

# WALKING IN HOPE, HOLINESS, & HUMILITY IN A HOSTILE WORLD



Lessons from 1&2 Peter  
by Sue LeBoutillier

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❧ *Walking in Hope, Holiness & Humility* ❧  
*in a Hostile World*  
*Lessons from 1&2 Peter*

Dear Friend,

Welcome to our **Women of the Word** Bible Study through the New Testament books of 1 & 2 Peter! We are glad you have joined us for this remarkable study through the letters that the Apostle Peter, moved by the Holy Spirit, issued to early Christians who were facing trials, suffering and discouragement in their lives.

We're about to study a portion of God's Word that will strengthen us to live *holy, humble* and *hopeful* lives before God. We'll sharpen our ability to perceive difficulties and suffering as something God uses to form His character in us. We'll be encouraged to flourish as strangers in this world — living in the natural and belonging to the spiritual. We'll be inspired to practice that which distinguishes God's kids — people who have *hope, grace* and *holiness* emanating from our lives.

We are going to take these books at a rather quick pace--studying one entire chapter each week. You will use this study guide to help you as you read the chapters and answer questions to process what is being conveyed. Then we will gather each week for a teaching and small group discussion.

As you begin your own personal lessons, here are some reminders of how to approach the study of God's Word:

- 1) **Pray**—ask God to keep your mind on track, help you understand what is being conveyed in the passage and speak to your heart;
- 2) **Read**—each day read the entire chapter being studied for the week—read aloud if possible—we often get a different sense of the passage by hearing it out loud.
- 3) **Apply**—Remember, our objective is to ask ourselves...
  - What does it say?
  - What does it mean?
  - What does it mean to me?

The questions in this simple study guide should help you with that process. This is not an in-depth or exhaustive study of these books; but hopefully, if you are diligent to work through the questions offered, you will gain insights into how God extended hope to his followers in that day, and vision for your own life and circumstances. Many of the questions will also serve as a source of topics for your small group discussions. Sharing with other women and hearing their perspective often sharpens us for more purposeful Kingdom use!

One more element that we are adding this session is what we will call **Memorizing Mondays!** There will be space at the end of each chapter for YOU to choose a verse that has meaning for your situation, or maybe one you sense the Holy Spirit pointing out to you. You will be asked to write that verse in your study guide on Monday and try your hardest to memorize it and share it with your group that week. If you're successful, you will memorize EIGHT passages of Scripture this Bible Study session!

Are you ready? Let's get started—

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To watch the video teachings for this Bible Study go to:  
[ccontario.com/womens-studies](http://ccontario.com/womens-studies)  
or  
[YouTube.com/calvarychapelontario](https://www.youtube.com/calvarychapelontario)

\*The best translation of the Bible to use is the one you understand the most easily—and using more than one translation can be a great aid to study! This study guide was created using the ESV (English Standard Version) which may be a helpful tool as you work through your study.





## ***Hope, Holiness & Humility in a Hostile World*** ***Outline for 1 Peter***

Opening Greetings: 1:1-2

1. ***How to cultivate a living hope*** (1:3-2:10)

Key verse: 1:13 *“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

Living in hope 1:3-12

Living in holiness 1:13-21

Living in humility 1:22-2:10

2. ***How to live as a sojourner in this life*** (2:11-3:12)

Key verse: 2:11 *“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.”*

Submitting to authorities 2:11-17

Submitting to masters 2:18-25

Submitting in the home 3:1-7

Submitting in the church 3:8-12

3. ***How to flourish through suffering*** (3:13-5:11)

Key verse: 4:1 *“Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.”*

Having no fear 3:13-22

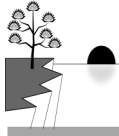
Having a purposeful attitude 4:1-11

Having an expectation of suffering 4:12-19

Having a sense of humility 5:1-9

Having confidence in the God of all grace 5:10-11

Closing Greetings: 5:12-14



## 1 Peter Chapter 1

**PRAY**—Ask God for guidance to understand the Scriptures you’re about to study.

**READ**—1 Peter chapter one before you begin this study guide. If you are able, read the whole chapter aloud each day of this week. This study guide is not broken into *days-of-the-week*, but just multiple pages for each chapter. This will give you the flexibility to study this chapter in one marathon session, or break it up however you prefer.

**MARK**—Each day as you read, mark the repetition of the words *hope* and *holy* or *holiness*. These are important themes in chapter one.

**MEMORIZE**—As you read the chapter, think and pray about which verse you will choose to memorize this week. There is a place at the end of this chapter section to write out this verse. You’ll probably also want to write it out on an index card or slip of paper to make it more mobile for your recitation throughout the week.

### *How to Cultivate a Living Hope*

#### ☞ Living in Hope: 1 Peter 1:3-12 ☞

Since we discussed the author and the audience in our introduction along with the first two verses, let’s begin our study at verse three...

☞ **Read v.3-5**—Now...

- Identify the main subject (in your opinion):
  
- Describe our inheritance:
  
  
- How is our inheritance protected?

Have you ever had real or imagined fears about a physical inheritance (IRA, home valuables, investments, even Social Security) evaporating? It's a vulnerable feeling to wonder what might happen. How is our heavenly inheritance different than a physical inheritance?

☞ **Read v.6-9**—As we celebrate our security in Christ, we're told that we will be grieved by various \_\_\_\_\_.

- What is the purpose of these trials?
- In general, what is the application here for a believer in Jesus?
- Can you name a specific situation where your faith has been, or is being tested? How are you being made more into the image of Christ through it?

READ **James 1:2-4** for a different Apostle's word on the same subject.

The *testing* process for precious metals often involves fire —applying heat to determine whether the metal is genuine or counterfeit.

☞ Read v.10-12— These three verses are a parenthetical comment to put an exclamation point on the awesomeness of our salvation.

- How did the prophets react to the knowledge of the coming salvation?
- What questions filled their mind and investigation?
- What was revealed to them about this matter?

It's as though Peter is asking: *'Do you know how fortunate you are? Angels would have given anything to be in on this!'* YOU are a full heir to the message of hope the prophets preached thousands of years ago; with full understanding through the power of the Holy Spirit.

☞ Living in Holiness: 1 Peter 1:13-21 ☞

☞ Read v.13— This verse *may* end up on our memory verse page!  
List the call to action of this verse in bullet form:

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Assuming you want to make this personal—let's plan ways to **prepare your mind for action** and **be sober-minded!** As the Lord reveals suggestions to you list some concepts:

**Proactive Elements:**

Example: Feed myself with at least one chapter of Scripture a day

**Things to Eliminate:**

Day-dreaming about a different situation in life—capture those thoughts

☞ Read v.14-16—Our study is titled **Hope, Holiness & Humility**. Here we come to a passage that explains what we mean by **holy**.

- First, what is our position in the family of God as described in v.14?
- Why are we called to be *holy*?
- How is *holiness* expressed?

☞ Read v.17-21— Consider our spiritual character development:

- What realization should motivate us to live a holy life as we await his return?

- Explain the payment that was made in order for YOU to be called a child of God? Use at least three descriptive words/phrases from these passages.
- When was this redemption on your behalf planned?

☞ Living in Humility: 1 Peter 1:22-25 ☞

These last four verses open the door to the next important theme of this letter — *humility* toward God and submission in our lives.

Hope springs to life in us as we are *born again* and joyfully possess our inheritance. It motivates us to holy living—just as our redeemer is holy; and it persuades us to hold a proper view of ourselves both in relation to God and man.

☞ Read v.22-25— one of the most tangible ways to demonstrate a life of holiness is love for one another.

- On a scale of 1 to 10 how is your love toward:
  - Your natural family? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Your church family? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Difficult people in your life? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who is the Lord bringing to your mind at the moment that He wants you to demonstrate a greater expression of love?

I wonder if our lack of love may be due to an issue with pride — we may believe, down deep, that we are superior to others. I don't think any of us would say that out loud, but if we're annoyed by simple things, avoid contact with certain people, withdraw from specific gatherings—we might be more prideful than we know.

Read the quote in **v.24**:

- Note the first word of the quote: \_\_\_\_\_
- What is *all flesh* being likened to? \_\_\_\_\_
- Now write a sentence that describes the human condition we ALL experience—include something about the end of this condition:

For additional wisdom on relating to others, READ **Romans 12**. List ONE additional insight that relates to YOUR relational world and make this a point of your prayer life this week:

 *My Memory Verse* 

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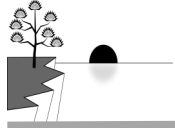
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# 1 Peter Chapter 2

**PRAY** —Ask God to help you understand the Scriptures you are about to study.

**READ**—1 Peter chapter two before you begin this section of the study guide. Try to read the whole chapter each day of this week and read it aloud a couple of those days.

**MEMORIZE**—As you read the chapter, think and pray about which verse you will chose to memorize this week. Write your verse at the end of this chapter section and on an index card for mobile practice.

**INTRODUCTION**—Last week’s lesson on chapter one opened our minds to all three concepts of this Bible Study—*Hope, Holiness* and *Humility*. It’s the virtue of **humility**, as seen through the activity of **submission**, that will be in the spotlight this week.

## ☞ Living in Humility: 1 Peter 2:1-10 ☞

☞ **Read v.1-3**— These verses seem to be the conclusion of the end of chapter one’s *‘love one another earnestly from a pure heart’* emphasis, so please back up and read **1 Peter 1:22-2:3**.

Now, list and process the relational problems (hindrances to our spiritual growth) given in **v.1**. (Be patient—this will take time)

- Malice will hinder my spiritual growth because: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ will hinder my spiritual growth because: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ will hinder my spiritual growth because: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ will hinder my spiritual growth because: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ will hinder my spiritual growth because: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When we read a strong word like **malice**, we might skim over it and think it doesn't pertain to us; but *grudge* might be a word we can identify with more easily. Before we move forward with our study on submission, take a moment to carefully go through this list and ask the Lord if you are walking in any malice, deceit, or envy toward someone; or if you slander someone by misrepresenting them. Let's take this seriously this week and confess sins that may have become habitual and ask the Lord first for forgiveness, and then for His grace in our lives—which is fed to us through his Word and his Spirit.

- Cite the remedy in **v.2** that will enable us to have victory and grow spiritually:

The NIV says ***crave pure spiritual milk***. You know that saying — “*you are what you eat?*” — what is the spiritual reality of feeding on the Word in your life?

- How healthy is your diet in the Word of God?
- What does your spiritual diet consist of?
- Do you graze from verse to verse, or allow ALL of the spiritual food groups into your heart by consuming the whole Bible?
- Are you developing a greater craving for pure spiritual milk?
- Is there a change you want to make in this area of your life?

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*You may not have a craving for God's Word because of sin in your life. Someone has said that God's Word will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from God's Word. Confess it! And get back into the Bible.*

Here is some additional reading on *putting away* characteristics which are not in agreement with our life in Christ:

**Romans 13:11-14      Colossians 3:6-10      James 1:21-22**

☞ Read v.4-8— As much as we may value independence—we are actually VERY interdependent in the body of Christ, so much so that we are each described as one *living stone* among the many that are building the *spiritual house*.

- From v.4 what are some characteristics of **living stones**?
- From v.5 what is our purpose as **living stones**?
- From v.6 (which is a quote from **Isaiah 28:16**) what is Jesus himself described as?

The structure and design of a building rests on the cornerstone. The church, composed of living stones, is built upon and rests upon THE living stone. *“No one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11)*

The reality is that not everyone chooses to accept that cornerstone, so we see a contrast in these verses between those **who believe** and those who **don't believe**!

V.6 says whoever **believes** in him \_\_\_\_\_

V.7 the \_\_\_\_\_ is for you who **believe**.

But for those who do **not believe**...

V.8b they \_\_\_\_\_ because they disobey the word.

V.7 uses the phrase *disobey the word* which might make you to think Peter is talking about those who sin; but go back to **1:25**, note how it defines *the word* for us. Now explain what it means to reject or *disobey the word*:

This is the beginning point of submitting to God—accepting the reality of who He is, who Jesus is, and who you are. Believing the gospel is submitting yourself to God’s order.

☞ **Read v.9-10**— Once you’re in submission to God, in addition to being a *living stone* in God’s *spiritual house*, list the expressions of value that God places on you from **v.9**:

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Which one can you (or do you want to) identify with most readily?

Which one may be most difficult for you to wrap your mind around?

**V.10** reminds us of two elements of our old *former* condition and our new *born again* condition. List them:

<u>Before</u>	<u>Now</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

We are *now* God’s people and have *now* received mercy but we *now* find ourselves strangers to the world we live in. The people to whom Peter was writing were both physical as well as spiritual ***sojourners and exiles***. We can at least identify with the spiritual sojourner part!

These next sections describe the humility required to please God by submitting ourselves to His plan while being strangers here on earth. This should become a pattern of living for us sojourners.

As we look at each area of a life fully submitted to God, ask yourself the question, ‘*Is this a suggestion of one optional way to live as a child of God, or a command to follow?*’



## *How to Live as a Sojourner in this Life*

### ☞ Submitting to Authorities: 1 Peter 2:11-17 ☞

☞ Read **v.11-17**— For whose sake are we asked to submit to those in authority over us?

Let's re-arrange **v.17** a little and emphasize some important directives:  
\_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ the brotherhood (family of God),  
\_\_\_\_\_ everyone, even \_\_\_\_\_ the emperor  
(president?) There we have it—those are our orders as children in the family of God!

- Read through **Philippians 2:3-8** and describe what you see as an example from Jesus in matters of submission:

### ☞ Submitting to Masters: 1 Peter 2:18-25 ☞

☞ Read **v.18-25**— New Testament passages like this one about slaves and masters were written for exactly that scenario—not employees and employers. However, without minimizing the challenges of the slave/master relationship, we can certainly adapt the same order of submission in any employment or social setting.

- In **v.18**, the direction is to not only obey, but to add:
- Is there an allowance given for a mean or harsh overseer?
- Serving under someone harsh is a unique type of suffering.
  - Can you recount a time you were in this situation?
  - Are you currently suffering under this situation?

- What are you doing to maintain *grace* in this situation?

(For more insight and help read: **Colossians 3:22-24 & Romans 12:14**)

- List all of the things you learn from **v.21** about suffering:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Write out **v.23b** that points out how Christ suffered:

**Humility** is expressed through submission—

**Submission** is the willingness to relinquish control—

Releasing **control** takes faith—

Through **faith** we can entrust ourselves to

God!

We have more to study about submission next week in chapter 3, but as we close this week's study, pray about those four words highlighted above: *humility, submission, control, faith* and see how God might minister clarity to you as you stir them around in your heart.

✎ *My Memory Verse* ✎

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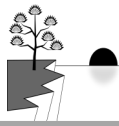
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## 1 Peter Chapter 3

**PRAY**—Ask God for insight on the Scriptures you will study this week.

**READ**—1 Peter chapter three before you begin this section of the study guide. Try to read the whole chapter each day of this week and read it aloud a couple of those days.

**MEMORIZE**—How is your Scripture memory going? Keep reviewing the first two verses and choose a new one for this week's study.

**INTRODUCTION**—In our last chapter we were reminded that we are *CHOSEN* and set apart for God's glory. As such, we should conduct ourselves as people of God in this foreign world. That means living in such a way that honors God in our relationships: submitted to God, submitted to civil authorities, and submitted in social and vocational settings. Now let's study God's plan for the home and the church.

### 🌀 Submitting in the Home: 1 Peter 3:1-7 🌀

From the perspective of our culture, marriage is viewed as a fifty-fifty partnership of two people (not necessarily required to be opposite genders any longer). From a Biblical perspective marriage is a special and sacred covenant between a man and a woman, intended to mirror the symbolism of Christ and the church. God has given specific instructions for how a marriage is to function in the natural realm so that it can also tell a gospel story in the spiritual realm.

In this passage, we should ask the same question as we did in the last chapter: *is this a suggestion of one optional way to live as a child of God, or a command that God desires all of his children to follow?*

🌀 **Read v.1-2**— Here are some questions as we begin these verses:

- Do you think the Bible teaches that all women should be subject to all men? (why or why not)
- In a Christian marriage who is to be subject to whom? (v.1)
- Note the modifier before the word *husband*: \_\_\_\_\_

It's important that we understand what the word **subject** means so we can grasp our instructions. Note this word was also used in:

**2:13** '*be subject to every human institution*', and again in

**2:14** '*servants be subject to your masters*'

It is the Greek word **hypotasso**, and Vines dictionary tells us it is a military word which means *to rank under*.

It's used 40 times in the New Testament regarding various relationships, including Jesus making himself *subject* to his father (**1 Cor. 15:28**). Isn't that something interesting to consider—Jesus himself, being in very nature God, willingly walked in this *hypotasso* humility in his own relationship to his Father.

Okay, let's define what '*being subject*' doesn't mean:

- It's not blind obedience to another person
- It doesn't strip one of their value, intellect or worth
- It doesn't denote inferiority

As we regard the phrase '*to rank under*,' list some possible elements that it DOES or CAN mean:

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Godly conduct is a powerful witness. Let's consider the impact of willing submission. **V.1** says we may win over '*some who do not obey the word*'. This doesn't refer to people who merely sin (disobey the Word), but to unbelievers who refuse to accept the gospel (disobey the Word).

- Review **2:8b** and **1:25**. Consider: What was Peter trying to explain about these people?

As a believer in Christ willingly subjects herself (ranks under) in her marriage relationship (or the civic relationship or the occupational relationship) there is a possibility for unbelieving people to be '**won without a word**' by what?

- How is that conduct described in **v.2**?

One additional note about '**without a word**'—Peter wasn't suggesting a wife shouldn't speak or share about her faith in Christ—that wouldn't be in agreement with other parts of this letter (like **v.15** of this chapter). Words are powerful and useful for expressing the truth about the gospel. But, a wife should refrain from endless discussions, reminders and useless arguments about spiritual matters that will probably lead to nagging and making her man dig his heels in further. She should rather focus on personal holiness and prayer for her unbelieving husband.

☞ **Read v.3-6**—Let's not major on the minors!

- What is a wife NOT to rely on for her beauty?
  
- And what should she focus on—major on?

Compare the time you've spent this week on outward preparation (hair, wardrobe, cosmetics, etc.) with the time you have spent cultivating your inner beauty.

- What is your assessment?

- Any changes you want to make to your lifestyle? Name one such change:
- Who is our example for this inner beauty, first in general and then specifically (according to **v.5**)?

We could do a lengthy study on Sarah—her faith in God, lessons learned through her marriage and journey with Abraham and spiritual growth through waiting on the Lord. She’s a vivid Old Testament saint to consider—and we are asked to do just that —consider her.

- How was Sarah’s attitude toward Abraham described in **v.6**?

The word *obey* is a different Greek word than was used earlier—it is **hypakouo**, which means *to listen under*. Do you see the similarity with **hypotasso**, *to rank under*? I think this is amazing! Sarah was commended for *listening to the heart of her husband*. I suppose she didn’t do it perfectly, but as she grew in the *listening department* I think she learned to overcome in the *fear department*.

If you are married, here is a stimulating contemplation for your relationship:

- Has the Holy Spirit already shown you an area that you have been resistant to hear what your husband thinks about something, much less *really listen* and *take action*? Make notes for prayer:

- **V.6** in the NIV reads: *You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.* Have you been aware of fear as it relates to allowing your husband to rank over you? God may be using this passage to create a more stable foundation in your marriage. What fear do you need to surrender?
- Can you think of other relationships or areas of life besides marriage that *hypakouo to listen under* would be profitable? What might that be in your life?

One last thought: nowhere in Scripture do we find a wife should submit to her husband out of fear or intimidation. In fact, as we read how husbands are to treat their wives, it's quite the opposite:

☞ Read v.7—

- What are the characteristics of a God-honoring husband?
- How might you describe '*heirs with you of the grace of life*'? (Check some additional translations)
- The end of **v.7** implies that there could be an unwanted consequence to husbands for not treating their wives well. What is it?

Hindered prayer due to our own rebellion, disobedience and sin is a theme we will run into more in this book—in fact in just five verses. I personally think this is something we simply do not emphasize in our current Christian culture. Peter boldly pointed it out for the sake of his audience and we should take note!





It's interesting to consider where Peter first heard these concepts taught. **Read Matthew 5:38-48** for more understanding in God's plan for how we relate to both believers and non-believers. Thoughts?

☞ **Read v.10-12**—These verses are a quote from **Psalm 34**. Not only do we desire to see God's team built up and strong, but what believer isn't eager to receive a personal blessing from God as well?

- Which of these instructions for Godly living would you choose for a focus right now in your life? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What promise or reward is given to us in **v.12** that we can hold on to?

## How to Flourish Through Suffering

### ☞ **Having No Fear: 1 Peter 3:13-22** ☞

At this point in Peter's letter we turn a corner to emphasize trials, persecution, and hostility from the world. The previous passage and quote from **Psalm 34**, if left to stand on its own strength, could lead us to conclude that if we keep ourselves from evil, do good things, bless people in our path in the same way one tosses out parade candy; then we should live a wonderful, happy, blessed, trouble-free life. This is obviously, not the case so let's dive into this discussion on the inevitable hostility we will receive from the world that we are sojourning through.

The word **blessed** can be defined as *highly privileged*. It has nothing to do with being privileged in circumstances, rather it means that no one can harm you spiritually, or take from you the promises of God.

☞ Read v.13-17—

- What does Peter say about the one who suffers for righteousness sake in v.14 ?
- Write out the last eight words in v.14, which is both a quote from **Isaiah 8:12** and a word of encouragement for those who are suffering for righteousness:
- Is this a button for you? Do you fear people's opinions of you? Do you find you crave affirmation from others? Does this verse need to become a prayer point for you this week? Write your thoughts...
- We might be tempted to meet persecution by toning down our zeal for the things of the Lord. But in v.15 we are encouraged to always be prepared for what?
- What should the tone of that presentation look like (v.15)?

Are you prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have in Christ? Have you written a three-minute testimony of how you answered God's call and asked him to forgive your sins? If not, our Women of the Word study through the book of Ruth is a great resource for a step-by-step process to put your *story of redemption* into words and to be prepared! (Found in our Calvary bookstore and on our website)

- **V.16** speaks of *having a good conscience*—in other words we should be found on the right side of matters. What is the reason?

As I am writing this, a famous Christian football player is being ridiculed throughout social media because of his moral standards pertaining to physical intimacy before marriage. What he's experiencing is a form of persecution from *'those who revile your good behavior in Christ.'* It is an example of the next phrase *'to suffer for doing good...rather than for doing evil.'* How much better to be reviled for holy living rather than pretend to engage in holy living, but be found out to be a hypocrite.

What do we do if we don't feel that we have a good conscience? What if it feels bad? Guilty? We have only one remedy for a clear conscience...

- Read **Hebrews 10:22-23**. How would you explain this to a friend who is suffering from a guilty conscience?

Supposing we have confessed our sins to establish that initial good conscience — what do we do when our conscience becomes violated again — when we feel that nudge from the Holy Spirit that something isn't quite right: some action, some thought, some conversation that is lurking at the door of our hearts and minds to defile our conscience.

- **Step One:** Read **James 1:12-15**. Understand that mere temptation does not defile a person. We all face temptations of many kinds— it is acting upon that temptation that is sin. So don't let the enemy defile your conscience just because you face a temptation.

What if we do succumb to the temptation and sin? Then we move on to steps two and three —

- **Step Two:** Read **1 John 1:9**. Run quickly to the one who understands our fragile state; confess your sin, ask forgiveness and ask for your conscience to be restored. Confession must be coupled with repentance which means to turn the other way—to have a change of mind and action. We must repent.
- **Step Three:** There is one more element to our conscience and that is to ask God to keep us from sin. Do you pray for God's strength? Read **Hebrews 13:18** and note the first three words:

☞ **Read v.18-22**— We close this chapter with a reminder of Christ's suffering on our behalf. We've spent so much time in personal application—and we should apply the Word—but for these final five verses, let's resist the temptation to rush to application lest we miss the element of worship.

- **Read v.18** again in some way as to personalize it just for YOU so that you can praise God and thank him for reaching out to you and choosing you to be in the kingdom.

If you're not sure you **HAVE** been personally brought to God, today is the best time to read that verse again and just tell God that you accept the work that Jesus did on your behalf to make you acceptable to him.

Peter gave two illustrations to assure us of the amazing and victorious work of Jesus on the cross and our assurance.

- 1) That after his resurrection (but before his ascension) Jesus descended to declare his victory over death and God's judgment on the disobedient. (**v.19-20**)

- 2) That just as Noah’s family was shut into the ark of God’s salvation, even so, when someone puts their trust in Christ for forgiveness of sins, their spirits are held safely in God’s hand until the day of heaven.

One final note: the word *baptism* here is a link to the illustration of Noah. In the same way that Noah and his family were not saved simply because they were carried through water, we are not saved simply by immersion through water. Instead, immersion is a symbol of the greater work of the removal of sins from our heart through the resurrection of Christ. (You may find this verse easier to understand in the NIV or another thought-for-thought translation).

Read also **Titus 3:4-8**.

❧ *My Memory Verse* ❧

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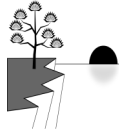
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## 1 Peter Chapter 4

**PRAY**—Ask God to help you understand the Scriptures you are about to study and how they relate to the passages you have already studied.

**READ**—1 Peter chapter four. Read the whole chapter each day of this week. Underline or note the repetition of the theme words in this chapter: *suffer, suffered, suffering*.

**MEMORIZE**—Choose one verse from this chapter as your memory assignment for this week.

**INTRODUCTION**—I know it's corny, but do you remember those phrases found on motivational posters? *Attitude Determines Altitude?* Oh boy. Well, Peter isn't quite as quippy, but he begins by exhorting us about our attitude: *arm yourself with the same attitude as Jesus*, who also suffered! Get prepared for this battle, know the enemy, check your attitude, it will determine your altitude!

Are you expecting suffering in life that parallels your savior? Or are you expecting a pain-free, persecution-free, success-filled experience here on planet earth while you wait for your trip to heaven? We should expect to be armed! *Arm yourself* in v.1 is a military term that requires purpose, expectation and service. In this chapter we find all these elements, so let's dive in.

### *How to Flourish Through Suffering*

#### ☞ Having a Purposeful Attitude: 1 Peter 4:1-11 ☞

☞ **Read v.1-6**— Once we become united with Christ, we have the ability and privilege to live the remainder of our lives on earth *for the will of God (v.2)*. Let's investigate...

- Underline each phrase '*in the flesh*' and also '*in the spirit*'
- What do you think '*in the flesh*' means? (you may want to read another translation for help)



- The point of **v.1-2** is to help us understand the contrast between two possible motivations in our living, either:

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

- If we choose to live out our days for the will of God, what response should we expect from people around us as we no longer participate or live for *human passions* (**v.4**)?

Peter listed activities that do not belong in a believer's life, with the understanding that we would purify ourselves from sin-based living.

- What types of responses have you received from unbelievers when you have put aside former ways or human passions? What types of labels have you acquired?

Because Jesus was at odds with the people and the system of the world around him, we too are at odds with the people and system of the world around us. Non-believers (which is what the word *Gentile* in **v.3** means) will often chaff in the presence of someone who is living a life of holiness modeled after Jesus.

**Read 2 Corinthians 2:15-16** for the Apostle Paul's explanation of this phenomena.

Slandering a Christian's way of life or convictions is an unbeliever's attempt at making themselves feel better, but **v.5-6** reminds us that God will always have the final say. We will all give account to God!

☞ **Read v.7-11**— These verses create a great list of purposeful attitudes on holy living that will help us flourish, even through suffering: ***prayer, love, hospitality and service***. These become a snapshot of what a holy life surrendered to the will of God looks like in contrast to the sensuality list from the previous section.

Write the first eight words of **v.7** as a heading and reason for the four bullet points to follow:

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1) Purposeful in our Prayers v.7

- Describe what our attitude should be with regard to our prayer life:

Read the narrative from **Matthew 26:36-46**.

Note: this same Peter in the garden of Gethsemane is the author of this letter. We can gain a lot of insight from one who has tried, failed, and learned from the experience. Plus we know that the *garden-variety* Peter was lacking the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit; and the *epistle-writing* Peter was later empowered with the Spirit of Jesus. What additional insights on prayer can you apply from his garden experience?

Practically, how can you maintain a clear mind while praying?

Discuss this in your group—sometimes we can really learn from one another as we share our attempts, failures, and successes.

2) Purposeful in our Love v.8

- Describe what our attitude should be with regard to love:

- What is the positive benefit of love among Christians?

Love is a deliberate decision, not a feeling. Read these additional passages for inspiration on a life of love:

*Proverbs 10:12*      *John 15:13*      *1 John 2:10-11*

Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**. This passage may be familiar, but this time as you read, choose just TWO characterizations of love that rise to the top of the list...maybe because of a certain conviction due to circumstances in your life, maybe because of a type of love shown to you recently; for whatever reason, write down TWO and prepare to explain to your group why you chose them:

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### 3) Purposeful in our Hospitality v.9

- Describe what our attitude should be with regard to hospitality:

Hospitality can be a tangible expression of love similar to *works* that follow *faith*—*hospitality* follows *love*—it's a choice not a feeling.

- If you leave off the last three letters of the word hospitality what do you have? \_\_\_\_\_. How does that change the emphasis of what you might normally think of as hospitality?

- Read **Romans 12:13**. How can YOU be an avenue of healing, care, love and kindness in this next week? Write at least ONE thing you believe God may call you to in the area of practicing hospitality:

#### 4) Purposeful in our Serving v.10-11

- Describe what our attitude should be with regard to serving:

**V.10** explains that each and every believer has received a spiritual gift from God—none of us is without something to offer. **V.11** drops spiritual gifts into two categories. Using one word each, what headings would you give these categories:

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- Explain the motivation behind those who employ *speaking* gifts:
- Explain the energy behind those who employ *serving* gifts:
- Explain the kingdom result of God’s kids using their gifts rightly and wisely:

#### ☞Having an Expectation of Suffering: 1 Peter 4:12-19☞

☞ Read v.12-19—

- Describe what our attitude SHOULD NOT be with regard to the trials and sufferings of this life:

- Describe what our attitude SHOULD be with regard to those trials and sufferings:

This passage described difficult times with labels like: *fiery trials, testing, sufferings, insults*. I suppose there are even more ways to describe the difficult parts of life *in the flesh* (as Peter would say).

As we study, let's remember the broader reality of life in a hostile world. We not only face blatant persecution because we belong to Jesus, but we also face disappointments and consequences due to our personal sin, and tragedies due to the presence of sin in general.

As we close this chapter, go back and read **v.19** again.

- What do you understand about our suffering?
  
- What action are we to take in the midst of suffering and what does that look like in practical terms?
  
- Have you experienced a soul-rattling trial of some sort? As you learned to entrust yourself to God's grace, what was the ultimate outcome of that trial on your spiritual life and service to God. Share with your group the positive effects suffering and trials have had on YOUR life...

 *My Memory Verse* 

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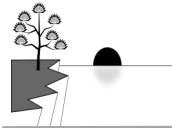
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## 1 Peter Chapter 5

**PRAY**—Ask God to lead you in understanding of this last chapter.

**READ**—1 Peter chapter five before you begin this section of the study guide. Try to read the whole chapter each day of this week and read it aloud a couple of those days.

**MEMORIZE**—Choose one verse from this chapter as your memory assignment for this week. Review your other verses and see if you can recite all five to someone this week.

**INTRODUCTION**—We've learned that suffering is inevitable in a hostile world. We've learned that we don't live on an island—we are interdependent in the body of Christ. Since we live in community, it makes sense that God's people need wise and strong leaders. That is exactly how the final chapter begins, with an appeal for everything in the church to be healthy and in order.

### *How to Flourish Through Suffering*

#### ☞ Having a Sense of Humility: 1 Peter 5:1-9 ☞

☞ **Read v.1-5**—The first four verses of these closing remarks are directed to the elders of the church—meaning those who have been given charge over the flock. Peter included himself as a fellow elder, with the significant distinction of having been an *eye witness* of Christ's sufferings.

- According to **v.2** What is the primary role of an elder?
- What positive attitudes should an elder or shepherd have while carrying out this important ministry (**v.2-3**)?

- What negative attitudes should be avoided (**v.2-3**)?
- Read **Hebrews 13:17** and explain more responsibility that comes from being a leader in the body of Christ:
- What reward is promised to those who do their work diligently?

If you have the time, read **Ezekiel 34**. List some things you learn in this passage about God's love and care for HIS flock:

Let's move to the younger generation...

- Explain the simple job description of those who are younger (**v.5**):
- Do you get the sense that this is a command or an option?

Before we leave this subject, think about the pastors, elders and leaders in your own church fellowship. Take time to pray for them to be strengthened by the Lord to provide the level of care that Peter just expressed in this letter. They can use your prayers!



☞ Read v.5-7—The first two words of v.5 are *clothe yourselves*. To be undressed is to be vulnerable to the elements of our world. We humans are fairly fragile. It doesn't take very long in sub-zero temperatures for us to succumb to hypothermia; and only a short time in 100+ temps to feel the effects of heat-exhaustion.

Appropriate clothing can go a long way to help us endure those extremes. In a similar way, we need our souls to be clothed with *humility* to moderate the effects of either thinking of ourselves too highly (pride) or too lowly (not within God's watchful eye).

- Look up the word *humility* and write a definition:

Here is Charles Spurgeon's simple definition:  
*Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self.*

- V.5 warns of extreme of *pride* — the assumption that we don't need God's authority or guidance in our life. What is God's reaction toward someone that thinks like this?
- If, however, someone chooses to cloth themselves with humility, what does God freely give?
- V.6 warns of the other extreme of not believing that God notices or cares for us. What advice you see in v.6-7 toward this fallacy.

Do you mistakenly think Jesus only cares about your soul in eternity? He also cares about the events of today: that emergency room visit, that \$200 shortfall on bills this month, that biting remark from your teen, that dead washing machine, that spill-crazy toddler who is driving you crazy! A right estimate of ourselves (*humility*) can help us to cast ALL of life's anxieties on Him because we can really believe that HE CARES—about all of it!

- List some of life's anxieties that you realize you have NOT cast on the Lord:

Now take this list and offer those things up in prayer telling God you believe that HE is in control and not YOU, that you don't know for sure how these things will work out, but that you trust him because He is God of heaven AND earth and you know He cares about things on earth.

☞ **Read v.8-9**—These two verses are like a big yellow *caution* sign. Once we have a proper estimate of who we are (via humility), we should also have a healthy respect for our enemy, who also happens to be God's enemy. We need to avoid the twin traps of either dismissing his power through jest and cartoon or elevating his authority to god-like status. Before we absorb instruction from **v.8-9**, let's take a moment to see what Scripture teaches us about Satan.

Read these passages and take notes:

**His activity in this world:**

- **Matthew 13:19**
- **2 Corinthians 4:4**
- **2 Corinthians 11:14**

His limitations:

- Job 1:6-12

His ultimate destiny:

- Matthew 25:41
- 1 John 3:8
- Revelation 20:1-3

How to deal with Satan:

- 2 Corinthians 2:10-11
- Ephesians 6:16
- James 4:7
- And now, from our verses in **1 Peter 5:8-9**, what additional instructions are we given to tame the beast?
- What particular advice would you give someone on **how** to *resist* the devil? Give an example...

☞ Confidence in the God of all Grace: 1 Peter 5:10-11 ☞

☞ Read v.9-11—We doubled up reading v.9 to remind us about the common bond of suffering experienced by believers *throughout the world*.

- There are many types of suffering. Based on the context of **v.7-9**, what type of suffering, do you think Peter may be referring to that is so universal?
  
- In **v.10** what four words did Peter use to express how God would act for us?
  
- When do you think we can expect those actions from God? Why?

☞ **Read v.12-14**—The final three verses represent a typical closing for a first-century letter:

- Giving credit to \_\_\_\_\_ for his work as secretary
- Reminding of Peter’s purpose in writing—which was: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Sending greetings, including those from \_\_\_\_\_
- And finally declaring the opportunity for *peace* to all who are in Christ.

As we close the first letter written by Peter and before we begin the next one, we should examine our hearts, minds, and emotions.

- Are YOU at peace with God? It is the most important question you can ask yourself in any given day!
- Are you trusting that Jesus took the penalty for YOUR sins and have you asked for his forgiveness and accepted his gift which makes your moral debt *paid in full*? If you don't recall ever asking for that initial act of forgiveness—stop and do that right now.
- Do you live with a clear conscience today as you ask the Holy Spirit to help you live a life pleasing to God—including repenting when you do sin and actively asking for God's strength to please him? Right now is a good time to process these things with the Lord.
- Is your hope alive and active? Do you make decisions based on the impact they will have on eternity? Has God stirred up some changes in your heart? I hope so! We should ALL be changed as we spend time in God's Word and listen to His voice.

May you be blessed abundantly!

 *My Memory Verse* 

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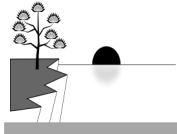
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## 2 Peter Chapter 1

One book down, one to go as we study through the writings of the Apostle Peter verse-by-verse! We have three more chapters to study now as we open the

book of Second Peter—meaning it was his *second* letter written to the precious brothers and sisters who are in Christ. Here is our outline for the next three weeks:

Opening Greetings: 1:1-2

1. ***Our knowledge of Christ increases our Faith*** (1:3-21)

Key verse: 1:3 *“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.”*

Faith is key to spiritual growth 1:3-15

Scripture is key to spiritual growth 1:16-21

2. ***False teachers will attempt to destroy our faith*** (2:1-22)

Key verse: 2:1 *“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies...”*

Beware of false teachers 2:1-3

Examples and characteristics of false teachers 2:4-22

3. ***The Coming Reward of our Faith*** (3:1-18)

Key verse: 3:9 *“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*

Remember what God’s Word reveals 3:1-10

Wait with an eternal perspective 3:11-18

As you begin this final stretch, remember to...

**PRAY**—Ask God to lead you to a full understanding of the Scriptures you are about to study. The work that the Holy Spirit does in our minds to help us understand what was written is incredible!

**READ**—2 Peter chapter one. Read the entire chapter as many times during this week as you can—every day if possible.

**MARK**—Underline the words *know* or *knowledge*. These words will be used at least thirteen times in this short epistle. Just a head’s up—the word doesn’t mean mere intellectual understanding, but also a living participation in the truth of God—a growing up!

**MEMORIZE**—Continue your weekly method of memorizing one verse from the chapter that seems meaningful for your life right now! Write it out at the end of this chapter section and prepare to share with your group or your prayer partner.

**INTRODUCTION**—In the last five weeks while we studied Peter’s first letter we found strength for times of suffering. The letter encouraged us in hope, exhorted us to live a life of holiness and reminded us that maintaining a posture of humility is like the spiritual super glue that helps it all *take hold*.

Now, as he writes a second time (probably from prison in Rome) his passion is aimed at increasing the spiritual maturity of his brothers. He’s convinced that a true knowledge of their savior coupled with a determination for spiritual growth will help them detect and reject the subtle deception of false teachers.

### *Knowledge Increases Faith*

☞ Faith is Key to Spiritual Growth: 2 Peter 1:1-15 ☞

☞**Read v.1-4**—There is a subtle difference between **v.1** in this book and **v.1** in the previous book. Peter introduced himself a bit differently. Go back and read **1 Peter 1:1** and then **2 Peter 1:1**...

- What difference in wording do you detect?
- What does the additional description of himself potentially suggest about Peter’s own spiritual growth since the first letter?



- God’s power flowing *freely* through us is everything! Write out **v.3** and mark words that are important to you as you write:

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- According to **v.3** how do we receive God’s power in our lives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- According to **v.4** what can we expect to see as a result of genuinely knowing God and believing his promises?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- If you have been *in Christ* for awhile and have been intentional about applying His nature, what kind of ‘*corruption that is in the world*’ have been spared from by God’s grace?

 **Read v.5-11**—God cares about your spiritual growth! We are to look more like Christ tomorrow than we did today.

With whatever resources you have available, look up each of these characteristics then define and comment on each of them:

- Faith
- Virtue
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Steadfastness
- Godliness
- Brotherly affection
- Love

Which of these qualities do you sense the Holy Spirit working to improve in you at this season of your life ?

It's okay, even healthy, to take inventory of what God is doing in our lives—like Peter says in **v.8** we want these qualities to be *increasing*.

- What can we be spared from (**v.8**) if indeed we are increasing in these Christ-like qualities?
- On the other hand, what are we like (**v.9**) if we don't take Spiritual growth seriously?

Spiritual growth (acting more like Christ, also called *sanctification*) is the key to many things in life, not the least of which is being able to know for sure that you truly *are* a child of God. That is what Peter means by *confirming your calling and election*. **V.10-11** issue both an encouragement and a challenge. Other Apostles mentioned the same challenge in their writings: Read and comment...

From the Apostle Paul: **2 Corinthians 13:5-6**

From John the Beloved: **1 John 2:4-6**

If you can measure from the time you first asked Jesus to forgive your sins and observe God growing Christian virtues in you, that can be a great encouragement and confirmation of your salvation.

If this type of reflection stirs up doubt about your faith there are two possibilities:

- 1) Perhaps you haven't been as diligent about your responsibility to allow the Holy Spirit to GROW Christ-like characteristics as you should be. You may need to admit that, make changes in your lifestyle and ask God to enable you to really *know* Him and add the virtues listed in this chapter to your character.
- 2) The second possibility is that you haven't truly asked Jesus to forgive your sins and be the Lord of your life. It is very common in our culture for someone to become interested in the Bible, Jesus, even the life of the church and then one day realize it's time for that defining moment of actually admitting need of salvation.

If that second possibility hits home with you today, it's simple—just stop reading, look up to heaven and tell God that you realize you *need* to have your sins forgiven and you want to *receive* right now, as a free gift, the payment that Jesus made for YOUR sins. Paul wrote it this simply:

*If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord"  
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,  
you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

**V.11** says *"For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

*The Christian who is sure of his election and calling will never "stumble" but will prove by a consistent life that he is truly a child of God. He will not always be on the mountaintop, but will always be climbing higher. If we do "these things" (the things listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7, cf. v. 8), if we display Christian growth and character in our daily lives, then we can be sure we are converted and will one day be in heaven. —Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series)<sup>1</sup>*

☞ **Read v.12-15**—This section has a personal tone—you can tell by the multiple use of the personal pronoun "I" in these four verses.

- Write as many phrases that begin with "I" as you can find:  
(eg. *I intend to remind you...*)

Have you known someone who knew they were dying, or someone who was just very old and had a passionate attitude of wanting to pass on personal knowledge to the next generation? Often people write a book (or in Peter's case a letter) about their life or memories. You can tell it was Peter's passion that his readers would be reminded of the value of spiritual growth.

If YOU knew that you were approaching heaven soon and had an opportunity to share three reminders with a younger believer, what would they be?

1.

2.

3.

### ☞ Scripture is Key to Spiritual Growth: 2 Peter 1:16-21 ☞

☞ Read **v.16-18**—A written account of a person's experiences is a great treasure for generations to come. There's nothing like hearing history directly from someone who lived and breathed it.

Have you pondered the fact that the New Testament in your Bible was inspired and written by men who were actually there?

- What phrases from **v.16** and **v.18** identify Peter as a reliable source?
  
- **v.16** opens with an explanation of what type of alternative to eyewitnesses:

Have you noticed how people love the mystery and intrigue of legend and tale? It's sad how many people are seduced into *cleverly devised myths* which have no ability to achieve either forgiveness of sins OR spiritual growth.

The event Peter was referring to in **v.17-18** was the Transfiguration of Jesus — God the Father, meeting with God the Son, in the presence of eyewitnesses! What a great privilege and responsibility to have been with Jesus at that time. Read **Matthew 17:1-7** and answer:

- Who did Jesus take with him on the mountain?

- Any ideas why he chose those three men?
- Who appeared to talk with Jesus?
- What did the voice in the clouds say and who was speaking?
- How did the disciples respond (**v.6**)?
- What did Jesus do (**v.7**)?

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John learned that suffering and glory go together, and that the Father's special love and approval are given to those who are willing to suffer for the sake of the Lord. We need this same lesson today.  
*—Bible Exposition Commentary<sup>1</sup>*

🔗 **Read v.19-21**—As reliable as an eyewitness account is, Peter reminded his readers about an even greater assurance that Jesus is God's son—the Holy Scriptures, which he called the prophetic word.

- What should be our attitude (**v.19**) toward Scripture?
- Explain the analogy given in **v.19**—
  - What is the lamp?
  - What is the dark place?
  - When does the day dawn?
- What important understanding about the writing of our Bible do we learn from **v.20-21**?

Back to our *lamp shining in a dark place*—read and enjoy these additional thoughts on the Scripture God has left us with as we navigate our way through this dark world:

- Psalm 119:105
- Matthew 4:16
- Matthew 5:14-16
- Philippians 2:14-16

 *My Memory Verse* 

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## 2 Peter Chapter 2

**PRAY**—Ask God for his guidance as you read the Scriptures this week.

**READ**—2 Peter chapter two all the way through and try to read the entire chapter as many times during this week as you can.

**MARK**—You will be instructed to mark certain words to help identify characteristics of false teachers—be watching as you go through the study guide.

**MEMORIZE**—Choose one particular verse from this chapter that seems meaningful to you! Write it out at the end of this chapter study and prepare to share with your group or your prayer partner.

**INTRODUCTION**—How adept are you at recognizing a genuine item? Do you know a valuable baseball card from a common one at a yard sale? Probably not — my guess is you haven't studied up on baseball cards too much lately. But I hope you ARE studying up on God's Word so you recognize genuine gospel teaching and are able to discard false teaching. In this chapter we will put into practice the important lesson of growing in the KNOWLEDGE of Christ so that we can easily cast aside bad, even harmful teaching when you hear it.

### ☞ Beware of False Teachers: 2 Peter 2:1-3 ☞

☞ Read **v.1-3**—AND review the previous three verses (**1:19-21**) because Peter was building a bridge from the Godly prophets who were inspired by the Spirit and the false prophets who followed their own ways.

- List what you learn about the godly prophets from those verses:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- List characteristics in **v.1-3** about false prophets (teachers):

- In Peter’s warning, what sense do you get about *where* these false teachers will be found?
- What might we anticipate as an unfortunate consequence in the church as a result of them?

### ☞ Characteristics of False Teachers: 2 Peter 2:1-3 ☞

Now, let’s read what we can expect will happen to *them*...

☞ Read **v.4-9**—and circle the words *if* and *then*, it will help you follow the logic that Peter is crafting as he cites cases from the past.

- What are three examples of past judgements from these verses:
  - 
  - 
  -

This list should remind us that God does not exempt any who reject him (even angels). He is a God of justice and fairness. But he is also a God of mercy and grace for any who willingly believe in him and confess their sins—to those people he will provide protection.

- **V.9** says ‘*the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials*’ referring to both Noah and Lot. List some ways they were at odds with the culture around them that created a trial in their lives:

- What trials do you personally face due to differences in the culture around you?

☞ Read **v.9-17**—We included **v.9** again with this reading since the subject of these verses is the characteristics and punishment of the unrighteous. It may help you to sort out their characteristics by reading through these verses and underlining each occurrence of the words *they*, *these* and *those*.

- List the characteristics Peter exposed in false teachers from **v.10**:
  
- In contrast to the boldness of the false teachers what comment did he make about the angels:
  
- **V.12-17** holds some imaginative metaphors as Peter compared false teachers to various things. List as many as you can find:
  - *Irrational animals v.12*
  - 
  - 
  -

(circle the one that intrigues you the most)
  
- From **v.17** summarize the outcome of these false teachers:

☞ Read **v.18-19**—Remember, the main point was a warning about false teachers *within* the community of believers.

- What kind of people do you think Peter referred to with the phrase ‘*those who are barely escaping?*’ (**v.18**)

- Why do you think false teachers don't go after strong believers, but rather weak or young ones?
- What makes their teaching alluring?

We should pause to meditate on the second half of **v.19**. Those who are leading others astray have unwittingly become *slaves of corruption*. There is a warning here even for us to heed to ensure WE are not overcome by sin that would enslave us.

- Read **John 8:31-36**. Explain what Jesus said about bondage to sin:

☞ Read **v.20-22**—The final point is a strong one that underscores the distinction between true believers with a new nature and those who learned to mimic *cleansing from the defilements of the world*.

- The proverb in the last verse reminds us of the *natural* way of things.
  - What is natural for a dog?
  - What is natural for a sow?

Following this reasoning, it would be *supernatural* for a pig to stop going to the mud hole after once being cleaned up—some element of instinct would be changed that would cause this change in behavior.

The context of this chapter is to beware of false teachers.

- What does this passage explain about those who know the truth, but return to their *natural* state?

Throughout this writing we have been reminded that it is the younger or less mature believers who are most vulnerable to wrong teaching.

Read through these passages and make notes on what you learn about Spiritual Growth:

Hebrews 2:1

Hebrews 3:12-13

Hebrews 5:11-14

Hebrews 10:22

Hebrews 10:23

Hebrews 10:24

Hebrews 10:36

 *My Memory Verse* 

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## 2 Peter Chapter 3

**PRAY**—We need to ask for God’s revelation when we read His Word. Believe that God gives to the one who asks—because that’s what he said! (**Matthew 7:8**)

**READ**—2 Peter chapter three multiple times throughout this week.

**MARK**—Some of the key words to be watching for in this chapter are: *remember, patience, waiting, Day of the Lord, and promise!*

**MEMORIZE**—Choose one verse from this chapter and write it out as your memory verse. Can you recite all eight of your verses?

**INTRODUCTION**—This is so perfect that our letter ends with the reminder of God’s promise that everything we see, touch, and feel is temporary. God’s judgment IS coming—even though it hasn’t come yet—and all will be exposed. Being reminded of this should motivate us to be *found by him without spot or blemish*.

### The Coming Reward of our Faith

☞ Remember what God’s Word Reveals: 2 Peter 3:1-10 ☞

☞ Read **v.1-2**—The main theme for us at the beginning of this last chapter is *remembering!* Oh, how quickly we get distracted, forgetful, lazy, become unaware of God’s big picture. Encouraging one another to remember God’s plan is always a good thing!

- What two things did Peter specifically want believers to remember?
  - 
  -

You may be thinking *which commandment of the Lord are we to remember?* Well, there is a summation that was even spoken by Jesus:

- Read **Matthew 7:12, John 13:34-35, Romans 13:9** and explain what we are to remember:

☞ Read **v.3-4**—Did you know that *last days* means the entire time between Jesus' resurrection and his return? It can also be called *the church age*. We could say we're living in the last days of the last days.

- What is a characteristic of the *last days* according to **v.3**?
- What is characteristic of scoffers according to **v.3**?
- What is their failed logic according to **v.4**?

☞ Read **v.5-10**—When doing investigative work it's important not to overlook any information. In the ESV, Peter uses the compound word *overlook* twice. Find those two instances and underline them.

- Their scoffing is not good because they *overlook* what?
- Is this an accidental error due to missing information?

(Read **Romans 1:19-20** for more insights)

- What are WE not to *overlook* (read **v.8-9**)?

(Read **Isaiah 65:17-25** for more insights about God's promise)



Go back through these verses and mark *water, fire/burned*.

- What do you discover about how God formed our world?
  
- What will He use to end our world?

Peter implored us to hold onto this truth. We can be certain that in history past God created the world we know with water and we can be sure of his promise in the future (even though we can't see it now) that he will judge the world we know with fire.

- As an interesting side note to the use of water and fire—Read **Matthew 3:11**. What do you discover?
  
- **V.9** explains *why* God has been delaying the fulfillment of his promise for a new heaven and new earth—what is it?

*Thinking*—if God had brought His judgment on the earth last year, would you have been safe in Christ? How about 5 years ago? 10 years ago? What does this teach you about God's mercy?

- **V.10** tells us *how* the day of the Lord will arrive. What are we to expect?

Read Jesus words in **Matthew 24:35-44**:

- What was the general attitude of the people in Jesus' parable?

- What type of attitude did Jesus exhort his children to have (v.42)?

*Thinking:* Only two things in life are eternal—God’s Word and God’s People. How does this inspire you as you set your priorities in life? Pray about this and list specific things that you feel the Holy Spirit is speaking to you to do, change, discard in order for you to *stay awake*:

☞ Wait with an eternal perspective: 2 Peter 3:11-18 ☞

☞ Read v.11-16—Mark the words *waiting* and *patience*. We don’t care for either do we? We don’t much like to *wait* for anything (especially in our culture) and the virtue of *patience* is very difficult to cultivate. Yet we just finished reading about God’s patience with the world He created so that more people would come to repentance.

- Peter asks in v.11 *what sort of people ought you to be?* What is the rhetorical answer found in both v.11 and v.14?

We have been studying hope, holiness and humility and we are convinced that God wants all of those traits to be displayed in our lives; but while we are *waiting* (v.12) and *waiting* (v.13) and *waiting* (v.14) What else should we be doing?

- V.12: \_\_\_\_\_ the coming of the day of God:
- V.14: Be \_\_\_\_\_ to be found by him  
Without \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ and at \_\_\_\_\_.

Don’t you love the agreement in the Scriptures—it doesn’t matter if we are reading the words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount, the letters from James or John or Peter, there is a consensus about *what sort of people we ought to be*. So, the comment in v.15 about the writings of their beloved brother Paul is a great comfort and confirmation.

☞ Read **v.17-18**—As YOU await Christ’s return, what are you doing:

- To take care that you are not carried away by error?
  
- To ensure you don’t lose your own stability?
  
- To grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord?

*May you be especially blessed as you take to heart  
what you have read and learned in these letters!  
May our Lord richly bless you!*

☞ *My Memory Verse* ☞

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## References

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### ESV Bible verses...

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- 1— **Wiersbe, Warren W.** *The Bible Exposition Commentary – New Testament, Volume 2*. Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2001.  
WORDsearch CROSS e-book.

## Women of the Word Bible Studies

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The following WOW Bible Studies written by Sue LeBoutillier are available through the **Calvary Chapel Ontario bookstore**, and through our online store at **[www.ccontario.com](http://www.ccontario.com)**.

### Old Testament:

- **Genesis** —Divine Design, From Eden to Egypt
- **Exodus** —Divine Deliverance, From Egypt to Sinai
- **Numbers** —The Wilderness Way, From Sinai to the Jordan
- **Joshua** —The Path of Promise, From the Jordan into Canaan
- **Judges** — A Time of Turning
- **Ruth** — Rescue and Rest
- **1 Samuel** — The Coming King
- **Jonah** —The Call of Compassion

### New Testament:

- **The Way of Jesus** —The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew)
- **Simply Jesus** —The “I AMs” of Christ (John)
- **Acts** —Walking in the Spirit, The First Days of the Last Days
- **Galatians** —Finding Grace in a Demanding World
- **Philippians** —Finding Joy in a Disjointed World
- **Colossians** —Walking in Strength and Power
- **Titus** —While We Wait
- **James** —Real Faith for Daily Life
- **1 & 2 Peter** —Hope, Holiness and Humility in a Hostile World
- **1,2,3 John** —Light, Love and Logic

