

The First Epistle General of Peter

The Argument

He exhorteth the faithful to deny themselves, and to contemn the world, that being delivered from all carnal affections and impediments, they may more speedily attain to the heavenly kingdom of Christ, whereunto we are called by the grace of God revealed to us in his Son, and have already received it by faith, possessed it by hope, and are therein confirmed by holiness of life. And to the intent this faith should not faint, seeing Christ contemned and rejected almost of the whole world, he declareth that this is nothing else but the accomplishing of the Scriptures which testify that he should be the stumbling stone to the reprobate and the sure foundation of salvation to the faithful: therefore he exhorteth them courageously to go forward, considering what they were, and to what dignity God hath called them. After, he entreateth particular points, teaching subjects how to obey their governors, and servants their masters, and how married folks ought to behave themselves. And because it is appointed for all that are godly, to suffer persecutions, he sheweth them what good issue their afflictions shall have, and contrary wise what punishment God reserveth for the wicked. Last of all he teacheth how the ministers ought to behave themselves, forbidding them to usurp authority over the Church: also that young men ought to be modest, and apt to learn, and so endeth with an exhortation.

Chapter 1

2 He sheweth that through the abundant mercy of God we are elect and regenerate to a lively hope, 7 And how faith must be tried, 10 That the salvation in Christ is no news, but a thing prophesied of old. 13 He exhorteth them to a godly conversation, forasmuch as they are now born anew by the word of God.

Peter an Apostle of JESUS CHRIST, to ^athe strangers that dwell here and there throughout Pontus, Galacia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

2 Elect according to the ^bforeknowledge of God the Father unto sanctification of the spirit, [^]through ^oobedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you.

3 *Blessed be God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a ^dlively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance immortal and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in ^eheaven for you,

5 Which are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, which is prepared to be shewed in the ^flast time:

6 Wherein ye rejoyce, though now for a season (if need ^grequire) ye are in heaviness, through manifold tentations.

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth (though it be tried with fire) might be found unto *your* praise, and honor and glory at the ^happearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom ye have not seen, and yet love *him*, in whom now, though ye see him not, yet do you believe, and rejoyce with joy unspeakable and glorious,

9 Receiving the [^]end of your faith, *even* the salvation of

your souls.

10 Of the which salvation the Prophets have inquired and searched, which prophesied of the grace that should come unto you,

11 Searching when or what time the Spirit which testified before of Christ which was in them, should declare the sufferings *that should come* unto Christ, and the glory that should follow.

12 Unto whom it was revealed, that [^]not unto themselves, but unto us they should minister the things which are now shewed unto you by them which have preached unto you the Gospel by the holie Ghost sent down from heaven, the which things the Angels desire to behold.

13 Wherefore, ^kgird up the ^{*}loins of your mind: be sober, and trust perfectly on the grace that is brought unto you, by the [^]revelation of Jesus Christ,

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves unto the former [^]lusts of your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you, is holie, so be you holie in ^{*}all manner of conversation,

16 Because it is written, *Be ye holie, for I am holie.

17 And if ye call him Father, which without ^{*}respect of person judgeth according to every man's [^]work, pass the time of your dwelling here in fear,

18 Knowing that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation, received by the traditions of the ^ofathers,

19 *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb undefiled, and without spot.

20 Which was ^{*}ordained before the foundation of the world, but was declared in the ^olast times for your sakes,

21 Which by his means do believe in God that raised him

1 a Which were Jews to whom he was appointed to be an Apostle.

2 b The free election of God is the efficient cause of our salvation, the material cause is Christ's obedience, our effectual calling is the formal cause, and the final cause is our sanctification.

2 [^]Or, unto obedience.

2 c To wit, of Christ.

3 *2 Cor. 1.3, Eph. 1.3

3 d For it is but dead and vain hope which is without Christ.

4 e Therefore they ought to look for no earthly kingdom of the Messiah.

5 f At the day of judgment.

6 g And need doeth so require, when it pleases God to lay his cross upon his, for to draw them from earthly things and make them partakers of his heavenly graces.

7 h At his second coming.

9 [^]Or, reward.

12 i Their ministry was more profitable to us then to them: for we see the thing accomplished which they prophesied.

13 k Prepare yourselves to the Lord.

13 *Luke 12.35

13 l Until his second coming.

14 m When you were ignorant and knew not Christ.

15 *Luke 1.75

16 *Levi. 11.44, and 19.2, and 20.7

17 *Deut. 10.17, Rom. 2.11, Gal. 2.6

17 n According to the sincerity of the heart.

18 o Read Ezek. 20.18

19 *1Cor. 6.20, and 7.23, Ebr. 9.14, 1 John 1.7, Rev. 1.5

20 *Rom. 16.25, Ephes. 3.9, Colos. 1.26, 2 Tim. 1.9, Titus 1.2

20 p When Christ appeared unto the world, and when the Gospel was preached.

from the dead, and gave him glory, that your faith and hope might be in God.

22 Seeing your souls are purified in obeying the truth through the spirit, to *love brotherly without faining, love one another with a pure heart fervently,

23 Being born a new, not of mortal seed, but of ^qimmortal, by the word of God, who liveth and endureth forever.

24 For all *flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man is as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower falleth away.

25 But the word of the Lord endureth forever: and this is the word which is preached among you.

Chapter 2

1 He exhortheth them to lay aside all vice, 4 Showing the Christ is the foundation whereupon they build. 9 The excellent estate of the Christians. 11 He praieth them to abstain for fleshly lusts. 13 To obey the rulers, 18 How servants should behave themselves toward their masters. 20 He exhortheth to suffer after the example of Christ.

Wherefore, *laying aside all maliciousness and all guile, and dissimulation, and envy, and all evil speaking,

2 As new born babes desire ^athe [^]sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby,

3 If so be that ye have tasted how bountiful the Lord is.

4 To whom ye come as unto a living stone disallowed of men, but chosen of God and precious.

5 And ye as lively stones, be made a spiritual house, and holie *Priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore it is contained in the Scripture, *Behold, I put in ^bSion a chief corner stone, elect and precious: and he that believeth therein, shall not be ashamed.

7 Unto you therefore which believe, it is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the *stone which the ^cbuilders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a *stone to stumble at, and a rock of offense, even *to them* which stumble at the word being disobedient, unto the which thing they were even ordained.

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a ^droyal *Priesthood, an holie nation, a [^]peculiar people, that ye should show forth

22 *Rom. 12.10, Ephes. 4.2, chap. 2.17.

23 q Therefore we must renounce our former nature.

24 *Isa. 40.6, Eccles. 14.18, Jam. 1.10

Chapter 2

1 *Rom. 6.4, Ephes. 4.23, Colos. 3.8, Ebr. 12.1

2 a In this their infancy and new coming to Christ he willeth them to take heed lest for the pure milk, which is the first beginnings of learning the sincere word, they be not deceived by them which chop and change it, and give poison instead thereof.

2 [^]Or, the milk of understanding which is without deceit.

5 *Rev. 1.6

6 *Isa. 28.16, Rom. 9.33

6 b Meaning, that God hath appointed Christ to be chief and head of his Church.

7 *Psal. 118.22, Mat. 21.42, Act. 4.11

7 c The Priests, Doctors, and Ancients of the people.

8 *Isa. 8.14, Rom. 9.33

9 d That is partakers of Christ's Priesthood and kingdom.

9 *Exod. 19.6, Rev. 5.10

9 [^]Or, gotten by purchase.

the virtues of him that hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light,

10 *Which in time past were not a people, yet *are* now the people of God: which in time past were not under mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you, as strangers & pilgrims, *abstain from fleshly lusts, which fight against the soul,

12 *And have your conversation honest among the Gentiles, that they which speak evil of you as of evil doers, may by *your* *good works which they shall see, glorify God in the day of ^ethe visitation.

13 *Submit yourselves unto all [^]manner ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether it be unto the King, as unto the superior,

14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent of him, for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

15 For so is the will of God, that by well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of the foolish men,

16 As free, and not as having the liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

17 Honor all men: *love [^]brotherly fellowship: fear God: honor the King.

18 *Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and courteous, but also to the ^gforward.

19 *For this is thank worthy, if a man for ^hconscience toward God endure grief suffering wrongfully.

20 For what praise is it, if when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye take it patiently? but and if when ye do well, ye suffer *wrong* and take it patiently, this is acceptable to God.

21 For hereunto ye are called: for Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps.

22 *Who did no sin, neither was there guile found in his mouth.

23 Who when he was reviled, reviled not again: when he suffered, he threatened not, but committed it to him that judgeth righteously.

24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his body on the tree, that we being delivered from sin, should live in righteousness: by whose strips ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray: but are now returned unto the shepherd and bishop of your souls.

10 *Hosea 2.23, Rom. 9.25

11 *Gal. 5.17, Rom. 13.14

12 *Chap. 3.16

12 Mat. 5.16,

12 e Your good conversation shalbe as a preparative against that day that God shall show mercy unto them and turn them.

13 *Rom. 13.1

13 [^]Or, public government.

17 *Chap. 1.22

17 f With them which acknowledge one self Father in heaven.

18 *Rom. 12.10, Ephes. 6.5, Col. 3.22

18 g In all obedience this must be before our eyes, that we obey in the Lord: for if any command things against God, then let us answer, It is better to obey God then men.

19 *2 Cor. 7.10

19 h Knowing that God layeth this charge upon him.

22 *Isa. 53.9, 1 John 3.5

24 *Isa. 53.5, Mat. 8.17

Chapter 3

1 How wives ought to order themselves toward their husbands, 3 And in their apparel. 7 The duty of men toward their wives. 8 He exhorteth all men to unity and love, 14 And patiently to suffer trouble by the example and benefit of Christ.

Likewise *let the wives be subject to their husbands that even they which obey not the word, may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives,

2 While they behold your pure conversation, which is with fear.

3 *Whose appareling let it not be outward, as with broyded hair, and gold put about, or in putting on of apparel.

4 But let the hid man of the heart be uncorrupt, with a meek and quiet spirit, which is before God a thing much set by.

5 For even after this manner in time past did the holie women, which trusted in God, attire themselves, and were subject to their husbands.

6 As Sara obeyed Abraham, and *called him ^Sir: whose daughters ye are, whiles ye do well, not being ^afraid of any terror.

7 *Likewise ye husbands, dwell with them as men of ^bknowledge, ^cgiving honor unto the woman, as unto the weaker vessel, even as they which are ^dheirs together of the grace of life, that your ^eprayers be not interrupted.

8 Finally, be ye all of one mind: one suffer with another: love as brethren: *be pitiful: be courteous,*

9 *Not rendering evil for evil, neither rebuke for rebuke: but contrary wise bless, knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should be ^fheirs of blessing.

10 *For if any man long after life, and to see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.

11 *Let him eschew evil and do good: let him seek peace, and follow after it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: and the face of the Lord ^g*is* upon them that do evil.

13 And who is it that will harm you, if ye follow that which is good?

14 *Notwithstanding blessed *are ye*, if ye suffer for righteousness sake. Yea, ^hfear not their fear, neither be

1 *Col. 3.18, Ephes. 5.22

3 *1 Tim. 2.9

6 *Gen. 18.12

6 ^Or, master.

6 a But willingly do your duty: for your condition is not the worse for your obedience.

7 *1 Cor. 7.3.

7 b By neither keeping them too strict, nor in giving them too much liberty.

7 c Taking care, and providing for her.

7 d Man ought to love his wife, because they lead their life together, also for that she is the weaker vessel, but chiefly because that God hath made them as it were fellow heirs together of life everlasting.

7 e For they can not pray when they are at dissension.

9 *Prov. 17.11, and 20.22, Mat. 5.39, Rom. 12.17, 1 Thess. 5.15

9 f God hath made us when we were his enemies, heirs of his kingdom, and shall not we forgive our brethren a small fault?

10 *Psal. 34.13

11 *Isa. 1.16

12 g To take vengeance on him.

14 *Mat. 5.10

14 h That is, when they think to make you afraid by their threatenings.

troubled.

15 *But ⁱsanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you,

16 *And *that* with meekness and reverence, having a good conscience, that when they speak evil of you as of evil doers, they may be ashamed, which blame your good conversation in Christ.

17 For *it is* better (if the will of God be so) that ye suffer for well doing, then for evil doing.

18 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, and was put to death concerning the flesh, but was quickened in the ^kspirit.

19 By the which ^lhe also went, and preached unto the spirits that were in prison.

20 Which were in time passed disobedient, when once the long suffering of God abode in the days of *Noe, while the ark was preparing, wherein few, that is, eight ^msouls were saved in the water.

21 To the which also the figure that now saveth us, *even* Baptism *agreeth* (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but in ⁿthat a good conscience maketh request to God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

22 Which is *at the right hand of God, gone into heaven, to whom the Angels, and Powers, and might are subject.

Chapter 4

1 He exhorteth men to cease from sin, 2 To spend no more time in vice. 7 To be sober and apt to pray, 8 To love each other, 12 To be patient in trouble, 15 To beware that no man suffer as an evil doer, 16 But as a Christian man, and so not to be ashamed.

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same ^amind, *which is* that he which hath suffered in the flesh, hath ceased for sin,

2 That he henceforward should live (as much time as remaineth in the ^bflesh) not after the lusts of men, but after the will of God.

3 *For it is sufficient for us that we have spent the time past of the life, after the lust of the Gentiles, walking in wantonness, lusts, drunkenness, in gluttony, drinkings and in abominable idolatries.

4 Wherein it seemeth to them strange that ye run not with

15 * Isa. 8.13

15 i Give him praise, and depend on him.

16 *Chap. 2.12

18 *Rom. 5.6, Ebr. 9.15

18 k By the power of God.

19 l Christ being from the beginning head and governor of his Church, came in the days of Noe, not in body, which then he had not, but in Spirit, and preached by the mouth of Noe for the space of 120 years to the disobedient, which would not repent, and therefore are now in prison reserved to the last judgment.

20 *Gen. 6.14, Mat. 24.38, Luke 17.26.

20 ^ Or, persons

21 ^ Or, the taking to witness of a good conscience.

22 *Ebr. 1.3

Chapter 4

1 Our sanctification stands in two points, in dying to sin, and living to God.

2 ^Or, body

3 *Ephes. 4.23

them unto the same excess of riot: *therefore* speak they evil of you.

5 Which shall give accounts to him, that is ready to judge quick and dead.

6 For unto this purpose was the Gospel preached also unto the ^bdead, that they might be condemned, according to men, in the flesh, but might live according to God in the spirit.

7 Now the end of all things is at hand. Be ye therefore sober, and watching in prayer.

8 But above all things have fervent love among you: ^{*}for ^olove covereth the multitude of sins.

9 Be ye ^{*}herberous one to another, without grudging.

10 ^{*}Let every man as he hath received the gift, minister the same one to another, as good disposers of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, *let him talk* as the words of God. If any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God ministereth, that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is praise and dominion forever, and ever, Amen.

12 Dearly beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial, which is among you to prove you, as though some strange thing were come unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that when his glory shall appear, ye may be glad and rejoice.

14 ^{*}If ye be railed upon for the Name of Christ, blessed are ye: for the Spirit of glory, and of God resteth upon you: *which* on their ^dpart is evil spoken of: but on your part is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 But if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed: but let him glorify God in this behalf.

17 For the time *is come*, that [^]judgment must begin at ^{*}the house of God. If it first *begin* at us, what shall the end be of them which obey not the Gospel of God?

18 ^{*}And if the righteous scarcely be ^osaved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of

God, commit their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Chapter 5

2 *The duty of Pastors is to feed the flock of Christ, and what reward they shall have if they be diligent.* 3 *He exhorteth young persons to submit themselves to the elders,* 8 *To be sober, and to watch that they may resist the enemy.*

The ^aelders which are among you, I beseech which am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shalbe revealed,

2 Feed the flock of [^]God, which [^]dependeth upon you, caring for it not by constraint, but willingly: not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind:

3 Not as though ye were lords over Gods heritage, but that ye may be examples to the flock.

4 And when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive an incorruptible crown of glory.

5 Likewise ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elders, and submit yourselves every man, one to another: ^{*}deck yourselves inwardly in lowliness of mind: for God ^{*}resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble.

6 Humble ^{*}yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

7 Cast ^{*}all your care on him: for he careth for you.

8 Be sober and watch: for ^{*}your adversary the devil as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing ^bthat the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren which are in the world.

10 And the God of all grace, which hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a little, make you prefect, confirm, strengthen and stablish *you*.

11 To him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 By Silvanus a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, have I written briefly, exhorting and testifying how that this is the true grace of God, wherein ye stand.

13 *The Church* that is at ^oBabylon elected together with you, saluteth you, and Marcus my son.

14 Greet ye one another with the ^{*}kiss of love. Peace *be* with you all which are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

6 b Although the wicked think this Gospel new, and vex you that embrace it: yet, hath it been preached to them of time past, which now are dead, to the intent that they might have been condemned, or dead to sin in the flesh, and also might have lived to God in the spirit, which two are the effect of the Gospel.

8 ^{*}Prov. 10.12

8 c As hate moves us to reproach our brother when he offends us: so love hides and pardons the faults, which he commits against us, though they be never so many.

9 ^{*}Rom. 12.13, Ebr. 13.2

10 ^{*}Rom. 12.6, Phil. 2.14

14 ^{*}Mat.5.10

14 d That is, by the infidels.

17 [^]Or, punishment.

17 ^{*}Jere. 25.29, Luke 23.31

18 ^{*}Prov. 11.31

18 e As concerning this life where he is punished.

1 a By elders he understandeth all them which preach, teach, or minister in the Church.

2 [^]Or, Christ.

2 [^]Or, which is commit unto you or, asmuch as in you lies.

5 ^{*}Rom. 12.16

5 ^{*}Jam. 4.6

6 ^{*}Jam. 4.10

7 ^{*}Psal. 55.22, Wisd. 12.13, Mat. 6.25, Luk. 12.22

8 ^{*}Job 1.7, Luk. 22.31

9 b Nothing comes unto us, which we see not to appertain to the rest of Christ's members: and therefore we ought not to refuse that condition which is common to all the Saints.

13 e Which was a famous city in Assyria where Peter then was the Apostle of the circumcision.

14 ^{*}Rom. 16.16, 1 Cor. 16.20, 2 Cor. 13.13