

1 Peter

V-1:1-"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,"

1.1 Peter was clearly written by the apostle Peter, the same Peter we are so familiar with who walked with the Lord himself out on the water of the Sea of Galilee, who denied him thrice, and was restored to fellowship by the Lord after his resurrection,"Peter do you love me? Feed my sheep.", and feed his sheep he did well. It was Peter who preached the sermon on the day of Pentecost by which the Lord added 3000 people to the Church. It is said that this same Peter was martyred for his faith being crucified upside down, proclaiming his unworthiness to die the same death as his Lord.

2. 1 Peter was written to the Christians living in the provinces north of Israel, where there was an apparent persecution of believers taking place, probably under the reign of Caesar Nero.

V-1:2-"who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance."

1. We can have tremendous assurance of our salvation, for the one who authors it is the one who finishes it, and no one can thwart his intentions. Dear friends, the doctrine of election is one of tremendous comfort and joy, because it means that we are loved by God, we are accepted by him, and he will see us through till the end. The bible says we are chosen by God, elected by him to receive eternal life and nothing shall hinder it from being fulfilled.

Romans 8:38-39-"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. We must understand that God has elected and chosen us out of the world **for a purpose**. This is what the word "foreknowledge" means. It is God choosing to set his love upon us before we were born, and this with a very specific purpose, **for obedience to Jesus Christ**. God has purpose and meaning for every one of us, that we should be a holy nation of people belonging to him, to show forth his grace in our lives, to his glory, in order that we might experience the infinite riches of his kindness through fellowship with him forever! You are loved! You have meaning! You have a royal calling to be the bride of the King! The one whom **he has chosen** to set his love upon!

Romans 8:29-"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

2 Timothy 1:9-"who has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,"

For further study on this issue:

Ephesians 1:4-13 Romans 9:10-24 Romans 11:1-32
John 6:35-65 John 10:27-30 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
Acts 13:48 Phillipians 2:12-13 Exodus 33:19
1 Timothy 1:4 2 Peter 3:9 Proverbs 16:4
Titus 1:1-3 John 15:16 John 5:21

3. How does God initiate his choosing us? It is through the work of the Holy Spirit. He draws us to himself and convicts us of our sin, he opens our eyes and reveals the reality of this present darkness, and he does this through the Spirit. Jesus said "No one can come to me unless the Father draws him"(John 6:44), so it is the Spirit that calls us to God. Remember the account of Isaac and Rebekah how the chief servant of the house went to a foreign land to get a bride for the Master's son, well that is a type of the Holy Spirit and the church, how he lavishes gifts on her, seals the promise with a

ring in the nose, and carries her back to his homeland safely to meet the Son at the threshing floor.

2 Thessalonians 2:13- "But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth."

V-1:3- "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, 1. In his **Great Mercy**- How often we forget the reality of our reconciliation to God. We are guilty, but because of his mercy, we have forgiveness. He has not counted our sins against us, but instead gave his own life that we might live. We are entirely undeserving of his mercy, let alone his many blessings and promises. Praise God for his unfailing love! **Ephesians 2:4-5**- "But because of his great love for us, God, who is **rich in mercy**, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved."

Titus 3:4-5- "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his **mercy**. He saved us through the washing of **rebirth** and renewal by the Holy Spirit,"

2. Jesus said, "lest a man be **born again** he cannot see the Kingdom of God". Paul said, "he saves us through the washing of **rebirth**". We have been made alive in the spirit or **born again** into the spiritual realm in which now, through the Holy Spirit, God has opened our eyes to our true spiritual condition and desperate need for a savior. We have come to a knowledge of the truth. A common term is "regeneration".

3. We have been born into a "**living hope**", and that hope is the resurrection. It is the promise of eternal life that is from the Lord's own word. And Jesus proved the surety of that promise by his own resurrection. Thus, we can now trust in "a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead". By the way, no other religious leader in the history of the world can make such a claim. Christ had 500 eyewitnesses at the same time of his resurrection. (1 Cor 15:6)

V-1:4- "and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you,"

1. Paul said that it had not entered into the heart of man, what God had prepared for those who love him. He then went on to say that he went to heaven and that the things he saw man was not permitted to tell about them. These things he said were inexpressible. In praying for the Ephesians he asked that we would be able "know the hope to which we have been called, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints. Dear friends, what is the most glorious fulfilling place that you can imagine, I assure you it does not even compare to the least of all places in heaven.

2. Everything in this present world is subject to the law of entropy. It is all perishing and fading away. The whole creation cries out awaiting the manifestation of the glorious freedom of the children of God (Rom 8:21), when things will no longer perish, but will last forever. Such is our inheritance-**eternal**.

Romans 8:17- "Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

V-1:5- "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."

1. We trust in faith and he does the keeping. Don't you know he is the Good Shepherd. Dear friend, your salvation is secure in Christ, if you possess true saving faith. You are shielded by his power, what blessed assurance we have!

Jude 1:24- "To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy"

Jesus Christ who is our Hope

Hope is a fundamental part of our faith. It cannot be separated from the gospel, it is in the hope of eternal life we were saved.

Rom 8:24-25- "For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

Hope is a fundamental part of the nature of God. In Romans 15:13 he is called the God of hope. Because hope is what we need. Ephesians 2 says that our former state was **without hope** and **without God** in the world. We are separated from God and perishing in our sin without him, but he brings great hope of restoration, fulfillment and joy, eternally.

Rom 15:13- "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

But what are we hoping for? God has promised to us an inheritance that does not fade, and that inheritance is God himself. We are waiting for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who is our hope (1 Tim 1:1). We look forward to that day when we shall be like him, and know fully even as we are fully known. We shall be united with him eternally as his bride, it is Christ in us, a profound mystery.

Deut 18:1-2- "The priests, who are Levites-- indeed the whole tribe of Levi-- are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance. They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them."

Col 1:27- "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Titus 2:13- "while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,"

So we hope in God, with tremendous anticipation of his great and precious promises to us. The New Testament frequently makes reference to our perseverance in relation to our hope, and so we see that hope is that catalyst that sees us through every trial, tribulation and the like. For we have great hope, stored up for us in heaven. We always have something to look forward to, we are never without hope.

Heb 3:6- "But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, **if we hold** on to our courage and **the hope** of which we boast."

Col 1:23- "if you **continue** in your faith, established and firm, **not moved from the hope** held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant."

One more thing about hope, and that is what it produces. Having this hope in us causes us to travail in our current circumstance, waiting for our hope, we learn patient endurance and the character of God is produced in us through our living hope in God.

1Thes 1:3- "We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your **endurance inspired by hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Jn 3:3- "Everyone who has this **hope** in him **purifies himself**, just as he is pure."

Praise God for our Living Hope!!!

V-1:6- "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials."

1. So we rejoice in the awesome thing that God has done for us. We have hope, we have forgiveness, and we should **rejoice exceedingly** and be glad. God's love toward us is forever, and he will show us the riches of his kindness forever. And he did this freely by his grace, because he chose to love us, even when we were his enemies. Thank you Lord!
2. And the **joy** of the Lord **endures** in our hearts even when we **suffer trials**. Joy is a state of being, not a response to circumstance. Hence, we rejoice even though we suffer grief.
3. Thirdly, our suffering is only for a **little while**. A lifetime compared to eternity, is nothing but a little while. Soon and very soon we are going to see the King. No more crying, no more dying, no more pain, but rather joyful bliss in the presence of God forever. The grief lasts only a little while. God said it, I believe it, and that settles it.

2 Corinthians 4:17- "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an

eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

V-1:7-"These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

1. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, God says he tests us for his sake. The trial in the Christian life is likened unto a crucible, removing the dross from the precious metal, so it is with our trial, conforming us into his image, patient, meek and temperate.

Isaiah 48:10-11-"See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.

2. The afflictions of serious Christians are designed for the trial of their faith. God's design in afflicting his people is their probation, not their destruction; their advantage, not their ruin: a trial, as the word signifies, is an experiment or search made upon a man, by some affliction, to prove the value and strength of his faith. This trial is made upon faith principally, rather than any other grace, because the trial of this is, in effect, the trial of all that is good in us. Our Christianity depends upon our faith; if this be wanting, there is nothing else that is spiritually good in us. Christ prays for this apostle, that his faith might not fail; if that be supported, all the rest will stand firm; the faith of good people is tried, that they themselves may have the comfort of it, God the glory of it, and others the benefit of it. (from Matthew Henry's Commentary)

3. So the result of our testing is the glory, honor, and praise of God. May I add that in us God is making a demonstration to the rulers, and powers and authorities in the heavenly realms. As we endure our affliction, through the provision of God, it is a demonstration of God's loving-kindness and great mercy to the angels, both holy and fallen. Somebody is watching us, and it ain't big brother. (Eph 3:1-10)

V-1:8-"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,"

1. How is it Christian, that you have staked your life on the death of a Jewish carpenter from the first century? How does your heart believe in such an odd circumstance? The sacrifice of the Lamb of God. Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out.

Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.

Those are the most beautiful words I have ever heard. Jesus We love you! Lord we love you! We honor and bless you. Our heart longs for you! Our soul thirsts for you!

2. Joy unspeakable and full of glory. In eager expectation of the return of the Lord, we wait patiently, full of hope, longing for that day when we will see him. Oh Lord come quickly. Have you ever tried to put the joy of the Lord into words, you can't, its inexpressible!

V-1:9-"for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

1. Salvation is not an event that happened somewhere years ago in our past. It is an ever continuing reality we embrace every minute of every day. Jesus said, "the Kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you." Did you get that. The Kingdom of God is **in you!** We are the dwelling place of God himself. What a profound Mystery. Holy God has come to live in sinful man. What a tremendous thing God has done through the priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ. And we are renewed day by day, receiving the goal of our faith in ever increasing measure, until that great day when death will be swallowed up in victory, and the mortal will put on immortality!

V-1:10-11-"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow."

1. Here the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Christ. This is one of many, many passages that deal with the Trinity, speaking of two persons of the godhead, yet

being one.

2. Psalm 22 is an example of Peter's words. It speaks not only of the sufferings of Christ but also of the glories that would follow. Bear in mind this was written 1000 years before the birth of Christ. The scripture is divine in origin.

V-1:12-"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."

1. We can gain tremendous insight into our salvation by reading the prophets of the Old Testament. They were carried along by the Spirit in writing to us, as well as the apostles themselves. We also gain insight into the character of God, as well as many other things. You would do well to know what they have said to us, and your children as well. (Hebrews 1:1-3)

2. Even the angels marvel at the awesome thing God has done in Christ. As a matter of fact, our very lives are demonstration to them of God's eternal purpose, and through the window of our lives, they gain understanding.

V-1:13-15"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

1. Peter now begins to exhort us to the **practical part** of our salvation which begins as we prepare ourselves, starting with our **minds**. The mind is the battle field between the body of sin and the renewed human spirit. (Rom 6:5-7) This is why the New Testament continues to exhort us to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things (Col 3:1-3). And again it says to fix our eyes on the things which are unseen, (2 Cor 4:18), love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, compassion, humility, mercy, grace, faith, hope, to name just a few. This is where our minds are to be. What Christian will be unfruitful if these things are at the forefront of their mind? This is a very important key to abundant living and fruitfulness for the King.

2. We should take note of two very important things that have been said here, to prepare our minds and not to conform to the evil desires you had. This is another extremely important instruction for the obedient Christian. Paul tells us essentially the same thing in Romans 12:2.

Romans 12:2-"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will."

3. He also points out our former state here. "When you lived in ignorance". This is also repeated throughout the New Testament. We were at once the enemies of God. You may say I did not view God as an enemy before I was a Christian, and that may be true. But God viewed you as an enemy, and he bore your sin and rebellion with great patience awaiting your salvation. Thank God for his grace and mercy!

(Eph 2:1-4, Rom 5:8-11, Rom 8:5-8, 2 Thess 1:6-10)

4. BE HOLY AS I AM HOLY! What is God asking us to do? Simple. Be a **Light** to this dark world, living a life of **Love**, proclaiming the **Truth** of Jesus Christ, and this by the power of the Spirit which is in you! (1 John 1:5, 4:8, 5:6)

V-1:17-"Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear."

1. It would appear that every element to the Gospel appears in the first chapter of 1 Peter. And so he tells us of the judgment of God, which is impartial. Christians know this; the standard at the judgment will be his holy word, and that is what will be measured with. So be careful how you live, careful to obey the Lord your God, for this is not your home, you are a stranger in a foreign land. I tell you, Heaven is your home. Praise God!

V-1:18-19-"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 forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

1. Dear friends, you are not your own, as though you could live your life by the dictates of your own will, but you were bought back from the curse of the law of sin and death, therefore honor God in all that you do. Jesus gave his life as a ransom for your sin against him, so you are not your own, you belong to him, that is **if** you belong to him. Therefore, love the Lord your God with all your heart, worship and serve him only.

V-1:20- "He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

1. It is no secret to God what is happening in the world. God did not make an accident when he gave man a freewill, but rather he knew exactly what he was doing. If God makes mistakes, he is not God. God has purpose in this creation, and his purpose will prevail, what a privilege for us to be partakers of it. He ordained your salvation from before the beginning of time, will he not certainly see you through till the end, that is if you will trust him by faith. Oh what blessed assurance we have!

2. God not only knew but also chose Jesus Christ to die for our sin before he ever made us. Folks, God is in control and he is still on the throne. No other man in the history of the world has done the things that Jesus did, and he testified of God, in whom we have put our trust, and because of the resurrection, he proved his promise of eternal life. Because of this we now believe with tremendous assurance.

V-1:22- "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."

1. Though I give my body to be burned, **If I have not love, I am nothing.** God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

2. This is how we purify ourselves, to obey the truth. We cannot be only hearers of the Word, we must be doers of it.

V-1:23-25- "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

1. God takes his word very seriously. Shouldn't we? For it lives and endures forever. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Psalms 138:2- "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. (KJV)

V-2:1- "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind."

1. Another practical exhortation, but this time it is negative characteristics that we are to "put off". Christians do not behave this way. We are a righteous and holy people, displaying the character of Christ. So we strive/ or agonize to become who we are, new creations in Christ.

2. We are to rid ourselves. That is our responsibility.

Malice- active ill-will, desire to harm another, evil intent

Deceit- anything intended to mislead another, fraud, cheat, a lying trick

Hypocrisy- concealment of true character, simulation of virtue or piety

Envy- pain at the sight of another's good fortune, desire for another's position or possession

Slander- a false and malicious report, evil speaking, backbiting, defaming another

These are the devil's good pleasure. We should hate these with an holy zeal.
Hate what is evil cling to what is good.

V-2:2-3-"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

1. Feed not the spiritual man and he will die. Dear friends, now that we have tasted that the Lord is good, we should press on to the Glory. It is worth the price, does not your heart pant for the courts of the Lord, you have only to enter them with thanksgiving and praise. He has opened the way, we need only lay aside that which hinders and enter in. We can possess the Glory. Jesus said, "He who believes in me, from his inmost being shall flow rivers of living water."

Psalms 84:2-"My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."

2. Are you grown up in your salvation? If you are Praise God. Be all the more diligent till the end of your faith. If not, you need the pure milk of the Word, crave it like water in the desert, and an oasis for you soul it will be. (Heb 5:11-6:2)

V-2:4-5-"As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1. Is this some kind of heavenly speech that we do not understand. Not at all. In the same way that Israel had a temple at which they met with God, and made sacrifices in worship to him, where they were forgiven of sin and in which the Presence of God dwelt in the Holy of Holies, so we have now become the temple of God, where he dwells and where we offer sacrifices in worship, we have the fullness of relationship to him, betrothed as a bride, longing for the Day of our embrace.

Ephesians 2:19-22-"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord."

And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

2. What are our spiritual sacrifices? Prayer, praise, offerings, worship, kindness, and all acts of righteousness are a few. (Ps 50:14,23, Ps 141:2, Hos 14:2, Heb 13:15-16)

V-2:6-8-"For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message-- which is also what they were destined for."

1. If a man rejects the Lord Jesus Christ, he has committed the unforgivable sin, he has said no to life and abides in death, where the worm never dies and the fire is never quenched. Whosoever will come, let him come.

John 3:18-"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

2. Now to you who believe, this stone is precious - To the true Christian, Christ is precious. He is the ultimate reality in the life of a true Christian, and we have lost our lives for His sake. He is our passion and the love of our life.

V-2:9-"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

1. We are **chosen**, that implies a **purpose** for being chosen. And that purpose is quite clear, that we may declare the praises of Him. Have you ever thought about why? Why should we declare the praises of God. This is the chief end of man, it is why we were created, that with every breath, every thought, and every action we should show forth the

Glory of Him, the great and marvelous God of Heaven, who sits enthroned in unapproachable light.

2.You are not your own, you belong to Him, therefore honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 10:31-"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

3.Our **Royal priestly** duties.(Rom 15:16, 12:2, 6:13, Eph 5:2, Phil 4:18, Rev 5:13-14)

V-2:10-"Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

1. So, we are a holy nation and a royal priesthood. But what is it that binds us together? We have been redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to us at birth. We have a common bond in the fact that we have been forgiven of our SIN.In Him we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins. If you cannot rejoice about anything else in your life rejoice that you have received mercy, and you will be spared from the wrath that is to come.

Colossians 1:21-23-"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel."

V-2:11-"Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires which war against your soul.

1. At one time we lived our lives in ignorance of God, gratifying our own sinful desires and following after the prince of this world, we were by nature enemies of God and objects of his wrath. But now since we have embraced the Kingdom of God by faith, we have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of Light. We are now aliens in a world that is not our home, like sojourners we eagerly await the Day when we will reach our home, bearing the marks of a saint. Thus we no longer live as the heathen, seeking the fulfillment of the flesh, but rather we live for the will of God.

(John 16:11, 1 John 5:19, Titus 3:3, Eph 2:1-3,Col 1:13, Eph 4:17-24,Rom 13:8-14)

2. From these verses we can clearly see that each of us is involved in a battle against our own evil desires within us, but greater is he who is in us than he who is in the world. The victory has been won, we need only now walk by the Spirit, and we will not fulfill the flesh. A solemn warning to you Christian- Do not give sinful desires a foothold in your life, they will destroy you, do not entertain an evil thought.

(Rom 7:23,8:13, Gal 5:17-24, James 4:1, 2 Cor 10:3-5)

V-2:12-"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

1.Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they will see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven." As ambassadors of Christ dear friends, we must be about the Fathers will, which was seen in the life of Jesus, he was about the business of "loving people", and that is God's will for you and me, loving people enough to tell them the Truth, and not only in word but also in deed. The hour is late, compel them to come into the Kingdom. (**Romans 13:8-14**)

2.Many times even in the midst of loving people, the accuse us of doing wrong. In that day rejoice for the Spirit of Glory rests on you. People in the world love only those who love them, but the Sons of the Kingdom love even their enemies.

Matthew 5:44-45-"But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

V-2:13-15-"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority,or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

1.We should be very careful to obey every authority, with respect, even the Lord

himself did this during his time on earth. We are not a people of rebellion but rather peacemakers. Moreover it is God who establishes authorities, for accomplishing his purposes, we should submit with the utmost respect. This is God's will for you.

Romans 13:1-2- "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

1 Samuel 15:23- "For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

V-2:16-17- "Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king."

1. Dear friends, we are **FREE!** We are not burdened down with a yoke of slavery, bound up with some religious ordinance. We are **FREE!** Free to love God with all of our heart and soul. Free to love our neighbor and live in peace with all men. We are the freest people on this earth, for he who the Son sets free is free indeed. Freedom is the reason Christ set us free.

Galations 5:1- "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

2. We are free, but not to sin. God forbid! Do not use your freedom **to indulge the sinful nature.**

Galations 5:13- "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."

3. The Bible says we should show proper respect to everyone. This is a must. What kind of witness is a discourteous, unpolite grump? - answer - a bad one. The Bible also says we should honor the king, now just who do you suppose that is to us. Show him proper respect and honor, this is God's will for us.

4. The word fear here is the Greek word "phobeo", and it means to put in fear, terrify, frighten. Dear friends, let us not forget God's holiness, his awesome power and fearful judgment, for they are part of his very nature. Furthermore, Jesus told us to fear him, so just what does this mean? Let's discuss it.

Luke 12:5- "But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

The Fear of Isaac-Gen 31:42- (Hebrew)-6343 pachad (pakh'-ad); from 6342; a (sudden) alarm (properly, the object feared, by implication, the feeling): KJV-- dread (-ful), fear, (thing) great [fear, -ly feared], terror.

The fear of the Lord-Job 28:28-(Hebrew)-3374 yir'ah (yir-aw'); feminine of 3373; fear (also used as infinitive); morally, reverence: KJV-- X dreadful, X exceedingly, fear (-fulness).

V-2:18- "Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh."

1. Remember that we are living such good lives among the pagans that they will see our good works. Our workplaces are an excellent opportunity to be more than conquerors through him who loved us. Our Christian example should cause others to see something different in us, **that is if something different is in us.**

V-2:19-20- " For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because

he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

1. When we by our freewill, suffer without complaint so as not to offend God, this is commendable before Him. So when we submit, even to a harsh employer, this brings glory to God. For it is His will for us that we should submit to every authority. The only exception for **not** submitting is when we are told to disobey the commandments of God. When this happens we are not obligated to submit.

Acts 4:18-19- Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

2. Remember this. When you suffer unjustly, cry out to God. He will hear you and comfort you, for He is the God of all comfort. He will never leave you or forsake you.

Remember the tremendous suffering of Joseph, which remained for many years. But he continued to trust God, never speaking a foul word, and in time God honored him.

V-2:21- To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1. What is it here that we were called to? The suffering of Christ. That means "unjust" suffering at the hands of evil men because of our testimony about God. Let's discuss this.

2. As we glorify God, sometimes people around us are offended because of our testimony about them, that their deeds are evil. The cross is an offense to sinful man. Thus when as Christians speak and live the truth, it many times brings conviction to those around us. When this happens people respond in all sorts of negative ways such as rejection, slander, ostracization, hostility and even sometimes violence. It is to this that we were called, to follow the example of Christ in glorifying God.

Question: For what crime was Jesus crucified on the cross?

3. Many times Christians, having fear of rejection and hostility, cease to say what ought to be said or do what ought to be done. Let us not cower in fear, but be bold in our testimony about our Lord and His gospel.

READ Acts 4:1-21

V- 2:22-23- "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1. Jesus being sinless and having committed no crime worthy of any mistreatment, did not retaliate in any manner toward his accusers. He did not even open his mouth to threaten or even justify himself. Instead he left the justification up to God.

2. When we open our mouths to defend ourselves or even worse threaten in retaliation, we display our lack of trust in God's ability to bring about justice in our situation. At times, it is even hard for us to forgive others, even after long periods of time. We must align our attitudes and will with that of Christ if we ever intend to glorify God.

V-2:24-25- He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1. Here Peter tells us of the substitution of Christ death. He died, the innocent for the guilty, as a substitution for us all. As he will go on to tell us in chapter 3,

1 Pet 3:18- For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

2. Having relieved us of the penalty of sin, he freed us to live in victory over it. "So that we must die to sins and live for righteousness. " This is the first of the gospel, that we must die to sin. What does it mean to die to sin?

READ Colossians 3:5-25

V-3:1-"Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,"

1. The apostle now gives us some more practical instruction and again it is based on the doctrines he just expounded in the previous verses. He says, "In the same way". Now just what is he referring to? He is referring to the same way Christ took up his cross and

became obedient unto death, wives should in this same way be submissive to their husbands. Furthermore, he did not say that you should be submissive if your husband is a good Christian man full of love and good fruit, but rather be submissive even if he is an unbeliever. This **is** the high calling of Christ for women in the church.

2. This is an excellent scripture to see that it is not what we say that wins people over, but it is what we do. Our lives are living letters, read by everyone in our lives. Are we bringing glory to the Son or defaming his name, for it is his name we bear.

2 Cor 3:3- You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

3. Purity and reverence in the life of a Christian woman brings glory to the teaching of Christ. Disobedience however brings shame causing the Word to be maligned. Consider this scripture.

Titus 2:4-5- "Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, ***so that no one will malign the word of God.***

V-3:2-4- "when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

1. These are four words that describe a truly beautiful woman, "**purity, reverence, gentle, quiet**". They are truly beautiful words and what a contrast to the world's definition of beauty. Inner virtue is God's desired purpose, in the image of Christ. And notice that this beauty is unfading, it does not age or wear out, but only increases with time and maturity.

1 Tim 2:9-10- I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

2. This verse is not a prohibition to outward adornment, but only an exhortation that it should not be the source or focus of your beauty. A woman should not be consumed with the adornment of her outer person, but rather consumed with a desire to please Christ in every way, with purity and reverence.

Proverbs 11:22- "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion."

Purity and reverence are not words we hear too much about in the modern church, let's discuss what they mean to a woman of God.

V-3:5-6- "For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear."

1. The submission of the wife to the husband is a biblical truth, it has been abused and it has been denied, but that does not change the Word of God. A woman should do her best to obey God and he will give her the power and direction in all circumstances and he will be their hope.

2. Did you notice that Sarah obeyed Abraham, and so should all wives obey their husbands. Does that offend you ladies? Consider that the Word of God is praising Sarah for that very thing, are you beyond this? No, but it is a far cry from what the world has tried to teach us. And this is the very reason why we need to be renewed in our minds.

Proverbs 31:30-31- "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

(Eph 5:21,22, Titus 2:5, 1 Pet 3:1, Col 3:18, 1 Tim 2:11-12)

Strong's definition of the word used for "submissive" **5293** hupotasso (hoop-ot-as'-so); from 5259 and 5021; to subordinate; reflexively, to obey:

KJV-- be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submitself unto.

God's order in creation for husband and wife-(Gen 3:16, 1 Cor 11:3)

The woman is in no way inferior to the man but rather they are equal in God's sight.

Notwithstanding there remains the fact that God has made the woman subject to the man and only in marriage, for the woman is subject to her husband. This also in no way changes the man's obligation to love his wife with the self-sacrificing love of Christ.

V-3:7- You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1. Notice that we are again referred back to the sufferings of Christ, "**In the same way**", husbands that Christ layed down his life willingly, we should be considerate of our wives not abusing God given authority but rather serving them in love. Moreover, husbands will give an account to God for their families, as God has made them head and given them responsibility for the care thereof.

2. It takes a real man to serve his wife in considerate love. This is the submission of a husband to the wife. It is the submission of duty unto God, that he would place her needs above his own, being sensitive to her needs and fears and feelings. God has granted man an exceeding great reward in a wife and that reward should be treated with honor and dignity. She is a partaker together with him in the grace of life.

Proverbs 18:22- He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

3. Notice how the same principle is brought out in Ephesians, that is, that a man should love his wife with the same sacrificial love as Christ portrayed, "**In the same way**".

Ephesians 5:25-28- "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **In this same way**, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."

4. and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life - Husbands should "grant honor" to their wives, for they have received God's grace. Man has not merited the favor of God, rather it was granted to us in Christ, who then is man to withhold favor from anyone else. **There is an honor due to all who are heirs of the grace of life.** Our wives are truly joint heirs with us in Christ and should be treated in a manner worthy of that calling.

(2.) **dwelling with the wife according to knowledge**; not according to lust, as brutes; nor according to passion, as devils; but according to knowledge, as wise and sober men, who know the word of God and their own duty.

(3.) **giving honour to the wife**-- giving due respect to her, and maintaining her authority, protecting her person, supporting her credit, delighting in her conversation, affording her a handsome maintenance, and placing a due trust and confidence in her.

(1.) **The weakness of the female sex** is no just reason either for separation or contempt, but on the contrary it is a reason for honour and respect: Giving honour to the wife as unto the weaker vessel.

(3.) all married people should take care to behave themselves so lovingly and peaceably one to another that they may not by their broils hinder the success of their prayers.

(from Matthew Henry's Commentary)

1 Peter 3:8-9- To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

1. Here the character of Christ is put in practical terms, indeed we are now commanded to fulfill the law of Christ. Each of these is a sweet fruit which God desires to perfect in us.

Harmonious - to live in harmony with one another, to submit mutually to one another, to dwell together in unity and peace

James 4:1- "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?"

Sympathetic - sensitive to the needs of one another, mutual understanding and concern

Brotherly - Having strong bonds between one another, caring and compassion to the point of action

Kindhearted - Having the desire to bless another for their benefit, seeking the benefit of another

Humble - to make oneself of no account, to esteem others more highly than oneself, lowly, contrite

2. not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead - Would Jesus return an insult for an insult? Than why do we? Vengeance is bound up in our hearts, but God has called us to make peace.

Romans 12:17-21- Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 5:39-48 - "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also." And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

3. called for the very purpose - It is God's purpose in salvation that we should become like Him, to be transformed into His likeness. **If** we are His offspring, we will behave like Him, even like the Lord Himself. It is God's purpose in our lives, that by His power we may become what Christ is, turning away from our former ways, and so manifesting the power and justice of our God to the principalities and authorities in heavenly realms.

1 Peter 3:10-12 - For, "Let him who means to love life and see good days Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile. "And let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

A. Again in view of God's judgement, Peter gives us instruction on obedience to God, quoting from Psalm 34. He speaks of the righteousness that God requires, and then solemnly warns of God's knowledge of our ways, leading either to His blessing or His disapproval. The righteous keep their tongues from evil and their lips from deceitful speech, their mouths are full of whatever is good, and builds others up.

Ephesians 4:29- "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

B. Friends, these things are not optional, they are not things you could do if you wanted to be a good Christian, but rather they **are** the characteristics of the righteous. Christian virtues are not something that we do, but rather they are produced **because of who we are**.

1 Peter 3:13-14- And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

A. Usually you will not be harmed for doing what is right, rather you will grow in favor with God and men. But if we suffer as Christians, we are blessed, this is commendable before God.

And Jesus told us not to be surprised if the world hates you, because it hated him first, but woe to you when all men speak well of you. We are not to fear men, but only God.

Isaiah 8:12-13- "Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread,"

V-3:15- "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"

1. In your heart. Friend what is in your heart? When you finally surrender your will to Jesus, and he becomes **Lord in your heart**, then your life will be filled with love and

joy and peace, your cup will overflow with the fruit of righteousness, and from your heart will flow **rivers of living water!**

2. When these things begin to take place in your life, people will ask you, "What is it about you?", and you will, with gentleness and respect, tell them that your hope is in the Living God, yes that He is even the source of the hope and love that is flowing from your life for which they are asking.

V-3:16-18- "keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

1. This is yet another call for us to take up our cross, to return blessing for the malicious speech that may be spoken against us. And we do not do this, masking an evil thought in our heart, but rather we do it with a clear conscience. You can have a clear conscience if you will set Christ apart as Lord in your heart, and keep a repentant attitude toward God.

2. It is the death of Christ that brought people to God, and nothing more. I warn you in Christ friends, if anyone tries to tell you that your salvation was completed before or after the cross, they are teaching false doctrine and leading you astray. Jesus' last words from the cross were, "It is Finished", and that is what he meant.

V-3:18-20- "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,"

1. It is by the Spirit that we will be made alive forever, he will transform our bodies into the likeness of his heavenly body (Phil 3:20-21). We will be changed and will put on immortality, we will be clothed with a heavenly dwelling.

Romans 8:11- "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."

2. In order to understand what is being said here about Christ going and preaching, we must understand the subjects of his message, they are the **spirits in prison** who disobeyed when the ark was being built. We find these spirits in prison in a few places in the bible, so let's take a look. (2 Pet 2:4-6, Jude 6-7, Gen 6:1-4,)

Genesis 6:1-4- "When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the **sons of God** saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days-- and also afterward-- **when the sons of God** went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown."

The words sons of God here are used only five times in the OT and every time they refer to angels or if you will, spirits (Gen 6:2,4, Job 1:6,2:1, Dan 3:25,28). This was an attempt to wipe out the messianic line and prevent the advent of Christ, but because God saved Noah, the righteous, through the flood, the messianic line continued. This was only one of many attempts to wipe out the Royal line. This was an abominable thing that was done and because of it, God bound them in prison, in blackest darkness to be held for judgment. He also at that time deluged the world and destroyed the beings that existed in that time. It is to those spirits or angels that he went and **proclaimed** the victory that had been won at the cross. Through his sacrifice of atonement he "disarmed" the principalities and powers and made a spectacle of them.

Colossians 2:13-15- "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Spirits in prison- From this text alone what are the facts about these spirits?

1. There are in or were in prison
2. They disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

From this text alone we can see that there only 2 possibilities who these spirits in prison could be. 1. the spirits of men

2. fallen angels- holy angels do not disobey

The answer to this question lies in Genesis where we read the account of those who disobeyed while the ark was being built.

A few reasons for my position

1. These "spirits in prison" seem to be a theme in Peter's writings and the passage in 2 Peter 2:4-6 clearly is speaking of angels who sinned, and then reference to the flood is made.

2. The passage in Genesis 6:1-4 clearly makes several points;

A. The righteous sons from Adam to Noah are named in Genesis chapter 5 and are never once called the "sons of God".

B. The words (ben Elohiym)"sons of God" are used four other places in the bible and always refer to angelic beings.

C. Verse 4 clearly states that the offspring of this union were giants, and that is not a natural thing, obviously something supernatural happened here.

D. The word "Nephilim", in Hebrew means "fallen ones." This was an obvious attempt to wipe out the messianic line by Satan's fallen ones, and to prevent the advent of Christ.

E. Man's cooperation with these angels was such a grievous thing in the eyes of God that his heart was filled with pain and he destroyed the earth and every living thing upon it, then bound these angels in chains and darkness until the judgment.

3. Nowhere else in the New Testament does it speak of men's souls being "in prison", the term prison is not used of human souls, but it is used several times of a particular group of fallen angels.

4. The passage in Jude 6-7 seems to indicate how these angels sinned, they left their habitation, or their home in the spiritual realm and entered into time and space to mingle with humans.

5. Jesus' statement in Matthew 22:30 says that angels "in heaven" are not given in marriage, it does not say it is impossible for angels to cohabit or procreate with humans.

V-3:20-21- "in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1. Here the apostle tells us that the flood of Noah was a type of baptism. What other parts of Noah's experience could be types of other spiritual realities? How about the ark, a type of God's deliverance of the righteous from **His wrath**.

2. Baptism, what a beautiful sacrament. It is an outward symbol of an inward work, the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It is not the washing of water that saves you but the act of faith in the inner man, trusting in the finished work of the Lord, of which baptism is an outward profession. Baptism is a must, it is a commandment from the apostles and the Lord himself, but God does the saving by his grace through faith. Furthermore, we are commanded to be baptized in the name of the Father, **and** the Son, **and** the Holy Spirit.

3. It is the regeneration of the Holy Spirit which takes place in the heart when we truly believe, which raises us to new life in Christ, and sanctifies us. Peter uses baptism

as the saving work only because it symbolizes the inward reality of regeneration that has taken place in salvation. The resurrection is what happens in us in baptism, we are raised to new life.

Titus 3:4-7- "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

V-3:22- "who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand-- with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him."

1. Jesus is in heaven at God's right hand. His is the highest authority in all creation. Revelation 3:14 says he is the **ruler of God's creation**, and he is, the King of the universe. And even all angels, and powers, and principalities are in submission to him. At this point he is awaiting the salvation of the elect, when this is accomplished he will establish his kingdom by force, and it will be an everlasting kingdom and all rulers will worship and obey him.

Ephesians 1:20-21- "which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."

Read Daniel 4:34-37, 7:13-28

V-4:1- "Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin."

1. When you suffer for the sake of doing good, it has a way of straightening out your priorities, giving you an eternal perspective and causing you to put your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus. Even the Lord himself learned obedience through the things he suffered and so do we. Therefore we are to have the same attitude toward suffering as did the Lord.

2. Should not the Christian be willing to give their life for their faith. When Christ asked us to follow Him, what did He say? Whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it. Matt 16:25

V-4:2-4- "As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do-- living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you."

1. Suffering has a way of drawing us so near to God that we no longer live in manners that we used to, but rather we are consumed with the will of God. Dear friend, does this characterize your life, are you living for the will of God. Does his will burn in your heart, a fire that cannot be quenched. Or are you walking the fence as it were, struggling each day with your former way of life? It maybe that suffering is exactly what it will take to cause you to surrender your will to the Master, or maybe you will do it willingly. Either way he will be glorified.

2. Your former way of life is a flood of dissipation, it amounts to nothing, all that striving for things in the world that only rust and corrode and pass away. God help us to set our minds on things above, and to lay up treasure in heaven, the thief will never get you there.

V-4:5-6- "But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit."

1. It is appointed for a man to die once, and then the judgment. Just think, people who have spent their entire life ignoring God and seeking to build their own little kingdom

on earth are in for a rude awakening on the other side. The Lord, the Most High God is going to have them give an accounting for all that has been done. On that day men will seek a shelter from his wrath but it will illude them, and they will be cast into outer darkness, where the worm never dies and the fire is never quenched, a place where there is no life, or light, or love. That will be a terrible and awful destiny. Do we really believe this?

2. The gospel was preached so that people could be saved from the wrath of God. God does not take any pleasure in the death of the wicked.

Ezek 33:11- "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord GOD, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'"

V-4:7-9-"The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."

1. How many times have you heard it said that if we could see the Glory of heaven for one moment that it would change the way we live today? Well, I am convinced that this is true, but what is it about heaven that would change our outlook? I believe it is the reality and power of the coming age, which we only have a glimpse of in this physical world, but we are assured of in our hearts, and we hold fast to it by faith. In light of this profound reality, what should we do?

Romans 13:11-12-"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."

2. A Christian should make wise and discerning decisions, with sober thought and good stewardship in mind. We should be self-controlled and not carried away by our lusts and passions. We must keep an eternal perspective. And this so we can pray!

3. **Above all**, love each other deeply! Do you get the idea the apostle is trying to tell us something? He gives seven exhortations to love in this letter. And that he says we should do **above all**. More than that it covers many sins. Love when it is practically demonstrated, because of its selfless nature, forgives offenses against it, and seeks always to reconcile.

1 Cor 13:7-8- Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

4. What about hospitality friends, lets discuss it.

V-4:10-11-"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

1. Notice the result of our using spiritual gifts, so that God may be praised through Jesus Christ. This is truly our purpose, the Glory of God.

2. Many Christians are ignorant of their spiritual gifts, friends this should not be. We have been gifted so that the church might reach its full potential and be complete not lacking anything. When we ignore the gift God gave us we are being disobedient and we will give an account to him who is ready to judge. Christian, are you lacking fulfillment in your Christian life, it could be that you have yet to realize that the Lord made you for a purpose. When you begin to walk in your gifting and calling you will find the most fulfilling thing in life. ***Depression is not a fruit of the spirit.***

V-4:12-13- "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

1. Friends, we must understand that the kingdom of heaven is contrary to every system in this present world. Consider for one moment the Lord Jesus, how he went about doing good and healing all who were sick and held captive, he spoke the truth and gave great insight and wisdom freely to all, and this present world called him a lunatic, scourged him and stripped him and then killed him in the most horrible way known to man. Don't you know that you are walking in his footsteps, you are, and the world would like nothing more than to do the same to you.

John 15:18-20- "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

2. Rejoice! Rejoice! When you are persecuted for righteousness, you are being identified with Christ in the greatest manner possible, and God through your stand is being glorified.

Matt 5:10-16 - "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

V-4:14-16- "If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name."

1. Partaking in the sufferings of Christ is the highest purpose a man or woman can fulfill in this present age. Often we are not persecuted because we avoid it at all costs, friends this should not be. God help us to speak the Word of God boldly, only the truth can set people free. Great is your reward in heaven for such exploits.

2 Tim 2:11-13 - It is a trustworthy statement: for if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny himself. (NAS)

Rom 8:16-18 - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (NAS)

2 Cor 4:17-18 - For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

V-4:17-18- "For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

1. It would appear from the context of this passage that the persecutions spoken of here are from God himself, intending to purify his own, and it is these same persecutions that we partake in if we are truly living a godly life in Christ. If we truly belong to him, we are the salt of the earth, a city on a hill, and this will produce

some level of persecution, which will only strengthen true saving faith.

2. Do not think for one moment that God does not judge his own, he will chasten us until we listen and obey, this done with the motivation of perfect love.

Hebrews 12:5-7- "And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?"

3. What will become of the ungodly and the sinner?

II Thessalonians 1:8-9- "He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power."

V-4:19- "So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."

1. This is very important, don't miss what the Lord is saying here. What is the proper response in suffering? Friends, we should "commit ourselves" to our faithful God, and his grace will be sufficient to see us through. In other words we should trust God in faith, and after we have done everything, stand fast. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Was this not Job's response?

Proverbs 3:5-6- "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

V-5:1-4- Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

The term "**Elder**." - 1 Tim 5:19, 1 Pet 5:1, II Jn 1:1, 3 Jn 1:1, Acts 20:17, 21:18, 1 Tim 5:17, Tit 1:5, Jam 5:14, "**Overseer**" - 1 Tim 3:1-2, Tit 1:7, Acts 20:28, "**Pastor**" - Eph 4:11,

Strong's Definition - 4166 *poimen* (poy-mane'); of uncertain affinity; a shepherd (literally or figuratively): KJV-- shepherd, pastor.

1. The elders of the flock are told to be *shepherds*. I wonder if we truly understand the role of a shepherd toward the sheep, he is responsible for their well being, giving them their food, binding up their wounds, keeping them from straying away or eating things that are bad for them, all that a shepherd does has a spiritual relevance to the church, these things are imperative for an elder to understand and more than that imperative that he do them, for he will give an accounting for those entrusted to him.

2. Notice the way we are told to shepherd, *eager to serve, with humility, leading by example*. If as an elder it has become a chore to serve the flock, you have made a mistake and need to repent. This is done by the energy of the Spirit, and it is not a burdensome command, but one done with gladness and joy, this we can be eager to do. One must not become proud and lord over the flock with some authority complex, but rather serving one another in love and true humility. Our example should be that of the character of Christ first produced in us, and then to our hearers, esteeming others more highly than ourselves.

3. The Chief Shepherd is coming and his reward is with him. Paul's crown was the church of Phillipi, his hearers and those he loved and served became his reward before the Lord. What a glorious thing to present to the Lord, a faithful work of ministering in the gift he has given you, and an elder will receive an elder's reward.

V-5:5- "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1. Just as pride is the extreme character of wickedness, humility is the extreme character of godliness. We must begin to esteem others, all others more highly than ourselves,

we will never do this until we come face to face with our own sinfulness and utter inability to please God in ourselves. Let us throw off self-righteousness and hypocrisy, and begin to humble ourselves before all men, this is the more excellent way of love, "it is not proud, it does not boast, it always protects and always trusts." Friends this is what we so badly need in the body of Christ.

2. So you call yourself a Christian, but you have not learned to be humble. Woe to you, for the Lord's face is against the proud, they will receive nothing from his hand but turmoil.

Proverbs 16:5- "The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished."

Proverbs 21:4- "Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!"

Proverbs 18:12- "Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor."

V-5:6-7- "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

1. God gives grace to the humble, that is he gives his favor those who fear him, and in that we have all that we need for life and we can rely on him to meet our every need and see us through the darkest days of our life. That is what the scripture says, **he cares for you** friend. Imagine that, **the Creator of the universe cares for you**, what a glorious thought.

Humble-to be modest, meek, -deeply respectful, lowly

Proverbs 3:34, 11:2, 15:33, 16:19, 18:12, 22:4,

Isaiah 2:12-22---66:1-2

Zeph 2:3

Luke 1:52

Romans 12:9-18

Phil 2:3

Jas 3:13

Rev 13:5-Daniel 11:36

2. What is it that you are anxious about today friend? What is it that you have not entrusted to God? Is He not big enough to meet your need, I think He is, will you let him be your God? This is his desire, that you might look to him to meet your needs and deliver you from your trials. His heart is so beautifully revealed in the Scriptures, "And they will be my people, and I will be their God!"

V-5:8-9- "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

1. This is the third time now that Peter has told us to be self-controlled. Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit, it therefore is not something done by our power but rather God's. We submit to God, he gives us the power to exercise restraint. James has said this same thing, "**Submit to God**, resist the devil and he will flee."

2. In 1 Peter 4:7 he says, "be clear-minded and self-controlled so you can pray." Here he tells us to **be alert**. What is it we should **be alert to**, and what should we **be clear-minded about**? May I suggest it is this very thing, that the devil is prowling around, looking for someone to **tempt and deceive**, and he is very crafty, but we are not unaware of his schemes. So **be alert** to your enemy, **don't be deceived!**

Ephesians 6:12- "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

3. The Christian struggle does not change from culture to culture, or from age to age. We may struggle with different circumstances but ultimately it is with temptation and sin, it is against our own sinful nature, which is at enmity with the Spirit, but we all overcome by the same faith and by the same Spirit. We all overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. Throughout the world, we all fight the same battle so don't forget to always keep on praying for all the saints.

V-5:10-11- "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have

1 Peter

suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."

1. He is not the God of some grace, but of **all grace**. He has extended His lovingkindness even to His enemies, He has even come to the earth and humbled Himself before a planet full of rebellious people whom He created and gave them the freewill to chose between good which leads to life and evil which leads to death, and they tortured and killed Him on the mountain he created. And He has waited patiently for thousands of years for any and all who would turn to Him and receive the riches of his favor, namely eternal glory, and that freely given. Wow! What a Holy God.

1 Pet 5:12-14 - Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

1. This letter and all that is encompassed within is the true grace of God. It is the true message of the gospel. Therefore remember all that we have learned here and keep it in your hearts as the whole of the gospel. And stand firm in it!

2. Silvanus, Latin for "Silas", Paul's faithful companion. Mark is "John Mark," the writer of the gospel of Mark.

3. A kiss of love - a common greeting in the culture of that time. We should warmly greet one another with love and continually wish God's peace upon our family whom we have recieved from God.

Partaker of the Glory which is to be revealed