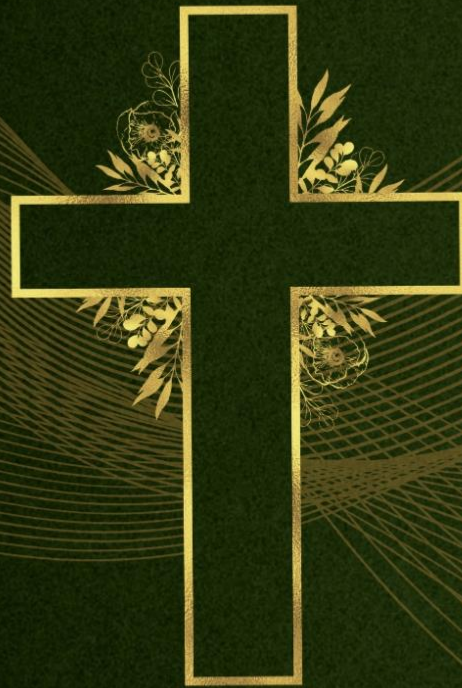


BENJAMIN LEE

• 1 & 2 PETER •



“HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE
NEED FOR A GODLY LIFE THROUGH OUR KNOWLEDGE
OF HIM ...”

2 PETER 1:3

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

1 Peter 5:9-10

Introduction:

“The hour had come for the Shepherd to be smitten and for the sheep to be scattered. Jesus chose to spend His final hours with His eleven, preparing them for the tribulation that would come. Yet, after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, the tribulation seemed to be relatively mild. The disgruntled Pharisees wanted to shut up the men who were turning Jerusalem upside down with their teaching and miracles, but nothing seemed life threatening.

Then the first stone was thrown, and Stephen, the first martyr, was brought to the ground. Saul watched him die. In hearty agreement with Stephen’s death, Saul went to the high priest to gain permission to round up those who were spreading this gospel. However, Saul’s purge was short-lived, for Jesus saved him on the road to Damascus and changed his name to Paul. Yet the persecution of Christians continued. Herod, the Jewish king, became the adversary of believers. Jews who confessed Jesus as the Messiah were scattered to other Roman provinces.

However, it wasn’t until the Roman emperor Nero that the persecution of Christians reached beyond the confines of Judah. Rumor had it that Nero had burned Rome so he could rebuild it as he wanted. Needing a scapegoat to divert attention from himself, Nero blamed the fire on the Christians and began the systematic persecution of God’s children. Jesus had prepared Peter for the world’s tribulation; now Peter would prepare others. His first epistle was written on the eve of Nero’s persecution, about A.D. 63 or 64. Nero died in A.D. 68, but not before Rome put Peter to death. ¹

¹ Introduction to the book of first Peter, New Inductive Study Bible, (NASV) page 2006

Author: Internal Evidence

- First Peter claims to be from Peter, 1 Peter 1:1. No other direct reference to Peter exists in the letter.
- Second Peter also claims to be from Peter, 2 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 3:1

Author: External Evidence

- The external evidence for 1 Peter’s authenticity is quite early, and no one raises doubts about its Petrine authorship. ²
- Early church tradition also supports Petrine authorship. ³

Before our first class, here are some questions to answer.

1. In the initial verses of 1 Peter, the apostle describes himself and states to whom he is writing. In the last verses of the letter, he tells why he wrote this epistle. Write out what you learn below.

2. What was the condition of the recipients of the 1 Peter?

3. Read the entire letter in one sitting. It will not take too long. What observations do you notice?

4. Read 1 Peter 1:3-12. What themes do you see? These themes will be seen throughout the rest of the letter.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

² Christian Standard Commentary:1 & 2 Peter and Jude, page 6

³ Ibid page 10

The Life of Peter

Read these scriptures prior to class. What do you learn about Peter?

- John 1:40-42:
- John 1:44:
- Matthew 8:5, 14-15
- Acts 4:13
- Acts 4:18-20
- Matthew 10:2; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13
- Galatians 2:8
- Matthew 16:18
- Matthew 16:21-23
- Matthew 26:31-35, 70-75

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As we begin this study, I would like for us to walk through the text together. As you study on your own, remember a few thoughts. ⁴

1. The Text (Read, Read, and Read).
2. Check Translations.
3. Word meaning (original).
4. Structure/Thought Patterns (an outline).
 - a. Taking the text – turning it into an outline – as if it was one used by the writer.
 - b. Organizes the information – makes it useful.
 - c. When we have an outline – ½ of the job of interpretation is done.
5. What did this mean to original audience?
 - a. Look at this before application to us.
 - b. If the writer were here, would he recognize and give approval to your conclusion, interpretation and application.
6. Application/Practical Lessons
 - a. What does it mean to me?
 - b. Include promises to be believed.
 - c. Include commands to be obeyed.
 - d. Include warnings to be heeded.
 - e. Include examples to be followed.
 - f. Include doctrine to be accepted.

The Value of True Textual Study

1. Know the text better (not just some verses in a text). Will have better overall knowledge of the Bible.
2. See the “flow” of the passage.
3. See how every verse (and thought) in a chapter fits together. Consider what Peter says in the following verses.

⁴ Inductive Bible study, Donnie Radar

- a. **Texts will be taken out of context, 2 Peter 3:16:** “...As also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.”
- b. **Dangers of being misled, 2 Peter 3:17:** “You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.”
- c. **Answer: Learn the text in context, 2 Peter 3:18:** “...But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity, Amen.

Some Key Words

- Suffering, trials
- Grace
- Glory
- Salvation
- Love
- Holy Spirit
- Called
- Chosen
- Holy

1 Peter Chapter One:

- Read the entire chapter.
- Make your own outline below.
- Write out your observations and be ready to share as we walk through the chapter.

1 Peter Chapter Two:

- Read the entire chapter.
- Make your own outline below.
- Write out your observations and be ready to share as we walk through the chapter.

1 Peter Chapter Three:

- Read the entire chapter.
- Make your own outline below.
- Write out your observations and be ready to share as we walk through the chapter.

1 Peter Chapter Four:

- Read the entire chapter.
- Make your own outline below.
- Write out your observations and be ready to share as we walk through the chapter.

1 Peter Chapter Five:

- Read the entire chapter.
- Make your own outline below.
- Write out your observations and be ready to share as we walk through the chapter.

“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.”

2 Peter 1:10-11

Introduction to 2 Peter

A fisherman by trade, Peter had been captured and transformed by the Great Shepherd. Is it any wonder that even in Peter’s darkest hour, the welfare of God’s sheep was uppermost in his mind? Ever since the day he stood with Jesus by a fire, the morning air full of the aroma of roasting fish, Peter had known the way he would die. But Peter would be faithful. His concern about his death and the way he would die would not override his concern for the sheep Jesus had commissioned him to feed and shepherd. And so, sometime around A.D. 63 or 64, Peter writes, “...To those who have a received a faith of the same kind as ours.” In A.D. 64, according to tradition, Peter was crucified upside down for the Lord he once denied knowing. How Peter had grown in the grace and knowledge of his God! ⁵

Some Key Words

- Prophecy (prophet, prophetic)
- Knowledge (know, knowing, known)
- Remind (reminder)
- True (truth)
- Diligent (diligence)
- False teachers
- Mockers
- Destroyed
- Promise

⁵ Introduction to the book of first Peter, New Inductive Study Bible, (NASV) page 2015

2 Peter Chapter One:

- Read the entire chapter.
- Make your own outline below.
- Write out your observations and be ready to share as we walk through the chapter.

2 Peter Chapter Two:

- Read the entire chapter.
- Make your own outline below.
- Write out your observations and be ready to share as we walk through the chapter.

2 Peter Chapter Three:

- Read the entire chapter.
- Make your own outline below.
- Write out your observations and be ready to share as we walk through the chapter.