

JESUS - Our Living Hope

A Study of the Book of 1st Peter

Welcome/Introduction

Gold River Calvary Chapel

Women's Bible Fellowship

Fall 2021



JESUS – Our Living Hope
A Study of the Book of 1 Peter
Gold River Calvary Chapel Women’s Ministry

Welcome

My Dear Sisters of Gold River Calvary Chapel:

I am so looking forward to studying the Apostle Peter’s first letter together. Peter wrote it to encourage his brothers and sisters who were wandering as exiles for their faith. We could write our own names in Peter’s opening of this letter, as every believer is a pilgrim and sojourner – this world is not our home.

No, we look forward to our heavenly home that awaits us. Our inheritance is “imperishable, undefiled and unfading,” kept in heaven for us. Our hope is a living hope because our hope is not a wish - it is a person. Because Jesus lives, we will live forever too!

But until our living hope is realized, we remain pilgrims here on earth, suffering persecution and trials, as our brothers and sisters experienced who first received this letter from Peter. We will find, as we study this letter together, that Peter will give us very practical and godly wisdom to endure whatever might come our way. For we have been chosen in love by God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and by God’s power we are guarded until our living hope is finally realized and we see Him face to face.

May the Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds and grow us closer as sisters in Christ as we study this glorious letter word for word together!

In Him,

Anne Eowan
Women’s Ministry Director
Gold River Calvary Chapel

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INTRODUCTION

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Study Schedule and Times

Thursday Morning Study: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – at the church

Thursday Evening Study: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - at the church

Each week we there will be teaching on the passage of scripture assigned for that week, followed by group discussion of the lesson and prayer.

Introduction	Thursday, September 23
Lesson One	Thursday, September 30
Lesson Two	Thursday, October 7
Lesson Three	Thursday, October 14
Lesson Four	Thursday, October 21
Lesson Five	Thursday, October 28
Lesson Six	Thursday, November 4
Lesson Seven	Thursday, November 11
End of Study Fellowship (Koinonia)	Saturday, November 20

Please register online for either study: www.goldrivercalvarychapel.com, Women's Ministry page. There you will get the Introduction and the lessons. Lessons also available at Gold River Calvary Chapel at the Ministry Table.

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How To Do This Study

This study uses the inductive method of bible study, which simply means that as you are studying this book, chapter by chapter and verse by verse, you will be completing three separate steps in every lesson and asking yourself three important questions:

- ***What does it say?*** Rather than just reading quickly over the scripture, each week you will be reading the assigned passage for comprehension. This will be Step One of each lesson. In Step One, you will be given a column on the right of the passage in which to jot down important information, such as the “who, what, where, when and how” of what is being relayed. You can also circle, underline or highlight important words as you read through the scripture. An example of how this is done is included on page 10 of the Introduction.

You will also want to use the Bible Study Aids that are suggested in this Introduction on page 10.

This study uses the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) translation for use in completing the answers to the questions in lessons, but you are encouraged to use as many bible translations as you like to glean as much meaning as possible as you read through the lessons. Some suggested translations for you to explore are the New King James Version (NKJV), the English Standard Version (ESV), the New Living Translation (NLT), and the Amplified Version (AMP).

- ***What does it mean?*** In Step Two of your lessons, you will be looking at what the verses mean – both from the point of view of the original believers who received the letter and to all believers at all times. In other words, Peter wrote his first letter to the Christian exiles in Asia Minor more than 2000 years ago, but the doctrines and truths he wrote about have been preserved in scripture for all believers. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 has this great truth:

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” Ladies of God, consider yourselves included in this truth!

- ***What does it mean to me?*** In Step Three of your lessons, you will be asking yourself this question: how does this scripture relate personally to me? Is the Holy Spirit bringing a particular application to my own life from the truths I am reading? How can I apply this to my own Christian walk and experience?

As you complete each lesson and we discuss it, you will find that your answers to Step Three may vary significantly from someone else’s answer because the Holy Spirit so personally applies scripture to individual hearts. There are no wrong answers! But each of us will grow as we share the truths that the Lord lays on each of His daughter’s hearts.

Never forget to pray before you open the Bible and study a lesson, asking that the Holy Spirit open the Word to your understanding.

May God use this study to grow you in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may you fall more deeply in love with Him.

BACKGROUND TO FIRST PETER

Authorship

The Apostle Peter identifies himself as the author of this letter, claiming his authority and appointment by Jesus as an apostle. Several statements in this letter confirm that it is the same Apostle Peter of the gospels. For example, he calls himself an “elder and a witness” to Jesus’ sufferings (1 Peter 5:1), and described Jesus’ crucifixion with detail that only an eye witness would have had (1 Peter 2:24).

Early church tradition affirmed that the Apostle Peter wrote this letter. His authorship was not challenged until modern times when some scholars argued that his vocabulary and literary style was too advanced for an “uneducated fisherman from Galilee.” They also felt the letter sounded too much like the Apostle Paul’s letters to be from Peter, and that the persecutions described in the letter would have happened much later during the reigns of the Emperors Domitian or Trajan.

But most scholars do not find these arguments conclusive. A reading of Peter’s speeches in the Book of Acts (Acts 2:14-36 or 4:8-13) shows that by the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter was very eloquent and knowledgeable of Old Testament scriptures. He would have been conversant in Greek as well as Hebrew and Aramaic as necessary to carry on trade in Galilee. And Peter, “having been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13), would have learned to express himself by Jesus, who was the Master Communicator.

Finally, it would be expected that Paul and Peter would share the same doctrine. Peter himself notes that he had read many of Paul’s doctrinal letters to the churches in 2 Peter 3:15-16 so it is little wonder that he would support and confirm such doctrine in his own letters.

Date and Place of Writing

The reference in 1 Peter 5:13 – “She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings” – leads most bible scholars to believe Peter wrote the letter from Rome. “Babylon” was used as a pseudonym for Rome in the early church.

A reading of Acts shows that Peter traveled quite a bit, visiting various churches (Acts 9:32 e.g.), and there was a church in Rome, as evidenced by Paul’s letter to the Romans.

The date of the writing was probably around A.D. 64, during the persecution of the Emperor Nero, given the major theme in the letter of Christian suffering. Peter was martyred soon after writing 2 Peter in Rome under Nero, in A.D. 67, giving further weight to a date for the writing of 1 Peter around A.D. 64.

Recipients

Peter identifies his recipients in 1 Peter 1:1 as “the exiles dispersed abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.” This was the area that is now known as modern Turkey (see map). These were likely persecuted gentile Christians, as Peter writes that they had been idolaters (1 Peter 4:3), were “ignorant” (1 Peter 1:14) and “empty” (1 Peter 1:18) before they came to Christ. They were once “not a people” but were now the people of God (1 Peter 2:9-10). But no doubt many Jews who had been dispersed from Jerusalem from the persecutions there would have also been included in this letter.

Purpose

Peter wrote this letter to encourage persecuted Christians in their faith by reminding them that they had been given a “new birth into a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3). They could bear up under suffering because God allowed it for their good and His glory (1 Peter 1:6-7, 1 Peter 4:12-14) and because of the riches of their inheritance waiting for them in heaven (1 Peter 1:4). Their response to this great and glorious salvation was to be obedient in holiness (1 Peter 1:13-15), suffer persecution patiently as Christ suffered (1 Peter 4:1-2) and to fervently love their brethren (1 Peter 1:22). These truths in 1 Peter are just as relevant to Christians today. We are also called to live a life of holiness in love, give ourselves to the Lord, and glorify Him in our daily lives, bearing up under trials.

Map

The cities Peter wrote to – Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bythinia, were all in the area of Asia Minor, which we now know as the country of Turkey.



Bible Study Aids

There are many bible study aids that can help you gain more understanding out of your bible reading.

These study aids include bible dictionaries, different translations, maps, timelines, commentaries and other helps.

Some good “one stop shop” sources for all these different aids are as follows:

Study Bibles. A good study bible is an excellent source of these helps. Study bibles provide context, cross references, maps, commentary and more to help you understand the passage you are reading.

Some study bibles we would recommend include the Nelson Study Bible and the ESV Study Bible.

Bible Study Websites. These resources are free online and are a “one stop shop” to find dictionaries, commentaries (both audio and text), maps, timelines and other study resources that help put the bible in context.

Two we would recommend are as follows:

Blue Letter Bible Website

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

On this website, you are able to search and look up a scripture by its chapter and verse, or by using words and phrases. You also

can choose which bible translation you want (King James Version, New King James Version, etc.)

Once a passage of scripture pops up, you will see “tools” to the left of each verse. Click on the tools bar to see a number of study resources, such as the Hebrew/Greek translation of the verse (“interlinear”), cross references, commentaries, versions of the bible, etc. There are audio commentaries that are listed as well as text commentaries. The audio commentaries are generally a pastor teaching from that area of scripture or topic. The text commentaries are written commentaries that can be very helpful. A good source for both written and audio commentaries are Pastors David Guzik and Chuck Smith.

There is a button for “study” at the top of the home page that provides a drop-down menu of a number of resources. There is also an app you can download for free on your phone or tablet.

Bible Gateway Website

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

This website is easy to read and access. On the home page, at the left, there are bible study tools that you can click on. There is an app that you can download to your phone as well.

[Get the Bible Gateway App](#)

STEP ONE EXAMPLE

Each week in this study, you will be given a section of scripture to read in Step One. You will read scripture with better comprehension and understanding if you make notes about what is being stated in the passage. Some simple steps that will help you do that are below.

1. Try to determine the “who, what, where, when or how” of the passage if possible. Make a note in the right column.
2. Look for words that are repeated often. For example, in his first letter, Peter uses the words “chosen”, “salvation”, “holy” and “suffer/suffering” often. Highlight or circle those words.
3. Draw lines to connect pronouns with names, such as “he/him” with “Jesus” to clarify who the passage is speaking about.
4. Circle transition words, such as “therefore,” “so/ so that,” “likewise” or “thus” and draw a line back to connect it with the previous passage or passages with the passage that follows after the transition word. In other words, remind yourself what the therefore is “there for.”
5. Circle any other key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Some people find using different colored pens or pencils or highlighters helpful as well.
6. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

A completed example of Step One is on the next page. Please note that your completed Step One may look different than someone else’s, as different words or scripture references may occur to you as important compared to someone else. The important thing is to dig into the Word of God for all the gems the Holy Spirit may make apparent to you.

1 Peter 1:1-12

Christian Standard Bible

Greeting

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ:

To those chosen, living as exiles dispersed abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient and to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ.

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

A Living Hope

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵ You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ You rejoice in this,^[a] even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials ⁷ so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold

NOTES:

Who: writer is Apostle Peter

Who: to Christians who are called "chosen" and "exiles"

Where: Asia Minor (per map)

What: chosen by foreknowledge of the Father

Spirit sanctifies, Jesus' blood gives forgiveness and purifies

Why: so we can be obedient

Grace always comes before we can have peace

Because of God's mercy we have: a new birth INTO a living hope THROUGH the resurrection of Jesus INTO an inheritance kept in heaven

You (Christians) are guarded by God's power THROUGH faith FOR salvation

Because of our inheritance we can rejoice even in trials

Griefs we suffer in trials are necessary

SO THAT our faith may be tested