

**Women's Bible Study ~ Fall 2017**  
**#whenlifestinks – Job and 1 Peter**  
**Holiness in Difficulty – 1 Peter 1:1-2:3**  
**11/10/17 – Juli Fischer**



1 Peter was written as an encouragement to suffering believers. It was written to Christians that had been driven out of Jerusalem and had been scattered throughout Asia Minor, both Jewish and Gentile. This letter was probably written in Rome during the great persecution under Emperor Nero. Being a Christian was actually not illegal but worshiping God and NOT Nero was the cause of the persecution. Christians were being tortured and killed for their faith and they were being scattered from Jerusalem. This letter is to help them find joy in their suffering but also gives some godly counsel on how to live in a world where they don't fit in.

Peter -

1. He was a disciple and a part of the inner circle of the 12. Jesus included Peter in some significant events, like the transfiguration.
2. He was impulsive. He would talk the "big talk" but not be able to follow through on what he had said.
3. He was told,

**"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** What Jesus was telling Peter is now coming true as Peter is writing this letter to many churches across Asia Minor. Peter's words are building the firm foundation of the church and even though Nero wanted the Christians gone, they are just getting stronger.

4. He denied that he knew Jesus three times right before Jesus was crucified.

These facts help me to see how Peter is more stable, more confident, and also fulfilling the words that Jesus gave him.

Let's now see how Peter greets his recipients and what kind of impact his words have on those that will read his letter.

**1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: may grace and peace be multiplied to you.**

As Peter sets the tone for this letter he is telling all of the recipients (and that includes us) that

1. They are chosen (elect) Everyone with a blue shirt on stand up.

2. Just as the Israelites in the Old Testament were in exile (barred from their home country) they were also in exile (waiting for their true home-heaven). We are like the Christians then. We are also in exile, in a foreign land, waiting to be able to go home.
3. God chose them **before**.....before they were born, before their ancestors, and before the creation of the world.
4. The Holy Spirit is working in their lives to make them more holy so they can obey Jesus Christ and for their salvation.

What a great introduction! Peter is putting the emphasis on God and not them. This shows us quite a bit about Peter.

### Hope of an Inheritance ( 3-12)

My parents both died several decades ago. I was 18 when my dad died and 28 when my mom died. The inheritance we received was precious, but it is all fading and wasting away. The furniture needs to be redone and the knick knacks look tired and the dishes are cracked. This coffee pot is my grandmother's but can now only be a planter. The inheritance Peter is talking about is greatly different.

a. By his great mercy (3) **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.** His mercy, not our works! And hope that is worth far more than any sort of hope we have here on earth.

b. Inheritance that is kept for us. (4) **to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,** Gives us a future hope. Their past inheritance was lost due to their sin (Old Testament inheritance of a promised land) but this one is priceless! Kept. Powerful word. The God who says to Job that he is the keeper of the seas and the light is the same God who is keeping our inheritance for us. My sewing machine.

c. We are protected while we wait. (5) **Who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time** Most of our association with the word salvation is one that happened when Jesus died on the cross. These references refer to a salvation in the future. It is a salvation of deliverance from some danger, like the danger of condemnation in the final judgment.

d. Peter gives a sidebar regarding our faith. He says to rejoice because of what is going on to our faith. (6, 7) **In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ** Mark Wilson is with us now and he takes great encouragement in the words if necessary. He knows, even with his cancer, that

whatever is happening is sifted through the hands of God that he has deemed it appropriate for this time in his life.

e. Faithfulness with joy. (8, 9) ***Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.***

Jesus told Thomas these words after he touched the risen Jesus and then believed. Jesus said, ***“You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”*** Because we know Jesus we carry on in our day to day activities with Jesus in mind.

f. The OT prophets were eager to know what we know.

***Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.***

Peter is affirming that the inheritance that is ours gives us true hope and helps us endure the sufferings that are inevitable. Our faith is being tested by these sufferings and proving more genuine and more praise given to the person who deserves it....Jesus. And we need to remember that there were many people who would have longed for the day to know who the Messiah was!

### **Hope producing holiness (13- 2:3)**

a. A living hope both for now and for the future. (13) ***Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*** Because of our hope we are to have hope fully on Jesus. To have full hope we should be sober and be prepared. Full armor of God!

b. Be holy! (14-16) ***As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*** Not legalism, but a relationship.

Leviticus 19:2, ***“Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel. You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.”*** All of us is in the process of being transformed, of becoming more and more holy. Sanctification.

- c. Conduct ourselves with fear. (17-21) ***And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*** Fear is the awesome wonder and reverence for someone far greater than yourself. It is knowing that it is a privilege to obey him and show him gratitude for all he has done.
- d. The word of God encourages us. Everything else fades anyway.
- e. (2: 1-3) Jann is talking on these next week.

### **Review.**

We are to have hope every day because

1. We are saved. And it is not because of us.
2. We are protected through our trials
3. We have an inheritance for us.
4. Jesus is coming again.

We are to be holy

1. Put our hope where it belongs.
2. Put our desires in the right places.
3. Live with God's purposes in mind.
4. Read the Bible often.

Rae Wilson is also here with her husband, Mark. She was talking about 1 Peter with me and one of her comments really struck me. She said that her head knows the truths of 1 Peter but her heart has not caught up with it yet in this situation. But she knows the word of the Lord lasts forever. A hobby she enjoys, because of her interest in history, is to go to a cemetery and read the headstones. She has made the observation that we can see the names, the dates, and some comments about the people and they can be remembered. But their voice is forgotten. 1 Peter, however, says the word of the Lord lasts forever.

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