without grace and mercy there is only justice
with justice alone we would have vaporized a long time ago!
So we have tasted that the Lord is gracious!

Holy living is the proper response to the grace of God

- Reject the ways of the world and the lusts of the flesh
- Crave more and more of God’s ways...revealed in the Word

v4 a living stone...disallowed...chosen of God, precious:
Jesus Christ was...and is...intensely rejected by men BUT chosen by God...precious

- the Living Stone...He is alive! He is risen!
written by an eyewitness
- God’s Cornerstone...(v6)
1st stone laid in the foundation
most important stone to structural integrity
the stone that united 2 walls

Eph 2:19-20

1 Cor 3:10-11 Jesus is the foundation of the Temple of the Holy Spirit

v5 Ye also are lively stones:
we of the household of faith are living stones...in the image of Jesus
Christ (v3)
a truth written by a "stone" (Peter, per John 1:42)
not just Simon Peter, but we are all stones...spiritual stones
by a supernatural transformation...for a Divine purpose...

built up a spiritual house:

we are constructed...by Jesus (Matt 16:18)...as a spiritual house...
a supernatural dwelling

John 14:1-3 in My Father's house are many mansions...

1 Cor 3:16

1 Cor 6:19-20

the mansions are glorified bodies prepared by Jesus...
that make up the Father's house, the Temple of God, the Temple of
the Holy Spirit...

The foundation of which is Jesus Christ

A holy priesthood:

holy priesthood...a pure, blameless order of priests...to offer acceptable
spiritual sacrifices

Rom 12:1-2

acceptable to God by Jesus Christ

John 14:6 THE Way

1 Tim 2:5 the only mediator

we are holy...purified by love and obedience...because Jesus is
holy...as proven by suffering (Heb 9-10)

we are righteous because Jesus is righteous (Rom 3:10)...
as proven by suffering

we are to live the lives the Lord gave us (holy and righteous) unto
Him as proven by suffering (Heb 11)

v6 lay in Zion a chief corner stone:
quoting Is 28:16...quoted by Paul in Rom 9:33

Jesus is the chief corner stone of the Father's house

- elect...chosen...foreordained before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20)
- precious...priceless...unable to be acquired by another

those that put their faith in Jesus will not be ashamed or disgraced

Rom 1:16-17

Rom 10:9-13

Note: exhortation for gratitude to CCA in

Rom 10:14-15...Minnesota lighthouse

v7-8 unto...believe precious...disobedient...stumbling...offense:
to those who believe the Word of God (Rom 10:17), Jesus Christ is
precious

but to those who do not believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, Jesus is

- a stone tripped on (causing a falling away from the faith to apostasy)
- offensive
1 Cor 1:23
Matt 10:34-39
- still the chief cornerstone!

Unbelief does not alter God's Truth!

What you believe about Jesus does not change

the truth

Who He is

your need for Him

they were appointed:

Jesus is either held precious...or He is cast aside rejected.
There is no middle ground...no fence to straddle.

If rejected, instead of the foundation, He is as a millstone

Matt 21:42-44

Matt 18:6

Created in the image of God, man is free to make choices
Our loving Creator has given us

- counsel to make the right choice (blessings)
- warnings of the consequences of a wrong choice (curses)

We are free to choose what we believe about Jesus Christ...
but we are not free to choose the consequences of our choices.
all men's choices about Jesus (Matt 16:15) are foreknown by the
all-knowing God...and the blessings or curses that follow are
certain...unavoidable

believers choose life and blessings...and were chosen by God for salvation
unbelievers choose death and curses...and were chosen for
condemnation

God knew every man's final decision regarding Jesus Christ BEFORE
Gen 1:1
God sets the concrete of our choices...so choose wisely

Jesus is the Rock (1 Cor 10:4)

- upon which believers fall...and stand
- upon which unbelievers stumble...and are crushed

v9 But:

as a stark contrast to unbelievers...we believers are a

1. chosen people

1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

Eph 1:4 before the foundation of the world

John 16:15 by Jesus Christ

2. holy nation...separated out of the world as a people unto God

3. purchased people

Acts 20:28 with the blood of Jesus Christ

4. royal priesthood...kings and priests

Rev 1:5-6

in OT this was an oxymoron...could not be both king and priest

in Jesus Christ the Messiah Who is Prophet, Priest, and King...we are an extension of His image

contrary to the doctrine of the Roman church, every believer is:

- saved by grace thru faith, not works
- a priest
- a saint

my value, my net worth, my success, my position before God is not measured by “what I have” or “what I have done”

but

“Who I have” and “what He has done” and, by faith, “who I am”

that ye should show forth:

our lives have a purpose – to proclaim praises of God Who called us out of darkness (kingdom of this world) and into the Light (His kingdom)

God called me out of the darkness...otherwise I would not have left it.

My salvation is His work, not mine. Praise Him!

Note: looking back on v5...Luke 19:37-40 is a play on words.

“If these stones did not cry out, then these would.”

v10 Which in time past...now:

our former condition:	But now	our condition
1. not a people		1. a people of God
2. outside of God's mercy		2. obtained God's mercy
3. in darkness		3. in the Light

in the past we had nothing of God...but now, by faith, we have been given
all things, purchased by Another on our behalf
truly, Rom 8:18

v11-12 I beseech you...abstain...honest...good works:

Therefore, the Holy Spirit thru Peter begs us to

- remember who we are
- keep God's perspective on the events in our lives as we sojourn in a strange land
- flee unholy choices...avoid acting like animals/brute beasts
- live Christ-like lives...holy, genuine, "beautiful"...
because the pagans are watching our every move

the unbelievers, like the god of this world,

- slander us
- think of us as criminals...but
- see our holy lifestyle...our walking the talk...
(our actions that speak louder than words)
- WILL give glory to God on The Day He comes to inspect their lives...a day of Woe (Is 5:20)

1st: Luke 19:42-44

2nd: Rev 1:7, Phil 2:10-11

unbelievers watch us...hate us...hate what we say and what we do...but
will some Day see for themselves why...
and will praise Him too!

Only it will be too late...for He will no longer be Servant but King and
Judge

v13-17 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man:
in the meantime, while we are waiting for our Lord and King...
obey human authorities
At the time of this writing and Paul's to the Romans (Rom 13:1-7), that
meant Nero!

Be a good citizen...do not use your spiritual freedom (John 8:32, 36) as

- some self-righteous cop-out
- a license for law-breaking, authority defying civil disobedience...

and let God put a muzzle on the ignorance of unbelieving fools

...unless the authorities command you to break God's law and defy His
authority

v18 servants be subject to your masters:
employees, obey your boss...whether he/she is good and gentle or
perverse and proud

in all relationships, the born again believer is accountable to the Lord for
our conduct in that relationship
Jesus is the binding in all relationships, just as He is in all the molecules

v19-20 thankworthy...suffer...acceptable to God:
Be thankful for this: suffering unjustly and enduring grief for Jesus'
sake...that is Christ-like
Acts 5:41 Peter rejoiced to be counted worthy of suffering for
the Lord
Matt 5:10-12 blessed are they which suffer...theirs is the
kingdom of heaven

There are no thanks in enduring what you deserve
Suffering with quiet perseverance for righteousness sake is holy living

v21-23 were ye called:

for this purpose we are called

- to praise Him who called us out of the darkness into the light
- and while in the Light...to suffer at the hands of darkness

Suffering is an integral part of the Christian experience.

It's why the Lord commanded us to count the cost before deciding to follow Him.

As in all things, Jesus Christ is first...He is our example...

He is the Good Shepherd Who goes before us and we follow in His footsteps

- Denial of self (Phil 2:5-8)
- Surrender of our will to God
- Being a servant (John 13)
- Grace
- Mercy
- Returning good for evil
- Loving our enemies (Luke 23:34)
- Being holy (John 17:14)

The Creator of the universe stooped to our level in body, but not in Spirit...so He could raise to His level our Spirit, but not our body

We cannot be holy as He is holy and, at the same time, look, sound, smell, and taste like the world

Every day...with every decision...we must imitate Christ

v24-25 his own body on the tree:

the Tree...the cross of Christ...is to us believers The Tree of Life
Gal 3:13...our life for His death

ye were healed...going astray...unto the Shepherd:

echoing Paul (Eph 2:1-5)

and continuing to quote Isaiah (regarding the mission of the Messiah)

v22 Is 53:9

v23 Is 53:7

v24 Is 53:5

v25 Is 53:6

Peter tells us that Jesus (past tense)

- Made us whole (Eccl 12:13-14)
- Led us home...

How?

...by suffering unjustly

as a result of the Lord's suffering unjustly...

we experience that He is good...

and we follow

as a result of the Lord's suffering, Ps 23

1 Peter Chapter 3

Peter has been inspired to write a letter to believers suffering persecution

Last week...starting in Ch 2:11...the Holy Spirit thru Peter began teaching us about “holy living”...

how we are to conduct ourselves in oppressive circumstances before

- unbelievers
- fellow citizens
- employers...

by following the example of Jesus Christ

the topic of holy living continues in Ch 3

holy Christian living is not complex...it is simple.

1. Endure all circumstances by trusting the Lord, Who is in control of all circumstances
2. Putting on Jesus in all relationships...WWJD, WWJS

Yet holy living is very difficult because...our flesh is NOT holy...

Gal 5:17

The struggle with holy living comes with our flesh...our fallen nature

1. **Unbelief** – my circumstances...this relationship...are too tough for the Lord
2. **Pride** – disobedience resulting from not wanting to submit to the Lord’s will
3. **Ignorance** – not knowing about...not relying on...the power of God in our lives
 - Prayer
 - The Word of God
 - Holy Spirit

We must pray...be in the Word...and walk in the Spirit...to live holy lives

Holy living is...living the Gospel

The Gospel is supernatural

...so we need supernatural help to live holy lives

Next up for Holy Living: the marriage relationship

THE most intense relationship where the struggles caused by unbelief, pride, and ignorance are the most profound

v1-2 wives in subjection to your own husbands:
the opening statement is a very simple statement...
one without qualifications
the God of order reveals His order in the family, again
(1 Cor 11:3, Eph 5:21-32)

And once again, this is not a value statement...it is an accountability
statement
With position goes responsibility and accountability
In the marriage relationship, God has given the man greater
responsibility...therefore greater accountability

behold your chaste conversation:

Context: holy living in the midst of suffering
The Church is new...faith in Jesus is a post-marriage
development...
and many marriages are unequally-yoked

Situation: believing wife married to an unbelieving or backslidden
husband...
and being persecuted by him (is why 2 Cor 6:14, Singles)

wife's responsibility: to LIVE the Gospel, do not preach it or swing it
around like a club

1 Cor 7:10-17

By seeing the Gospel lived right in front of his face, the unbelieving or
backslidden husband may see and surrender to the unconditional
and sacrificial love of Jesus Christ for him

For the believing wife, this is the "hot seat"...a place of suffering for
righteousness' sake...where you must live a holy life...loving your
husband in a

- pure
- uncompromising
- cheerful
- affectionate
- modest
- respectful way

under very difficult circumstances

KNOW for certain that your husband is

- watching your every move...
- cataloging your every word...
- looking for proof in your life that he is right and you are wrong
so he can "win"

However, if he sees consistent, genuine proof...by your conduct and lifestyle...that you are right and he is wrong... perhaps he will be moved by fear of God to hear the Truth...and “be won”

In that situation...as in most...the Gospel is better seen than heard...
Holy living is living the Gospel

v3-4 adorning not:

in the situation being presented...and I think in every marriage situation...

God calls His daughters to be beautiful
contrary to the world’s standard of beauty
(most loudly proclaimed by Hollywood and Madison Avenue)
God’s standard for a woman’s beauty is inward, not outward

our son Christian’s over-riding concern when the Lord took my secular job and we went full-time into the ministry was that his Mom would become “the old church lady”

- washed out
- dressed like a frump
- hair pulled back in a bun...with a hair net
- big black shoes...

wives, that is not what this is saying

as Charles Swindoll has said, “Ladies, if the barn needs painting, paint the barn!”

- put your make-up on – lightly and moderately...
not heavily or seductively
- wear jewelry – tastefully accenting your clothes...
not flaunting materialism
- dress nicely – attractively and modestly...not shamelessly or indecently
- wash and comb your hair...

- but don't
 1. spend God's money on cosmetic surgery to
 - improve (in your opinion) on what God has created
 - appeal to the eyes of men
 - fight a futile fight against time and gravity

all of our bodies are "going south",
no matter what we do to it
time always wins...gravity always
wins
our perfect body will be given to us
by Jesus!
Phil 3:21

2. try to stand out in a crowd...by either putting
 - so much effort on your outward appearance that you draw attention to yourself
 - so little on your outward appearance that you draw attention to yourself

in a visual world, Godly wives need
balance...moderation...modesty...common sense

meek and quiet spirit:

getting back to the believing wife suffering in an ugly relationship with an unbelieving or backslidden husband...
(or in an ugly season of the relationship)
God says, "Be beautiful!"

- be beautiful and precious in God's eyes...inwardly
1 Sam 16:7
- show the ugly world the breath-taking beauty of Jesus Christ

This does not mean be a doormat for an over-bearing thug...
but to be like Jesus

- strong...with gentleness and kindness
- mild mannered
- humble
- have a peaceful and patient disposition
- ...worthy of honor and respect

The Lord's small, still voice can be heard by...and through...
a meek and quiet spirit

There is nothing more beautiful than a Godly woman!

The world's ways are so ugly...

returning evil for evil...nagging...whining...

Prov 11:22

Prov 21:19

Prov 27:15

God's ways are radiantly beautiful

Prov 31:30

Physical beauty fades...but spiritual beauty grows

To you wives suffering in an ugly marriage, put on Jesus Christ and be beautiful

v5-6 holy women also, who trusted in God:

does NOT say "who trusted in their foolish husbands"

Note: Hebrew word for "husband" = baal (remember that, ladies)

adorned themselves...in subjection:

by faith, holy women adorned themselves with God's ways of meekness and submission

the issue is accountability, not importance

ladies, the sovereign God has given the man responsibility for the marriage relationship...where two have become one and God has given man accountability with the responsibility

Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham:

"Well if my husband was like Abraham, I would submit to his leadership too"

you wives may be thinking

It says Sarah obeyed...submitted to the leadership position God gave her husband...whether he made good decisions or bad decisions

To Pharaoh and Abimelech...powerful kings in strange lands...

her husband said,

"This very beautiful woman is my sister. Don't kill me."

Abraham is probably sounding more like your husband now...

Sarah obeyed...by faith and walking in the Spirit, she adorned herself with Christ

“God is doing a good work in my husband.

He is bigger than my knucklehead husband so I am not going to be alarmed by what I just heard that man say.

I am along for the ride and I trust the Driver...so I will patiently wait....”

Wives in an ugly marriage...or in an ugly season of their marriage

- Put on Jesus Christ and be beautiful
- Be still...do not be alarmed
- Believe that the Lord is bigger than your husband
- Be humble and obedient to the Lord
- Access the power of God in order to live holy
Prayer...Word...Holy Spirit

Holy living is...living the Gospel

The Gospel is supernatural...so we need supernatural help to live holy lives

Final thought to my sisters before turning to the men...

- These words are for you even if your marriage is healthy...
because Christian marriages are under attack continually
- Single women...don't marry an unbeliever...don't go here!
Not the Lord's will
- follow the example of Godly women...this fellowship is
blessed with many
- for details and for answers to your questions...see Monica or
Lori...
- Women counsel women

v7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell...according to knowledge, giving honor:
Context: holy living in the midst of suffering
The Church is new...faith in Jesus is a post-marriage
development...
And many marriages are unequally-yoked
Situation: believing husband married to an unbelieving or backslidden
wife...
and being persecuted by her

his responsibility: to LIVE the Gospel, do not preach it or swing it
around like a club

so...addressing those accountable to God for the marriage relationship...

1. live with your wives
same house...same bed...
2. according to knowledge of the Word of God...
"Marriage God's Way"
which means you must
 - know the Word of God
 - make it your final authority
 - ...AND then live it!

husbands, your wives need the Lord's touch more than they
need your touch...

as the spiritual leader of a two-have-become-one
relationship,

- she most often gets touched by the Lord through
you
- you are accountable to touch your wife this way

*women, when you have a question about the Word of God,
who are to ask?*

Me? No.

If you are single, Monica

If you are married, your husband.

If he doesn't know, he can ask me or Greg

husbands, your wives need the Lord's touch...from you

3. honoring her

respecting her...her thoughts...her feelings...her insights...
giving her value...dignity...the highest esteem

not bullying her...physically, emotionally, or spiritually
berating her...
ignoring her...
trashing her to your buddies...

because she is

- you!
- weaker...(Spanish: delicate, tender, exquisite)
- your co-heir of God's grace and the blessings of life

so, husbands, that's all you gotta do

- know the Word of God
- obey the Word of God...hear AND do it
- be strong
- respect and value and dignify your bride...
- spoil her!

If you are not loving your wife this way, you may as well be in a cave
when you pray...because God is not listening
men, our prayers will be hindered if we tyrannize our wives...
not respecting and honoring them
not dying to self

The unspoken response to your prayers is clear: "Be the man and the
husband I expect you to be...then come see Me."

sadly, most Christian husbands are spiritually lazy

well, men, it's time to

- get up
- grow up
- wise up
- shape up
- stand up

...and be a man

being a man is not about

- spitting
- scratching
- swearing
- scarring people
- watching TV

it's about

- healing
- loving
- nurturing
- building
- praying
- protecting...spiritual warfare is raging in your family!
- leading...
- ...in submission to the Lord to do those things

being a man is all about being holy in all of your relationships...
with the Lord your God!
and in your marriage!

How are you to be holy?

Believe...God is bigger than your circumstances

Be humble...surrender to the Lord's will

Don't be ignorant...of the power of God available to you
prayer...Word...Holy Spirit

We must pray...be in the Word...and walk in the Spirit...to live holy lives

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 - Prayer
 - The Word of God
 - Holy Spirit...being filled

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v8-9 Finally, be ye all of one mind:

for relationships within the family of God, be like-minded...have the mind of Christ

- compassionate...being sympathetic toward others...feeling their pain
- loving...in action and word
- having pity...being tender-hearted...not being pitiful
- courteous...kind, respectful of others, letting others go first...unselfish
- returning good for evil (1 Thes 5:15)
- returning blessings for cursings (Ch 2:21-23)
- freely giving that which you freely received...
forgiveness
mercy
grace
blessings

my relationship with Jesus Christ...evidenced by how I live my life...should enhance my relationship with

- my wife
- my children
- all of you

all high-quality relationships are based on submission and denial of self
a relationship based on competition and “self”

- is un-Christ-like
- will go up in flames

v10-12 For he that will love life and see good days:
wrapping up the topic of holy living...Peter is quoting Ps 34:12-16

...those that desire a good life...a holy life...will “follow the rules”...
as outlined in the Word of God...such as

- bite their tongue...control that fire from the pit of hell
slander...even if “It’s true!”
backbiting
gossip
lying
- clap their hands over their mouths
- flee evil...even the appearance of evil
- not just know good, do good...(James 1:22)...the flip-side of
shunning evil
- passionately seek and follow...even create...peace (Rom 12:8)
a good life is one of joy and contentment...and peace
not continual strife

and those that live holy lives will recognize and enjoy the

- oversight
- guidance
- active involvement

of the Lord in their lives

however, those that reject that lifestyle will know that the presence of the
Lord is against them.

Whoa!

back to suffering...for living holy lives

v13 who is he that will harm you...followers...good:
Rom 8:31

the attitude of Jonathan and his armorbearer in [1 Sam 14:6-12](#)

if you are walking with the Lord, why are you afraid of your:

- spouse
- children
- your mother or father
- your entire family
- boss
- co-worker
- neighbor

if your “1st Relationship” is in order...don’t fear anyone in any other relationship

v14 if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy:

[Matt 5:10-12](#),...

[Acts 5:27-33, 40-41](#)

”You could be fortunate enough to be counted worthy, too!”

not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled:

to us God says, “Do not fear man. Fear Me...and fear not”

[Matt 10:28](#)

[Is 41:10-13](#)

[John 16:33](#)

v15 sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:

we are the Temple of the Holy Spirit...

just think about how often and how thoroughly we defile His

Temple when we walk in the flesh...

it grieves us, does it not?

choose to live a holy life...and make holy the “holy of holies”...

your heart...

and offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (Ch 2:5)

ready always to give an answer...a reason of the hope:
and then “be ready to give a reason” for the choice to

- live holy
- be different than the world

notice also that “being ready to give a reason” is linked to “suffering for Jesus’ sake”

when unbelievers see how you live, they will

- revile you
 “It’s not a choice, it’s a child”...the doctor’s “salute” while driving
- mock you
 as some pathetic weakling in need of a crutch
- challenge you
 “You don’t go to Happy Hour
 You don’t cheat on your spouse.
 You don’t party...
 What do you do for fun?”

when an unbeliever observes you living Titus 2:11-15 and asks, be prepared and instantly ready to give an answer as to why you

- act the way you do
- go the places you go
- talk the way you do
- think the way you do
- believe what you do...

it requires disciplined study

v16 Having a good conscience:

Being ready and prepared is important...as is the delivery of your answer.

Not with arrogance and condemnation...but with

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Urgency!
- And with a good conscience...the moral code of God written on our hearts

when we give a reason for the hope that lies within us and we live a holy life...we will get slandered as if we were criminals...

but those are false charges made by false accusers...and woe to them

(Is 5:20-21)

they will be ashamed by God, not by us

v17 For it is better, if the will of God be so:

it is far better to suffer for doing well...for living a holy life...

than to suffer for doing evil...living an unholy life

suffering is the common denominator, so pick one:

A. temporary suffering at the hand of man for doing God's work

B. eternal suffering at the hand of God for doing sin's work

(Heb 10:31)

v18-19 For Christ has...suffered...that he might:
the longsuffering of God and the unjust suffering of Jesus Christ
are connected

God created man for

- Fellowship
- Worship
- Communion

But man despised His counsel...and fellowship was broken...Is 59:1-2

- and the very purpose for our existence was thwarted
- and man's life became empty, meaningless, and frustrated

So God came to us to restore the fellowship with His beloved creature...
to bring us back to Himself...which entailed suffering unjustly

Jesus knows better than us what suffering unjustly means

He suffered willingly so He could lead us home, born again in the
Spirit of God!

His ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5) is enabled by suffering unjustly

Preached unto the spirits in prison:

Before Jesus...The Alpha, The First Who always goes first...

got His glorified body and ascended to heaven, when a man died

- his body went into the grave
- his spirit went to Hades...divided into 2 compartments
 1. Paradise/Abraham's Bosom...a place of comfort
 2. Hell...a place of tormentwith faith in the Messiah to come being the
great divide

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said He was going there to sets the captives free

Luke 4:16-21, 28-29

Matt 12:38-41

Luke 23:39-46

But He did not stay there

Acts 2:22-27

v20 The longsuffering of God...while the ark was a preparing:
By God's direction and provision, Noah prepared an ark for the just
(Hab 2:4) to enter into and avoid the wrath of God to be poured
out on an unbelieving and wicked world...

while he labored, Noah preached salvation...none believed him

Jesus Christ is

- Salvation
- the Substance of the shadow of Noah's Ark

"the ark of salvation" is now preparing (John 14:1-3) to save us from the
wrath of God to come...a flood of fire this time
(1 Thes 1:10, 1 Thes 5:9)

He can do that because the wrath of a just God fell on Him for our sins...
instead of on us

God suffered for me so that I need not suffer His righteous wrath

God is long-suffering...Reconciliation (life for death) requires His
suffering

v21 figure whereunto baptism...by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:
Is this true? Does water baptism save me?

No. No more than physical circumcision saved the Jews.
Baptismal Regeneration is a false doctrine

When we were going to church at the dairy, the pastor gave a topical
sermon...just like he did every Sunday...
and it was "The 17 things that save us"

he cited this verse to teach us that baptism saves us

It was that Sunday when I realized very clearly that we were not going to
mature and grow in the Lord unless we started going to church at a
butcher shop

This verse taken by itself...out of context...leads to a false conclusion and
false doctrine

So what is the Holy Spirit thru Peter saying?

1. What is the context?
Suffering...
2. Scripture interprets Scripture
the baptism of Jesus' suffering for us
Rom 6:3-11...

(true baptism is an internal work of the Holy Spirit)

v22 made subject unto him:

the unjust suffering of Jesus, at the hands of His enemies, was God's plan

1 Cor 2:8-9

lived out "Love...Love your enemies"

the Gospel of Grace was lived...for ALL to see

in the fullness of time, all creatures will submit to the Lordship of Jesus

Christ

do it now and live

don't die...and then do it...it will be too late to live

Holy Living is a choice...like choosing between comfort and torment

easy choice...but it comes with a price

- suffering unjustly...for a fleeting season (James 4:14)

however, choosing to live an unholy life also comes with a price

- consequences of sin now
- wrath of God later
- suffering justly...for eternity

Count the cost...and choose wisely

1 Peter Chapter 4

v1-2 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh:
the baptism of the suffering of Jesus referred to in Ch 3:21

Arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:

equip yourself for that baptism...develop the same understanding of

- Time (a created dimension within eternity...don't live for a good time, live for the Good that is outside of time – came into, left, is coming back into time)
- Life (Life and death are spiritual conditions)
- Suffering (pick one – the wrath of men in time or the wrath of God in eternity)
- Perspective (God's vs man's...with eyes up, never lose sight of the big picture)

How? by the Word of God

He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin:

What?

he who has been baptized in the sufferings of Christ...laid down his life in the Lord's...has a new nature...the nature of Christ

- and the power of sin has been stopped
- and he now has the choice to say "No!" to sin
- and has access to the power to stop living like a man dead in his sins

no longer should live...in the flesh...but to the will of God:

equipped with the understanding of Truth and The Big Picture of Reality that comes with an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, we are to live the remainder of our lives here in this body by

- denying ourselves
- loving God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength
- loving others sacrificially

As we do, we are in the will of God and CANNOT live after the lusts of the flesh... because those two lifestyles cannot peacefully co-exist
Self-centeredness CANNOT co-exist with God-centeredness and others-centeredness

- when we live after the lusts of our flesh (the nature of the old man), sin is present and the will of God is absent
- when we live after the will of God (the nature of the new man), holiness is present and lust of the flesh and sin are absent

The battleground is the mind.

Like Daniel did, we must purpose in our minds to not eat the delicacies from the table of the god of this world

v3 For the time past of life suffice us to have wrought:

We have lived plenty long enough

1. in the nature of the old man...
2. laboring in the works of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21)...
3. making the same choices as the pagans

- filthy vices
- evil desires
- drunkenness
- “loose living” morally
- partying

- the philosophies of men

- ALL the religions of man...including the ones that claim to be Christian...that have added to taken from or rejected the Word of God and the Jesus Christ of the Bible

Enough is enough!

Let's turn that corner...

close that chapter...

change our purpose in life...

and move on in the sane direction, following the Lord

v4-5 they think it strange:

Which of us do not struggle with the flesh?
Which of us do not have a spiritually harmful relationship with an unsaved friend or loved one?

They think we are odd and unusual when we no longer want to “rush headlong together” to do those things in v3 (carnal or religious), like we used to

Now the Light of the World has revealed to us that those things result in a life displeasing to Him

So we say to our old friends,
”No. I don’t want to go with you.
I have a New Best Friend.
His name is Jesus Christ.
He is going that way...you guys are going the other way.
I am going to follow Him...He loves me like you never have and never can.
Why don’t you come with Him, too?”
...and they vilify and revile you

When we make the choice to walk on the narrow way that leads to life rather than on the broad way that leads to destruction, we will be cursed by the world...

Oh well!

Did the world die for us in order to give us life?
Does the world even care about us?

Don’t fret what dead men say or do...be heart-broken they are dead men...
pray that The Way, The Truth, and The Life reveal Himself to them...

but, in the meantime, DO NOT go with them and behave like a dead man!

who shall give an account to Him:

those who choose destruction over life will some day report the reason for their choice to Jesus Christ Himself

He will ask, “Why did you choose to walk on the path that leads here?”

This will be the opposite of [Ch 3:15](#)...at [Rev 20:11-15](#)

v6 For this cause was the gospel preached...that they might be judged...but live:
Because 2 Peter 3:9, the Good News of God was preached to dead men
(spiritually dead in their sins...Eph 2:1-5)

all flesh is sinful...all flesh will be judged
for the unbeliever, at the Great White Throne
for the believer (“quick” in v5), the flesh WAS judged
where? On Calvary
how? By the unjust suffering of Jesus Christ

v7a But the end of all things is at hand:
the message of the Church from its beginning...

- The return of the King Who suffered is imminent!
- Get ready!

This is more true today than it ever has been
Don't be deceived by satan...2 Peter 3:3-4
Don't misunderstand the long-suffering of God

Now more than ever, we need spiritual strength available to us thru

- Prayer
- The Holy Spirit
- Reading the Word of God
- Studying the Word of God
- Fellowship...not forsaking the assembly of the believers, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another as we see the Day approaching...

and we need to be consistent and dedicated in those things...
for inconsistency breeds weakness, complacency,
lukewarmed-ness...

Time is short...even urgent
How shall we live? v7b-11a

- v7b be ye therefore:
1. sober:
 - right-minded
 - of a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7)
 - sane
 - wise (Prov 1:7)
 2. watch unto prayer:
 - with clear eyes and a clear mind, pray that we enter not into temptation...as Jesus told Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26:41)
(spiritual strength: Jesus told Peter, Peter told us, we tell each other...)
 - be dedicated in prayer
- v8 And above all things:
MOST IMPORTANTLY
3. be a funnel of God's unceasing sacrificial love...for, by grace thru faith, it hides sin
grace and mercy and forgiveness are expressions of God's love
we have received superabundantly, we are to give superabundantly
- v9 Use hospitality...without grudging:
4. do not be burdened by guests, love them...without whining and complaining
hospitality is a gift of the Spirit (Rom 12:6-13)
hospitality with grumbling is work...a filthy rag, not a gift
(Is 64:6)
- v10 As every man hath received the gift, minister the same:
5. Serve others with what has been given you...
be a faithful steward of the gifts of the Spirit graciously given to you...for the edification of the Body
- exercising the gifts of the Spirit is an issue of faithful
stewardship...which introduces the issue of accountability
- What gifts have you been given?
Are you using them?

v11a If any man speak, as the oracles of God:

6. speak the Truth...the Word of God...sound doctrine...what men need to hear...not

- what men want to hear...
ear-tickling fables
content-free warm fuzzies
- the traditions of men
which religions of men are steeped in
- “Life according to Garp, or Doug”, or...any other philosophy of men

if any man minister, as the ability which God giveth:

7. in the ministry given to you, serve with God's power and strength...
not your own

giveth = “to be as a dance leader”

empowered by the Spirit of God in your ministry,
dance with Jesus...
figure skate with Jesus...
let Him lead...
and your ministry will be a beautiful and graceful!

v11b That God in all things may be glorified:

why v7b-11a?

That our loving, longsuffering, gracious, merciful God be glorified
i.e. for the very purpose we were created

Through Jesus Christ, to whom be:

to Whom ARE praise and dominion FOREVER and EVER.
Period. End of discussion.

v12-13 Beloved:

Jesus Christ's dance partners

think it not strange concerning the fiery trial:

When we dance with Jesus...when we live a holy life...
when we live v7b-11a

- we will be different than those of the world
- and we will feel the heat of persecution
- people will throw rotten tomatoes...and rocks

Expect it...don't be surprised by it...don't think it odd or unusual
2 Tim 3:12

But rejoice:

Rejoice...jump for joy...that we

- have been counted worthy to suffer for Jesus!
- are in communion (intimacy) with Jesus in His suffering

Because when every eye will see Jesus, we will also be in communion
with Him in His glory

The flip side is heart-stopping:

no communion (intimacy) in His suffering, no communion
(intimacy) in His glory

v14 reproached for the name of Christ:

When we are taunted and cursed for the authority of Jesus Christ in our
life, we are blessed!

We are blessed because the Holy Spirit of God is upon us, refreshing and
strengthening us...because we honor the Lord in the face of
blasphemy

which came first – reproach or the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit!

- Acts 2 came before Acts 4 etc
- Without the Holy Spirit, why would there be reproach?
John 14:15-17 will send the Spirit of truth that the
world knows not
John 16:7-14 Who would convict and rebuke the
world of
sin
righteousness
judgment
John 15:17-23 and the world that hates Me, Father
will hate us

- Persecution does not come...until Christians go against the flow...by the power of the Holy Spirit

Are you reproached by unbelieving friends and family?
Are you dancing with Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit?

v15-16 But let none of you suffer:

Don't suffer like dead men

- murderers
- thieves
- law-breakers
- meddlers (...tend to your own imperfections!)

Yet if as a Christian...let him glorify God on this behalf:
but when we suffer for following Jesus, do not be ashamed!
For there is no shame (Rom 1:16-17)

Instead, glorify God for our portion of communion (intimacy) with Jesus Christ

Peter was bold in the faith...as were all those upon whom the Holy Spirit fell in Acts 2 and Acts 10

What does the Body of Christ need today?
The Holy Spirit to fall upon her in power
What does this body...every part...need?
The Holy Spirit to fall upon us in power!

v17a The time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:
the Temple of the Holy Spirit...the Church

God's perfect creation was made filthy by sin...and must be cleansed...
by fire

The Church is purified first...my mother scrubbing my ears and head as a child in the bathtub will pale in comparison...
then The Church is removed.
Then the world...His enemies...will be judged

the Church will face a cleansing by the hand of God before the world faces judgment.

This is a hard saying...God's call to live holy lives is a hard saying

(TC: "...he is more colorful than you but I like the hard core stuff you teach.")

we don't gather here for warm, fuzzy pep rallies...
we gather to hear the unadulterated Word of God...

to be changed

2 Tim 3:16 – 4:4

(Paul's last words!)

v17b-18 What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God:
a heart-wrenching, breath-taking reality that stimulates hard questions

1. What becomes of those who do not believe the gospel and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ? A Lake of Fire
2. What becomes of those who hang out in churches but drift away when
 - the persecution comes?
 - the hard saying are spoken?

righteous scarcely be saved where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?:
if the holy, the called-out ones

- continually struggle with the civil war of natures raging inside...
- work very hard to surrender their self-will in the face of peer pressure

where can the man by himself...without the Lord Jesus Christ...be seen?

- in hell
- at the Great White Throne
- going to the Lake of Fire (not to be cleansed!)

v19 let them that suffer according to the will of God:
those that suffer at the hands of unsaved men because they surrender to the
will of God...living holy lives (v1-2)

commit the keeping of their souls:

“to deposit as a trust”

we deposit our precious money in the bank...because we trust
them and the government to keep it safe

how much more should we deposit our priceless life with God,

- our trustworthy Creator
- the Bishop and Shepherd of our souls (Ch 2:25)
- Who suffered unjustly for us...and
- Paid in Full our debt

1 Peter Chapter 5

mine was a difficult week...this study is for me...as a pastor and a father
I will be sharing it with you...

But it also applies to

- Fathers
- Mothers
- Others in this ministry

v1 The elders which are among you I exhort:

Peter implores the elders/overseers/pastors

- Experience walking with the Lord in the world
- mature in the Lord
- strong in the faith
- wise...in the Word
- Spirit-filled...Spirit-led...discerning in the Spirit

who am also:

Peter's qualifications to make this exhortation

1. elder in the Church (present)

by walking faithfully with the Lord
persevering thru the trials
having that calling upon his life by the Lord
(He picks elders)

2. eyewitness of the suffering of Christ (past)

physical	beyond our comprehension
emotional	betrayal of Judas
	denial of Peter
	rejection of ALL
spiritual	of broken fellowship with the Father
	(Ps 22:1)

3. companion in the glory to come (future)

Ch 4:12-13

because of his communion in the suffering of Christ...
(our suffering just scratches the surface of Jesus'
suffering)

v2-3 Feed...oversight:

Peter's exhortation to the elders/pastors: be shepherds

What

- Feed God's people

As Jesus told Peter, Peter tells us

John 21:15-19

Feed God's people the meat of the Word...
to strengthen them and so they will grow
and mature

tend to them...not just feed but also

water

protect

serve

lead

die for (John 10:11)

notice...the flock belongs to the Good Shepherd,
Who builds "My church"

Matt 16:18

- Take the oversight

To watch over to warn them

Ezk 3:1-4, 17-21

How

- voluntarily

not by compulsion or duty or obligation...

because guilt fails

but with love...because God's love never fails

- with eager readiness

not as a hireling for personal gain

John 10:11-14

but instant in season...driven...eager for people to
hear Jesus speak to them

- as an example
not lording over God's "acquisition" like a
tyrannical boss as the Gentiles do
Mark 10:42-45 (Gospel of Peter...Jesus as a
Suffering Servant)

but leading by example
as a faithful shepherd leading the flock...
not as a trail boss driving the cattle
John 13...and Peter's reaction to the lesson

v4 chief Shepherd:

Who is the Good Shepherd and the Great Shepherd (Heb 13:20)

shall receive a crown of glory:

we cannot earn this crown, we must simply receive it by faith

a crown like Paul's

2 Tim 4:1-8

v5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder:

"My flock, grow and flourish. Learn to

- walk by faith and not by sight
- love one another
- endure trials, tribulation, persecution
- submit"

the key to maturing in the Lord is faith...

- knowing
- understanding
- submitting to
- obeying

the Word of God

the elders are exhorted to teach...the younger to receive instruction

be subject one to another...clothed with humility:

as Paul taught in his teaching on walking worthy of our calling (Eph 5:21)

humility is "one-size-fits-all"

- be lowly, not haughty
- be obedient, not stiff-necked
- being a servant, not a master

God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble:

God is opposed to the “high and mighty” (“natural” or self-righteous)...
but is gracious to the lowly who acknowledge
John 15:5 and Phil 4:13

Now...some “pained” words (v6-9) spoken by

- **an elder/pastor...**
- **an eyewitness and a partaker of the suffering of the Good Shepherd**

shepherds love the flock of God...hurt for the sheep...and sometimes get hurt by sheep

I have been learning more about the heart of my Good Shepherd this week

v6 Humble yourselves:

in times of suffering (Ch 4:19), submit to the power of God over your life...He holds your very breath in His hand!

You will be lifted up in the fullness of time...in the perfect timing of God’s perfect plan

Be “in Good Hands”...don’t go wandering...don’t wrestle with Him

“pained” words

1. shepherds hurt for....and get hurt by...

- **wandering sheep**
isolationists, serve-me vs where-serve
- **proud sheep**
completely irrational, given the nature of sheep!
- **goad-kickers**
resist the leading of the Good Shepherd

v7 Casting all your care upon him:
throwing all your distractions upon Jesus...
a conscience decision and action

Matt 11:28-30

How do we take the Good Shepherd's yoke?

- Prayer
- Having a "well-watered" heart that is soft and moldable
- Simplify our life.
- Less of me is more of Jesus
(John 3:30, Matt 22:36-40)
- Take one day at a time....seeking first the kingdom of
God (Matt 6:33-34)
- Make friends with Godly people.
- Talk less; listen more.
- Remind yourself that you are not the General Manager
of the universe.
- Don't "go it alone"...the yoke was for a team of oxen!

for he careth for you:

Why should we throw all our distractions upon the Good Shepherd?

Because Jesus is concerned about every one of our concerns...

He cares for/tends His sheep...

He cared first...He cares more

Don't look for pain relief anywhere else...don't be a prodigal...

it's irrational

To leave a loving family and wonderful home...for what?

"pained" words

2. shepherds hurt for...and get hurt by...prodigals

v8-9 Be sober, be vigilant:
Be clear-minded! Be sane!
Wake up! Watch! Be prepared!

Why?

your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion...devour:
because we are

- ferociously
- violently
- unmercifully
- unceasingly

hunted by the most powerful of God's creatures!

his appetite is insatiable and as voracious as a hungry lion

he hates you and me (especially elders/pastors)...he hates our witness of
Jesus Christ

We are sealed, he cannot have us...but he rabidly attacks us to destroy our
witness

- Busy-ness ("I'm too busy to go to church or to Bible Study!")
- Laziness ("I'm too tired.")
- Lukewarm Complacency ("Take it or leave it, I don't care.")
- Self-righteousness (spiritual pride)
- Distractions and Discouragements (mind games with unpleasant circumstances or people)
- Fear (a corrupted faith...another mind game...
2 Tim 1:7)

he feeds on the weak and the wounded, isolating them from the Body of
Christ...

whom resist steadfast in the faith:

we oppose our adversary by faith in Jesus Christ (H+B+O+W)...
in the birth, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus Christ

James 4:6-10

knowing that the same afflictions...your brethren:

and our faith is bolstered by knowing that all Christians face the same
attacks

satan has declared a "world war" against the Body of Christ...
and in that truth there is comfort because...

we are NEVER alone!

- The Good Shepherd is always with us...by attacking the Body, satan attacks the Head of the Body...attack the sheep and must deal with the Good Shepherd
- our family is always there with us...the strength of the Body is available to us!

This is a family! When one of us hurts, we all hurt

ever feel alone, like no one cares and no one is on your side?

A lie from the father of lies...a lie from the pit of hell!

We are children of God...our Father cares and our family cares.

“pained” words

3. shepherds hurt for...are hurt by...

- **sheep that are not sober or vigilant but asleep in the face of danger**
- **sheep that are too weak to oppose the roaring lion... that become lion bait and are ravaged**

I studied this passage this week like [2 Cor 2:4a](#) written by a man with a shepherd's heart
(while listening to the soundtrack from *Tarzan...Son of Man, Two Worlds, One Family*)

With this flock of God in mind, I wept for those who are

- Backsliding...because willful wandering is weakness...
and a self-inflicted wound

[Jer 5:5-6](#) (written by the “weeping prophet”)

- Self-righteousness...because spiritual pride is corruption
All the “Woe”s of Jesus to the Pharisees

- Complacent and lukewarm...because it is a self-engraved invitation for
attack...is a disease

God's heartfelt desire is that we know, understand, and obey His Word

[Ps 138:2b](#)

...but it is not the most important thing to many or most people in the Church today

that's the disconnect...that causes so much pain for the Good Shepherd...and this local shepherd

v10-11 But the God of all grace:
the very key to combating

- backsliding
- self-righteousness
- complacency

is Grace...having a "Grace experience"...His grace is sufficient for us

there is almost always suffering involved in a "Grace experience"

after that ye have suffered a while, make you:
AFTER we have communed with Jesus Christ in suffering for a brief
season
(James 4:14 at the very longest)...

The True and Living God, the Creator of the universe Who holds it in the
span of His hand will:

- make us perfect/complete (Phil 1:6)
- establish us...set the mold and make it firm
- strengthen us...invigorate us
(spiritually, physically, emotionally)
- settle us...comfort and consolidate us...
make us secure and safe

but, once again notice the sequence of events: suffering, then glory
the clay does not enjoy the wheel or the furnace...
but the end result is staggering!

v12 I have written briefly:
same Gr. Word as "a while" in v10

the true grace of God wherein ye stand:

- we are strong when we are weak
- we share in glory when we share in suffering
- grace requires that we count the cost...and die to self
- makes us Rock-solid...immoveable, safe...in the love of Christ

do you want Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
2 Tim 3:12 goes with John 11:25-26

v13 Babylon:
“code” for Rome

elected together with you saluteth:
Blood Brothers

welcome, embrace

v14 Greet ye one another:
love one another
John 13:35

When we fish for men like Peter, what is the only bait that works?

Love

How do shepherds tend the flock of God?

With Love

What is the “glue” that bonds the family of God?

Love...as testified by the blood of the suffering Messiah

Peace be with you:

when you have the love of Christ, you have peace with God and the peace
of God

in suffering and in glory...

Know Jesus, know peace

No Jesus, no peace

Consolidation for “pained words” this week:

- **The Good Shepherd’s peace**

Suffering as a shepherd...

- being shown the Good Shepherd’s heart
- being conformed into the image of the Good Shepherd

He will

- lift me up in due time (v6)
- strengthen and settle me (v10)

- **Fishing Lessons**

1. Be eager...with anticipation of catching fish
2. Be patient...the fish are unaffected by your frustration and impatience
3. Be instant in season and out of season...not knowing when a fish will bite
4. Be strong and of good courage...for there are some very big and very nasty fish out there!
5. Be gentle...to fish with a net, not hooks
6. Be wise...having God’s perspective and seeing the end of the matter
7. Be selfless...for these are not your fish
8. Be invisible...so the fish can see the True Fisher of men