

Topic: Practical Christianity, in the midst of trials**First Letter of the Apostle Peter:****Introduction**

The study of the First Letter of the Apostle Peter allows us to develop Christian character. The teaching that the Apostle shares is derived from his personal experiences with Christ and in his very particular style shows us the value of trials and temptations as opportunities to recognize our limitations and experience God's intervention on our behalf.

Peter emphasizes the importance of submitting to the authorities and warns us of the temptation to fall into pride, as a sin that will generate the rejection of God for the believer.

The Apostle allows us to see his experience of human weakness and exalts Christ as the model of life that we must develop.

He emphasizes the need to live in peace with everyone and encourages believers to feel compassion for their fellow men, to be friendly, and not to be vindictive to those who cause harm. He focuses his attention on living in righteousness and strengthening the hope of eternal life.

The Apostle adds the importance of living with a clear conscience, understanding what we should be and do, considering that a price is paid for living honoring God. Finally Peter invites all believers to hate sin and overcome all temptation.

Lesson 01**Preliminary notes****AUTHOR INFORMATION: Simon, Peter the Apostle**

1. He was a fisherman (Mark 1: 16–20).
2. He became a disciple through the testimony of his own brother (John 1: 40–42).
3. The Lord Himself gave him the name Peter (Matt. 16: 16–18).
4. He was a born leader and became the leader of the twelve Apostles (Mt. 19:27; Mark 8:29; Acts 1: 15–16; 2:14).
5. He publicly denied Christ at the crucifixion, but later bitterly repented (Mt. 26: 69–75).
6. He had a private interview with the risen Lord (1 Cor. 15: 5; John 21: 7, 15–21).

7. According to tradition, he was crucified upside down in Rome under Nero around AD 68. C.

TO WHOM IS THIS LETTER ADDRESSED?

"To the exile of the dispersion" in five Roman provinces. And to all believers in Christ.

PURPOSES OF THE LETTER:

1. To encourage and strengthen believers to stand firm against the attack of persecution against them.
2. To reinforce the glorious truth that the believer is only a pilgrim on earth (1 Pet. 1: 1-4; 1 Pet. 2:11).

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

1. It is a general epistle. Written for all believers in Christ.
2. It is an epistle of pastoral affection. It is filled with tenderness, love, understanding, and encouragement (1 Pet. 1: 8, 17, 19, 22; 2: 2-4, 7, 11, 25).
3. It is an epistle that highlights the Second Coming of Christ (1 Pet. 1: 5, 7, 13; 2:12; 4:13, 17; 5: 1-4).

I. THEY ARE EXILED BELIEVERS OR PILGRIMS DISSEMINATED THROUGHOUT THE EARTH

- a) We believers are on earth temporarily only as expatriates or pilgrims.
- b) Believers are citizens of heaven and our home is in heaven with God (Heb. 11: 3; 1 Pet. 2:11).

II. BELIEVERS ARE PEOPLE CHOSEN BY GOD

- a) Believers have been chosen to be saints. God separated us from the life of sin and separated us to live the new life that He offers (Eph. 1:11).

III. BELIEVERS ARE PEOPLE SET-APART BY GOD AND COVERED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

- a) What does it mean that a person must be covered with the blood of Christ?

When we lived far from God, we had broken God's law, we had ignored it, we had cursed it, we had rebelled against God, we had rejected it.

Therefore, we are guilty before God's law. By breaking God's law we deserved:

1. The punishment of the Law.
2. The judgment of the Law.
3. The condemnation of the Law.

- This is the glorious thing: Jesus Christ fulfilled the punishment for us.
- Jesus Christ offered his life as a substitute and sacrifice for us.
- The blood of Christ covers all our transgressions and removes our guilt before God. It makes us acceptable to God (Rom. 5: 9; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1: 18–19; 1 John 1: 7).

IV. BELIEVERS ARE PEOPLE WHO OBEY GOD

a) The Holy Spirit sanctifies us so that we are obedient to God (Mt. 7:21; Tit. 2:14; Heb. 5: 9).

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