

1 Peter

Peter wrote the letter from Rome to believers throughout the Greco-Roman world (A.D. 62-63). The Christian faith was under threat with believers experiencing abuse and discrimination because of their Christian commitment. Peter encourages those who persevere in faith to be full of hope despite trials and personal attacks. He also wants them to understand that God often uses adversity in order to purify our faith.

1:3-5 “In this you rejoice” (v.6) - What is it (in v.3-5) that verse 6 states as the reason for our rejoicing?

1:6-9 – Right out of the box! – Peter gets directly to the theme of his letter.

v.7 - What is the meaning of this illustration? Do you see trials like Peter? Look up: Proverbs 25:4; Isaiah 48:10

dross: (1) the scum that forms on the surface of molten metal (2) waste or foreign matter; impurity (3) something that is fraudulent, trivial, or inferior (Merriam-Webster)

v.15-16 – Being mindful of Peter’s theme and the idea of “purifying” one’s faith, what does it mean to be holy?

3:13-18 – (1) To do good is the best way to keep out of harm’s way. (2) If persecution is to come, to suffer for doing good is a great honor.

v.13 – Is this verse saying that you won’t be harmed if you are zealous for what is good? Look up: Matt. 10:28

v.16 • What is a common “knee-jerk” reaction by one who has been slandered? v.18 • What can we learn from Jesus’ behavior? Look up Matt 27:11-14; Isaiah 53:7 • What can a possible danger be of declaring a defense to a slanderous charge that has no merit?

4:12-19 - What kind of suffering is Peter talking about in this passage?

v.15 - While we might not have killed someone or broke into a home, are there other ways that we murder and steal?

v.16 - The name Christian means “follower of Christ.” Why do people murder; steal; meddle? After answering that question, why do you call yourself a Christian?

v.16-17 - Has a time of judgment already begun for Christians? (Judgment here is not punitive, but purifying.) If the people of God need purifying, what will the “outcome” (final judgment) look like for those who do not obey the gospel?

v.19 - Of all the things that Peter could have referred to God as, he chose “faithful Creator.” Why? (Psalm 146:5-7)

Why is the fact that He is our Creator so important? What then is He entitled to ask us to do/go/endure? (Eph 2:10)

5:6-11 Why is it so important to humble ourselves and wait until God exalts you?

Why is it important that Peter says God will exalt us “at the proper time”? What hope does this offer for those who suffer?

v.8 – What does it mean to be sober-minded? What are the things that keep you from being sober-minded?

v.9 - One of the lies that Satan can tell us is that we are the only ones who are suffering with something. This can cause us to be wrapped in self-pity and desire seclusion. Why is resisting this lie so important to the believer of God’s promises?

v.10 – In light of the sufferings and trials that will surely take place (Jn. 16:33), what encourages you in verse 10?