

1 Peter

Chapter One

The apostle Peter is the author of this epistle. It was written around the time of the early 60's A.D. Peter writes much about Christian duties and Christian life: holiness, suffering, submission, end times, and conduct. Peter writes that his letter was to encourage and testify about the true grace of God. It can be assumed then that the entire epistle could hold within its verses an in-depth theology of grace.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter One

SUMMARY: Verses 1-25

1. Peter calls his recipients God's elect and strangers in the world. ELECT means to have been chosen by God. "Strangers in the world" gives us Peter's insight that heaven is our real home.
2. God has foreknowledge. He has known all along who He would choose. But the choice is made available to any and all via the work of the Holy Spirit (supernatural), obedience to Christ (natural), and sprinkled by His blood (mutual).
3. Grace and peace are not emotions. They are the work of Christ and His Spirit and should abound in your life.
4. New birth comes through mercy. Mercy is seen in the death and resurrection of Jesus.
5. Having new birth is not about becoming a Christian only. It's about being grafted into a heavenly inheritance.
6. Until we realize our heavenly inheritance God's power is made available to us here on earth via faith.
7. While on earth we may suffer trials brought on from this world's system and the people within it.
8. Trials can prove whether you are superficial or genuine in your faith.
9. Faith is loving Jesus and believing in Him even when you don't see Him.
10. The goal of faith is salvation.
11. Jesus' coming to earth was predicted in the Old Testaments by the prophets.
12. God's plan of salvation has been since the beginning of time.
13. Because of this new birth into an inheritance Peter calls for action on the part of the believer.
14. Live self controlled. We are called to be holy even as Christ is holy. To be obedient is to not conform to the world's ways.
15. God is an impartial Judge. His judgment is based on the work of Christ.
16. God bought back man, redeemed him, from an empty way of life. Life without the new birth is an empty life.
17. The only way to believe in God is through Jesus.
18. We become purified via obedience to the Truth. Salvation is to be born again by God's Word being implanted into your life because it presents the gospel to the sinner and calls them to repentance.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. If heaven is our real home why is so much focus and time given to earthly pleasure?
3. Salvation is supernatural, natural, and mutual. Explain.
4. Why do you think Peter using the terms 'new birth', 'born again', 'living hope', and 'imperishable seed' to define the work of salvation?
5. Why is life without the new birth deemed as an empty way to live?

APPLICATION

1. How could you set your mind more on heavenly things?
2. Do you see the new birth as a mutual work? YOU and JESUS together? How can you be more aware of this?
3. Have you ever felt empty as a Christian? Why so? How could you change this thinking?

