

LESSON 32: 1 PETER 1-2
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

OVERVIEW

- . Background
- . Salvation – 1 Peter 1:3-12
- . Christian living – 1 Peter 1:13-2:3
- . A chosen people built on Christ – 1 Peter 2:4-25

BACKGROUND

- . Author of letter is the apostle Peter
 - . Played a prominent role in the early church
 - . From Pentecost through the Jerusalem Council, Peter was the leading voice in the church
 - . After the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) there is very little written about Peter
 - . He continued to preach the gospel and eventually ended up in Rome
 - . It was in Rome where he was martyred during the reign of Nero, around 64 A.D.
- . Wrote letter around 61 A.D.
 - . The letter was directed to those churches that Paul had started in Asia Minor (to the people of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia and Bithynia)
 - . He probably visited these churches on his way to Rome
 - . Despite some scholars attempt to paint Peter and Paul's theology as quite different, the views outlined in this letter mirror that of Paul's
 - . Peter's style of writing is very practical, much like James
 - . Peter's focus in this letter is on godly living and God's purpose in suffering and how Christians are to bear up under it

SALVATION – 1 PETER 1:3-12

- . God's work of salvation – 1 Peter 1:3-5
 - . Peter emphasizes here that salvation is God's work
 - . The act of salvation is something that only God can do
 - . It isn't through our works or actions that salvation is granted
 - . We can choose to surrender our hearts to God, but only He can grant salvation

- . Through salvation, God makes Christians spiritually alive by the new birth
- . The basis of all true praise and worship of God is not that we have saved ourselves, rather that God has rescued us from our past condition
- . God's purpose in suffering – 1 Peter 1:6-7
 - . Rescuing us from our past condition does not mean that God will shelter us from pain and suffering
 - . Suffering can be a way of purifying and validating our faith
 - . The suffering that Christ endured allows us to see and separate the holiness of God from the wickedness of man
 - . If someone is suffering because of their faith, but chooses to be obedient to that faith, they are able to validate the authenticity of their faith
 - . Persecution is to be expected by those who are trying to live for God in the midst of a God hating world
- . Seeing the invisible – 1 Peter 1:8-9
 - . By faith we can see the invisible realities
- . Peter relies heavily on the Old Testament to validate his teachings
 - 1 Peter 1:10-12
 - . In these verses he talks about the predicted sufferings of Christ along with His future glory
 - . The prophets recognized that what they were talking about was not going to happen in their lifetime, yet they were willing to endure the suffering

CHRISTIAN LIVING – 1 PETER 1:13-2:3

- . Holiness – 1 Peter 1:13-16
 - . Peter encourages his readers to do five things
 - . Prepare your minds for action
 - . Be self-controlled
 - . Set your hope on what we are to receive when Christ returns
 - . Do not conform to sinful personal desires
 - . Be holy in all you do
 - . The underlying emphasis is the demand for holiness
 - . The lack of holiness is what accounts for our inability to love rightly and do anything else rightly
- . Strangers on Earth – 1 Peter 1:17-21
 - . As we grow in our faith we may feel increasingly more alienated from the ways of the world
 - . As we grow in our faith the fullness of life will be found in our relationship with God and godly relationship with others

- . Love for others – 1 Peter 1:22-2:3
 - . As we surrender ourselves and our agenda to God, He will start to show us how to see others the way He sees them
- . We can not expect to grow spiritually if we are not taking in spiritual nourishment

A CHOSEN PEOPLE BUILT ON CHRIST – 1 PETER 2:4-25

- “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church” – Matthew 16:16
 - . Roman Catholics interpret Jesus’ words as a promise that Peter would become the first pope and that the church would be built on Peter and his successors
 - . Protestants interpret the words referring not to Peter himself but to Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, arguing the church is built on this confessional foundation
 - . Peter never suggests, even for a moment, that he is the rock upon which the church is to be built
 - . In these verses he goes to great lengths to point to Jesus as the foundation stone upon which the church is built
- . Peter builds his biblical base for describing Jesus as the foundation stone
 - . Isaiah 28:16
 - . This is the clearest of all Old Testament verses as describing the Messiah as the precious cornerstone
 - . Peter’s emphasis here is that Jesus was chosen by God and was precious to God
 - . It also says we are related to Him through our trust in Him
 - . Psalm 118:22
 - . These verses point out that there is more than one way to relate to Jesus – that there will be those who reject Him
 - . Peter quotes this verse at other times during his ministry, including his speech before the Sanhedrin – Acts 4:11
 - . Isaiah 8:14
 - . Rejecting Jesus is no small matter
- . The privileges of being God’s people – 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - . Peter is applying these powerful words to gentiles
 - . In the past it was Jews who were the chosen people
 - . To them alone belonged the priesthood
 - . Here it is not the Jews, who are being described as God’s chosen people, rather all members of Christ’s church composed of both Jews and gentiles
- . With privilege comes responsibilities – 1 Peter 2:11-21
 - . With this gift that has been given to us we are expected to act differently
 - . We are called to be Holy

- . A day will come when we will need to account for this gift that has been given us
- . Called to be model citizens – 1 Peter 2:13-17
 - . Not only to our pagan neighbors but also to our secular governments
 - . Christians are called to submit to these authorities
 - . We are to show proper respect for everyone including the king
 - . We are to pray for our leaders
- . Opportunity for slaves – 1 Peter 2:18-20
 - . Free men are to use their freedom rightly as servants of God
 - . Slaves are called to submit to their masters
 - . The Bible is not condoning slavery
 - . It was acknowledging that slavery exists and was telling both slaves and owners how they are to act
- . Our weapons are the Bible and prayer
- . Jesus Christ's example – 1 Peter 2:21-25
 - . To suffer for doing good is hard
 - . Regardless of our own plight, we have Jesus as an example of someone who faced the greatest trial and was able to persevere
 - . Jesus suffered even though he did no wrong
 - . What Jesus did on the cross was to die for our sin, bearing its punishment in our place, so that we in turn might die to it and live for righteousness
 - . If we have died to self and live for Him, He will see us through to the end, despite our troubles

**** THERE WILL BE NO LESSON ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 ****

NEXT LESSON: OCTOBER 4, 2017: I PETER 3-5