

First Peter
Douglas L. Yates
Lesson One~Chapter One

Chapter One

1. The writer of this book seems to be a very well educated person with a firm grasp on the Greek language. Peter was an uneducated man whose trade was that of a fisherman.
2. Silas, who was with Peter, was well versed in Greek.
3. When considering this book and its authorship, let's remember one important factor: The Holy - Spirit inspired it.
4. In the opening verses (chapter 1:1-2) Peter tells us that the letter would be circulated among the churches in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. At the end of the letter (I Peter 5:12-14) we are told the letter is to "Babylon." What is this a reference to? **Here's the possibilities: (1) Ancient Babylon; (2) Rome; (3) Alexandria of Egypt; (4) Jerusalem. Most scholars tell us that "Babylon" is referencing ROME.**
5. In I Peter 1: 3-12 two terms are associated with this opening. Often both are confused. One is fore-knowledge and the other is predestination.
6. Generally speaking, when you see the term "destined" in the New Testament, it is most often speaking of the Church. The church has been predestined. It will be in heaven.
Discussion: Explain what is the true meaning of the term "Church?"
7. As you read I Peter 1:14-25, notice (as it starts out) that we (true Christians) are now obedient children (walking by faith and not by sight). Here's a test: If we are still controlled by our former lusts, we might want to double down on those sins and rid them from our life, because according to this opening, if we still have those lusts in our life, we are not living a godly life. **Discussion: How To Fight Sin In Your Life?**
8. I Peter 1: 25 is a favorite verse of mine. I know you've heard me make this comparison before, but please indulge me one more time:
 - (a) Isaiah 40:8 = Word of God endures forever
 - (b) I Peter 1:25 =. Word of God endures forever
 - (c) John 1:1-4 =. Jesus is the Word
 - (d) Hebrews 13:8 =. Jesus is the same yesterday/today/forever

Personal Bible Study Investigation of I Peter 1

As you have the time this week, go back through chapter one and notice the blessings which God not only gave the people of the first century but notice also the blessings He has given us. See if you draw the same conclusion that I draw from chapter one =we are indeed blessed.

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Lesson Two: Chapter Two

Chapter Two

1. In I Peter 2:1-3, Peter uses a simple, logical explanation of why we need the Milk of God's Word in order to survive, spiritually speaking.
2. There is a reason we do not start out with a new convert teaching them from the Book of Revelation but instead we often have a New Beginners class.
3. Peter makes a nice list of things that a new convert should strive to put away. Things such as malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. He concludes his thoughts in verse 3 on a positive note by encouraging the new convert to focus on things that lead to Salvation.
4. In I Peter 2:4-12, Christ is compared to a Living stone. A stone that causes some to stumble and others to be offended.
5. Christ is also referred to in scriptures as the Corner stone or the Cap stone.
6. Paul, in his writings tells us that to the Jews, Christ was a Stumbling block; and to the Gentiles He was Foolishness.
7. When Peter calls Christ's followers (a) chosen race, (b) royal priesthood, (c) holy nation, (d) people of God's own possession, (e) people called out of darkness, it carries the thought with it of a Fish swimming against the current.
8. I (Doug) make the comparison of I Peter 2:4-12 to Paul's writings of Romans 12:1-2, in which Paul calls Christians to become Living and holy sacrifices.
9. Peter tackles (to many of us) a sensitive subject in I Peter 2:13-20 as he instructs us on how to act toward government. The key word for us to understand in this opening is Submission.
10. Submission carries the thought with it of: (a) Honoring all of mankind, (b) Loving the brotherhood, and (c) Fearing or respecting God.
11. According to Peter, we (Christ's followers) need to understand that we are to become Bond - Servants just like Christ became for us. **Illustration: Servant and Master.**
12. Peter concludes I Peter 2 by instructing Christians how they are to act during times of suffering. He tells us to follow the example of Christ.
13. Christ was Beaten. Christ was Spit upon. Christ was Ridiculed. Christ was laughed at or Mocked. Rejected, Denied, Betrayed and then Crucified. **Never forget John 3:16**

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Lesson Three: Chapter Three

Chapter Three

1. Peter once again (I Peter 3:1) uses that word again, “ **Submit** .” This time he is talking to the relationship between husbands and wives and how a wife can win over a non-believing husband. *I've seen this happen so many times. Wives, be faithful to the Lord and be faithful in your attendance.*
2. Peter addresses a subject that we surely get wrong. We will often say, “We need to give our best to the Lord,” and this is true but we misapply this thought when talking about the clothes we wear, especially to church. The fact of the matter is, Peter and Paul both try to convey to the reader to not dress in lavish ways but in common, approachable ways. It is the heart that is precious in the sight of **GOD** (I Peter 3:1-6).”
3. Lessons to learn from I Peter 3:1-6
 - (a) Wives, be in submission to your husbands
 - (b) Wives, set godly examples
 - (c) Wives, be more concerned about your inward character rather than outward appearances
 - (d) Wives, study the example of godly women of the past =Sarah (*Personal note*)
 - (e) Wives, constantly build your husband up -especially in public -DLY
4. In I Peter 3:7, you find Peter’s advice to husbands as it pertains to the husband and wife relationship. He tells husbands that they are to **Honor** their wives as fellow heirs of the grace of life. *Personal Note: Heirs of Life Together*
5. Even though Peter only advises men with the writing of one verse (I Peter 3:7), there are still many lessons to pull from this verse.
 - (a) A husband should provide for his wife
 - (b) A husband should protect his wife
 - (c) A husband should respect his wife
 - (d) A husband should treat his wife as a co-heir of salvation
 - (e) A husband should his life in a prayerful manner
6. In I Peter 3:8-12 we will find the guidelines for obtaining the proper relationship with fellow **Christian**. God has always hoped that we, as believers, would live in **Harmony** with each other. *Cornelius Plantinga: Not The Way It’s Supposed To Be.*
7. Within verse 8 you find Peter admonishing fellow Christians to be: (a) of **Like** mind; (b) **Sympathetic**; (c) **Compassionate**; (d) **Love** all; and (e) **Humble**.
8. Within verses 10-12 you find Peter admonishing fellow Christians to try to (a) have the **Same** mind as Christ; (b) refrain from speaking **Evil**; and (c) seek **Peace** instead of constantly arming yourself to do battle against fellow Christians.

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Chapter Four: Lesson Four

1. Note the word “therefore.” This word connects the thoughts of I Peter 3:18 with I Peter 4:1. In other words, Peter is continuing his thoughts from chapter 3 on the _____ **Suffering** _____ of Christ.
2. It becomes clear in this opening that Christ died in order to bring _____ **Mankind** _____ to the proper relationship with God the Father.
3. It seems that the point that Peter is trying to make in I Peter 4:1-6 is that if we are willing to suffer for Christ that within itself doesn’t mean that we will stop _____ **Sinning** _____ but instead it means that sin might lose its _____ **Appeal** _____ to us.
4. It is ironic that both Peter and Paul use similar vocabulary when talking about sin. Both of them say something like this: “*If we are going to walk as God would have us to walk, we can’t continue to go around acting like _____ **Gentiles** _____.*” Seems harsh :)
5. Here’s some of the ways in which the Gentiles or Pagans were behaving (sinning):
 - (a) lust
 - (b) sexual _____ **Immorality** _____
 - (c) drunkenness
 - (d) partying _____ **Attitude** _____
 - (e) idolatry
 - (f) witch craft and **Sorcery**
6. It is important for us to remember in I Peter 4:1-6 that the overall message that Peter is trying to convey regarding the judgment is that: _____ **Man** _____ judges the flesh but _____ **God** _____ judges the spirit.
7. Christian _____ **Discipline** _____ is discussed in I Peter 4:7-11, especially as it refers to the _____ **End** _____ of _____ **Time** _____.
8. Some have argued that I Peter 4:7-11 is referring to the destruction of Jerusalem which was an event that would take place about 6 years from the writing of this letter. Before you accept that Peter is talking prophetically about the destruction of Jerusalem ask yourself two questions: (a) This whole book was written to the Gentile Christians, why all of a sudden does Peter start using illustrations about _____ **Jews** _____; and (b) When Peter references “***all things that are good,***” does he mean, ***all things that are good to all or all things that are good to the Jews?***
9. Here’s four positive points from I Peter 4:7-11
 - (a) _____ **Preserve** _____ your prayer life
 - (b) _____ **Prove** _____ your love
 - (c) _____ **Practice** _____ hospitality
 - (d) Put your _____ **Gifts** _____ to work

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Chapter Five: Lesson Five

Chapter Five

1. All of my life, I've not only heard but I've seen men accept the role of an elder and take that responsibility very seriously. Some haven't but most have. Elders need to know before taking on such a responsibility, just what is expected of them and if they cannot live up to those expectations **Then Don't Take The Job!!! It is not worth it if you have no intension of:** (1) Overseeing the work of the church as an Experienced Christian and (2) Shepherding the flock.
2. What does it mean to shepherd the flock? (a) Show care for the membership; (b) be Concerned for the membership; and (c) have Compassion for the membership. The success of an elder depends on how they fulfill their care; concern; and compassion for the sheep (members).
3.

Negative Don't become an elder out of <u>Shamed</u> Don't do it for money, <u>Power</u> , greed Don't <u>Lord</u> over the flock	Positive Become an elder <u>Willingly</u> Become an elder <u>Eagerly</u> Lead by <u>Example</u>
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4. But we, as members of the church, have a responsibility to the elders also. We are to Love them; we are to Cherish them; we are to hold them in high esteem; and we are too Humble ourselves (both elders and members) before the LORD.
5. In fact, in I Peter 5:6-9, that is the thought Peter most urgently wants to make to all members of the church - Humble yourself therefore under the might hand of God, that He may Exalt you...
6. If I were making a list of sins, I'm not exactly for sure where I'd place humility but it surely would be or should be on our list because it is that prevalent.
7. Because all things matter to God, we should be willing to Cast all of our cares and concerns on Him, because He does care for us.
8. In verse 9 we are told to Resist the devil by standing firm in our faith.
9. How can we resist the devil: (a) Prayer; (b) Studying; (c) Christian Fellowship.
10. In I Peter 5:10-11 we are reintroduced to the thought of suffering but in this case you see the assurance of Hope attached to our suffering. Peter tries to emphasize throughout his writings that if we are willing to suffer for the cause of Christ that He will: (a) help you Mature in Him; (b) Confirm you or Establish you; (c) Strengthen or fortify you; and (d) Calm you or settle you.