

History of Salvation Summary

Christians are to *endure suffering for the sake of Christ*, looking back on Christ's sufferings and forward to the consummation of salvation in his second coming.

Sermon Outline for Series on 1 Peter

Sermon 1 ch1:1-12 *Born Again to a Living Hope*

Sermon 2 ch1:13-25 *Called to be Holy*

Sermon 3 ch2:1-12 *A Living Stone and a Holy People*

Sermon 4 ch2:13-25 *Submission to Authority*

Sermon 5 ch3:1-7 *Wives and Husbands*

Sermon 6 ch3:8-22 *Suffering for Righteousness Sake*

Sermon 7 ch4:1-11 *Stewards of God's Grace*

Sermon 8 ch4:12-19 *Suffering as a Christian*

Sermon 9 ch5:1-14 *Shepherd the Flock of God*

Study Aids

a) *Let's Study 1 Peter* – William W Harrell - Banner of Truth

b) *First Epistle of Peter* – Peter H Davids – NICNT

c) *1 Peter* – Wayne Grudem – TNTC

d) www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/1-peter-introduction/#

e) www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/1-peter-introduction/#recommended-resources

Closing Thought

Charles Spurgeon used to say: ***“Little faith will take your soul to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your soul.”*** In 1Peter we are encouraged to establish our ‘hope’ in order that we might know such ‘faith’ that will ***bring heaven to our souls*** in our hour of need.



Series on 1 Peter

“Hope in the midst of Trials”

Introduction: Having concluded our lengthy Series in Deuteronomy, the Session have felt it would be appropriate to spend some time in the New Testament before returning to the Psalms in the Autumn. So, we will be looking at 1 & 2 Peter leading up to our Summer Series in mid-July when we will look at the Churches of Revelation.

“Peter is preeminently the apostle of hope, as Paul is the apostle of faith and John of love.” — Warren W. Wiersbe, in “Be Hopeful” (1 Peter): ***How to Make the Best of Times Out of Your Worst of Times***

Being a Christian can appear to be easy when things are ***‘going well’*** [perhaps too easy, as we have been reminded in our recent Series in Deuteronomy]. Yet my own experience has been that the touch of God is sweetest and most obvious when things are ***‘going seriously wrong’***, be it persecution or just life itself. It is when everything gets stripped back and we have to lean on ‘Christ alone’, when the ‘rubber hits the road’ in life, it’s then, that our ‘hope’ gets

tested, even purified, it's then that 1 & 2 Peter come into their own to encourage and enable us to have: "**Hope in the midst of Trials**"

Author & Date:

That the apostle Peter is the author is explicitly affirmed by ch1:1 and by the author's claim to be an "eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ" (1 Peter 5:1). The title of the letter, The First Letter of Peter, functions as early external evidence for the view that the letter was written by Peter [and an indication there was a second]. Indeed, in the early church there was no dispute over the authenticity of the letter, for it was regularly ascribed to Peter by the early church fathers.

Note: Some recent scholars maintain that the letter is pseudonymous (falsely ascribed to Peter). Debate follows over the cultivated quality of the Greek, the theological similarity with Paul, quotations from the Greek Old Testament rather than the Hebrew etc. On balance however, we believe that there are compelling reasons to conclude that the apostle Peter is in fact the author of 1 Peter.

The **date** of 1 Peter is linked with the issue of authorship. Those who reject Peter as the author typically date the letter in the reign of Domitian (A.D. 81–96) or Trajan (98–117). Since we feel there are good grounds for holding to Petrine authorship, the letter probably should be dated during the reign of Nero (A.D. 54–68). The reference to Babylon in 1 Peter 5:13 is almost certainly a reference to Rome, leading one to conclude that Peter wrote the letter from Rome. He probably wrote before or in the build up to, the Neronian persecution in Rome, and thus the date of composition is likely A.D. 62–63.

Background

Peter encourages his readers to **endure suffering and persecution** (ch1:6–7; 2:18–20; 3:9, 13–17; 4:1–4, 12–19; 5:9) by **giving themselves entirely to God** (4:19). They are to remain faithful in times of distress, knowing that God will vindicate them and that they will certainly enjoy the salvation that the Lord has promised. The death and resurrection of Christ stand as the paradigm for the

lives of believers. Just as Christ suffered and then entered into glory, so too his followers will suffer before being exalted.

The letter is addressed to Christians dispersed in "Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (1:1), what would be modern-day Turkey. These provinces were ethnically (and at times linguistically) diverse, yet all these territories had been impacted by Greco-Roman culture and were firmly under Roman control from the mid-1st century B.C. Most scholars are convinced that the recipients of 1 Peter were primarily Gentiles. But undoubtedly there were also some Jewish Christians in these churches, for Jewish residents of "Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia" were present at Pentecost.

Themes

Those who persevere in faith while suffering persecution should be full of hope, for they will certainly enjoy end-time salvation since they are already enjoying God's saving promises here and now through the death and resurrection of Christ.

1. Those who suffer as Christians will be exalted. Ch1:6–9; 2:18–25; 3:13–22; 4:12–19
2. The church of Jesus Christ is the new temple, the new Israel, the new people of God. Ch1:1–2; 2:4–10
3. Believers should set their hope on their end-time inheritance. Ch1:3–9, 13–16
4. Christ died as a substitute for sinners, and his death is the basis for their new life. Ch1:17–21; 2:24; 3:13–22
5. Christ's suffering is an example to his disciples. Ch2:21–23
6. At his resurrection, Christ triumphed over his enemies. Ch3:18–22

7. Christians should live righteously in their homes and in society. Ch2:11–3:7
8. New life in Christ is the basis for a life of love and holiness. ch1:3; 13–2:3