

Welcome to A Traveler's Guide to the World.

This term we are going to work our way through the letter of 1 Peter. As we begin to read the letter we see that it is addressed to “westie, bogan” Christians. That is a group of most likely Gentile Christians living on the outer fringe of the Roman empire. However, while their earthly dwelling places maybe humble and while the more metro-sexual society may have looked down on them Peter says, take heart you are God's own people.

As followers of Jesus they are God's own precious possessions; his chosen people, a people belonging exclusively to him. While this status as God's own people comes with great benefits it also presents some challenging realities which Peter outlines for his readers then and now.

This earth, no matter if it's Bithynia or Ballina is not our home and we are not it's citizens just strangers and sojourners – aliens who can expect no warm welcomes. Peter will encourage us to view our time here as a time in exile, while we wait for the brilliant promise of heaven.

Pete also promises that as a faithful follower of Jesus we will face suffering; persecution and misunderstanding from the world and assaults from the evil one. All these things will weigh on our minds and challenge our faith and test our stamina. But Peter pleads with us to hang on. We have a great inheritance that will never perish, spoil or fade; we have a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance – the Holy Spirit who will work in us so that we may continue on in obedience and faith, showing ourselves to be true followers of Jesus.

1 Peter is definitely a letter for our time. I pray that as you read and study and sit under the preaching of this letter that your resolve to be a faithful, committed, active follower of Jesus may grow.

Love

Hamish

Preaching Profile

Date	Passage	Title	Preacher
October 12	1 Peter 1:1-2; 5:12-14	A special people	Hamish
October 19	1 Peter 1:3-12	A bright future	Hamish
October 26	1 Peter 1:13-21	On the way to Glory	Hamish
November 2	1 Peter 1:22-2:10	A great life with a great purpose	Andrew
November 9	1 Peter 2:11-25	Living in the world for the world	Jeff
November 16	1 Peter 3:1-12	Life at home and at church	Jeff
November 23	1 Peter 3:13-4:11	Centrality of the reality of Christ	Hamish
November 30	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering & glory in the world	Hamish
December 7	1 Peter 5:1-11	Suffering & glory in the church	Hamish
December 14	TBA	Christmas Theme	Jeff
December 21	TBA	Christmas Theme	Andrew
December 28	Various	Jesus Christ in 1 Peter	Hamish

Please note that in preparing this booklet I have relied heavily on the work of Angus Macleay, author of Teaching 1 Peter, published by Christian Focus Publications. This is especially so in study 9.

1 Peter 1:1-12

1. How is heaven depicted in our society? How would you describe it?

2. How does your life reflect the importance you place on heaven?

3. Why is Peter so excited about heaven (NB "Praise be ...")?

4. How do we inherit heaven (v3-5)?

5. What guarantee do we have (v4-5)?

6. According to Peter what is the purpose behind some of the suffering and persecutions that Christians suffer (v6-7)? Are trials strengthening your faith?

7. What is the goal of our faith and what will we see when we arrive at that goal (v7-9)?

8. What were the prophets pointing to and for who's benefit (v10-12)?

9. What promises does this passage hold for Christians who suffer?

10. Has your understanding of heaven changed?

1 Peter 1:13-21

1. Our culture constantly calls for us to conform to its standards. What areas do you feel most under pressure to conform to?

2. What does the therefore of v13 refer to and what are we called to do (v13)?

3. We are called to obedience and holiness (v14-15). Why must these commands carry more weight than our culture for the Christian? What will obedience and holiness look like?

4. What motivation and method does v17 call for?

5. What sort of life have we been saved from (v18) and to (v19)? What was the cost of that salvation? How can we honour that cost in our lives now?

6. Where is our faith and hope placed? How is this better than relying on our culture for the answers?

7. What are the things which distract you from your final destination?

8. How would remembering that one day we will be the one who bled for us impact the way we live now? How will this impact you now?

1 Peter 1:22-2:10

1. What is society's view of people who claim to be "born again"? What do you understand by that term?
2. What does Peter say about being born again (v22-23)?
3. What impact does being born again have on a follower of Jesus (v22-23)?
4. The way of man is death (v24) the way of God is life (v25). What are the characteristics of the one living according to God's way (2:1-3)? How prevalent are these characteristics in your life?
5. What hinders a life lived according to God's Word (2:1)? How do these characteristics work against the commands of 1:22? What should our response to these things be?
6. What promotes growth in a believer's life (2:2,3)? What is spiritual milk?
7. Why is it important to be a stone of integrity (v4-5)?
8. Who are the ones who are true believers (v6-8)?
9. How are God's people referred to (v9-10)? What were they before they were his people? What are they called to do?
10. How can you encourage each other to declare God's praises in your lives?

1 Peter 2:11-25

1. Christians are called to be shining lights, cities on a hill – distinct in our surrounding culture. What are some things which dull our light and hide our distinctness?

2. Who are we to God (v9-10)? Who are we to this world (v11-12)? Do these descriptions ring true in your life?

3. What is the goal of living as strangers in this world (v12)?

4. We are called to live distinct lives as strangers in this world. How do v13-14 guide us in the areas of our distinctness?

5. What is the goal of living as strangers in this world (v15)?

6. How are we called to use our freedom as strangers in this world (v16-17)?

7. Consider v18-23. What is the expectation which God has of his people? Who is our role model?

8. What results flowed from Christ's suffering (v24-25)?

9. How can the cross of Christ become more central to our witness in the workplace through our lifestyle ... and through our lips?

1 Peter 3:1-12

1. What do women want most in our culture? What would Christian women with non-believing husbands want most?

2. What result is Peter looking for as he instructs Christian wives (v1,2)?

3. What is the source of true womanly beauty in God's eyes (v2-4)?

4. How does the example of Sarah assist in Peter's argument (v5,6)?

5. What is Peter's instruction to husbands about how they live with their wives (v7)?

6. What two things must husbands keep in mind? How will this shape their thinking?

7. How does v12 help us to understand Peter's teaching about hindered prayers?

8. How do v8-12 help us to understand, apply v1-7?

9. Discuss what "a gentle and quiet spirit" might look like practically in a marriage? How would this honour God?

10. What does it mean to be considerate in practical terms?

1 Peter 3:13-4:11

1. How would you foster feelings of being blessed in the midst of persecution?

2. How are Christians called to respond to those who slander them (v13-17)?

3. Verse 18 tells us there is great hope for the follower of Jesus. What do we look forward to?

4. If the risen Christ vindicated Noah before his detractors even after they had died what hope do we have in the face of persecution and suffering?

5. Peter tells us to arm ourselves (4:1) in light of the pressure there is to join in with ungodly behaviour. What are we to arm ourselves with (v1-4)?

6. What is the standard that all people of all time will be measured against (v5-6)?

7. What is the right response then (v7-11)?

8. How can you be more clear minded and self controlled in your present situation?

9. What aspect of this passage has spurred you on to serve Jesus more completely even in the face of trials and persecutions?

1 Peter 5:1-14

1. How does the world's view of leadership differ from that of the Christian leaders?
2. What are the particular dangers and temptations that Peter highlights in v3, 4 to which elders may be prone?
3. The elders are described as under-shepherds (under the Chief Shepherd v4). Who do they shepherd? How valuable is the flock (v2)?
4. What are the rewards of the faithful under-shepherd (v4)?
5. How can you encourage, pray for the leaders of our church?
6. How is humility to be shown in the church (v5)? How is it to be shown towards God (v6, 7)?
7. The devil is on the prowl (v8, 9). How does Peter warn that he'll attack believers?
8. Do we have a defence (v8, 9)?
9. What does God promise to do for believers, especially those who have suffered (v10-11)?
10. How should the example of Jesus make a bigger impact on our lives as believers?

Jesus Christ in 1 Peter

1. What has Christ's death achieved for us (2:24; 3:18)?
2. What has his resurrection of Christ achieved for us (1:3)?
3. Why does Peter stress the ascension of Christ in 3:19-22 and what does this add to our understanding of Christ's achievement?
4. What are we told will happen on the day when Jesus Christ's glory is revealed (1:7-9, 13; 5:4, 10)?
5. What is the response to Jesus that Peter is looking for (1:2, 14)?
6. In what ways is Jesus an example to us (2:21-23; 4:12-14)?
7. How does Jesus' example help us cope with suffering (4:12-14)?
8. What would be lost if Jesus' death was only an example and not also a substitute (2:24; 3:18)?
9. What would be lost if we knew nothing about Jesus' work after his resurrection (3:19-22)?
10. How does Peter improve our understanding of faith by referring to following Jesus as obeying rather than believing (1:2, 22-25)?
11. Why is it important for us to remember that Christ will return (1:7-9, 12-14)?
12. What particular aspect of Jesus' ministry provides the most encouragement to you at present?

NOTES