



# The Pursuit of Substance

## A STUDY OF 1 PETER

March 3, 2024 - Part 2

### 1 PETER 1:3-21

#### **The Importance of 1 Peter: An Introduction**

1 Peter is a highly relevant book wherever believers and the church are found in suffering. If Paul and Jesus are correct, a faithful church will suffer. You have to ask yourself a key question, if I have never suffered for my faith, am I apart of the faithful church? If you haven't, you will. Are you prepared for the process?

Suffering and persecution can cause either growth or bitterness in the Christian Life. Response determines the result. Response comes from the discipline of where the source of my life draws from, the flesh or the Spirit. Suffering for a "consumer" or Carnal Christian has a negative connotation, a lot like the word conviction does. The truth is, both conviction and suffering are actually to the benefit of the church and the believer. It proves ("proving ground" to us not God) where we derive our source (genuineness). We shouldn't look for suffering, suffering will look for us. Just as signs follow them who believe, so will some form of suffering. Whenever you wage war in this present day Kingdom and take people (influence) from the stronghold of the enemy, the struggle will always be present.

Suffering and Persecution are the vehicles by which God uses to spread the gospel. Forgiveness leads to victory and un-forgiveness leads to victimhood.

Christians are never to have a victim mindset.

The world will fan the flame of victimhood. The word of God will fan the flame of victory, through forgiveness, sanctification, and maturity. 1 Peter 1:2 states in comes through the sanctifying work of the Spirit.

**Sanctify:** to set apart or declare holy.

We speak often of salvation. Grace. Almost to a point of not recognizing how much we have excused in our lives, as though God's heart is to OK the sin in our life that He sent Jesus to deliver us from.

This letter never talks about how to become a victim, but how to faithfully endure and flourish in all seasons. We have been given "a new birth into a living hope." (1 Peter 1:3) A new perspective that is incompatible with past perspectives.

## **Basic Outline and the Importance of proper Hermeneutics**

**Exegesis** - we must try to understand what was said to the intended audience back then and there. In short what did the author intend for that audience?

**Hermeneutics** - how to study the Bible for the here and now. In short what can we glean today from what intended for them back there?

The goal of learning from the word of God is not just knowledge but practice in obedience.

One step would be to create a simple outline.

## **OUTLINE OF 1 PETER**

- 1:1-2 - Introduction (Week 1)
- 1:3-21 - A glorious salvation - Good news defined (1:25) (Week 2)
- 1:22-2:8 - The Believers Life (Week 3)
- 2:9-3:13 - The Believer's Duty (Week 4)
- 3:14-4:19 - The Believers Suffering (Week 5)
- 5:1-14 - Final Exhortation (encouragement)

## **ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF AN OUTLINE OF 1 PETER**

- The Salvation of the Believer (1:1-2:12)
- The Submission of the Believer (2:13-3:12)
- The Suffering of the Believer (3:13-5:14)

## **AUDIENCE:**

- 1 Peter 2:9 - Called out of darkness
- 1 Peter 2:9-10 - once were not a people, but now are the people of God
- 1 Peter 1:18 - former life was characterized by their former empty way of life handed down to them.

This letter is called a "General" epistle. Written to no audience in particular.

## THREE MAIN THEMES

### 1. What have you been birthed into?

John 3:1-7 (the term born again first appears)

In order to be born again, there must be a dying to yourself and your ways. It is impossible to have 2 ways going on at the same time. Scripture asks, How does light have fellowship with Darkness? It seems that we have endeavored to mix light and darkness.

This is what Peter echoes: **1 Peter 1:3-5:**

*<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Our ideas of inheritances are immediately challenged. Generational wealth can be squandered.

This inheritance will NEVER perish, spoil, or fade. It is still as powerful today as it was the moment the veil was torn in two. If He did it then, He will do it again! If He did it for someone else He most certainly can do it for you!

VS 4 - This inheritance is kept in heaven (It is kept safe from the darkness of this world)

### 2. Eternal Perspective > Temporal Perspective

**1 Peter 1:6-12:**

*<sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. <sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of*

*the Messiah and the glories that would follow.* <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

VS 5 - In light of eternity.....is where your perspective should start.

### **3. A Call to Holiness**

#### **1 Peter 1:13-21:**

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

*<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*

In light of this new birth and new perspective, live holy.

A washing of your heart and mind lead to a perspective that is alert and sober.



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