

The First General Epistle of Peter

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of spirit, for obedience and sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy has given us new birth into a living hope by means of the resurrection of Jesus Christ out from among *the* dead, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by the power of God are being guarded through faith for a salvation *that is* ready to be revealed in *the* last time.

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith, *being* more precious than gold that perishes *even* though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the appearing of Jesus Christ. ⁸Whom not having seen, you love, and though you do not see him now, yet believing, you

rejoice greatly with inexpressible and glorified joy, ⁹attaining the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰Concerning this salvation the prophets sought and inquired diligently (who prophesied of the grace that *has now come* to you), ¹¹searching for what or what kind of time, the spirit of Christ that was in them kept on pointing to when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glories after them.

¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, in the things which now have been declared to you by those who told the Good News to you by holy spirit sent forth from heaven, into which things angels desire to look.

¹³Therefore, girding up the loins of your mind, being clear-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to your former lusts in *the time of* your ignorance, ¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you also become holy in all your manner of life, ¹⁶because it is written, **Be holy, for I am holy.**

¹⁷And since you call on him as a Father who judges impartially according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourning.

¹⁸For you know that you were redeemed from your futile manner of

life handed down from your fathers, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish and without spot.²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in *these* last times for your sake,²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him out from among *the* dead and gave him glory so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth, resulting in sincere brotherly affection, love one another fervently from a clean heart,²³ for you have been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the living and enduring word of God.²⁴ For, **all flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,**²⁵ **but the word of the Lord remains forever.** And this is the word that was announced as Good News to you.

2 Therefore, put away all malice, and all deceit, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking.² As newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,³ if you have tasted that the Lord is kind.⁴ Coming to him, a living stone rejected by men but chosen *and* precious in the sight of God,⁵ you

also, as living stones, are built up *into* a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.⁶ Because it is contained in scripture, **Behold!, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen, honored. And he who believes on him shall absolutely not be put to shame.**⁷ To you therefore, the one's believing, is the honor, but for such as defy, **The stone which the builders rejected, the same was made the chief cornerstone,**⁸ and, **a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence,** for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, resulting in that which they were also appointed.⁹ But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession,** that you may proclaim the glorious attributes of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light,¹⁰ who in time past were not a people, but now are the people of God, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and pilgrims, to keep away from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul,¹² maintaining good behavior among the Gentiles, so that in which they speak against you as evildoers they may see your good works *and* glorify God in the day of visitation.

¹³Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether to the king, as supreme,¹⁴ or

to governors, as sent by him for vengeance on evildoers and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. ¹⁶Live as free people, not using your freedom for a cover-up of evil, but as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

¹⁸Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and reasonable, but also to the unjust. ¹⁹For this *finds* favor, if one endures grief because of conscience toward God, suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if when you sin and receive a beating, you take it patiently? But if you do good and suffer *for it* you take it patiently, this *finds* favor with God. ²¹For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps, ²²**who did not sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth,** ²³who, when he was reviled, did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but committed *himself* to him who judges righteously, ²⁴who himself bore our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness, **by whose stripes you were healed.** ²⁵**For you were going astray like sheep,** but now you have returned to the

Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

3 Likewise, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, in order that even if any *of them* do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by the manner of life of their wives, ²as they observe your respectful, pure manner of life. ³Your adornment must not be *merely* external: *elaborate* braiding of the hair, and wearing jewels of gold, or of putting on *fine* clothing, ⁴but *let it be* the hidden self of the heart, in the incorruptible *clothing* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in the sight of God. ⁵For in this way in earlier times the holy women who hoped in God also adorned themselves, being in subjection to their own husbands, ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “Lord,” whose children you became, continuing to do good, and not fearing any intimidation.

⁷You husbands, in like manner, live with *your wives* according to knowledge, giving honor to the woman, as to the weaker vessel, as being also co-heirs of the grace of life, to the end that your prayers are not hindered.

⁸Finally, all of you, be likeminded, compassionate, with brotherly affection, tenderhearted, humble minded. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil, or reviling for reviling, but,

on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For, **whoever would love life and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil, and his lips from deceitful speech,** ¹¹and he must turn away from evil, and do good. He must seek peace and diligently pursue it.

¹²For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears *attend* to their supplication, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

¹³And who will harm you if you are zealots for that which is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed; **and do not fear them, neither be troubled,** ¹⁵but sanctify Christ, the Lord, in your hearts, *being* ready always to give an answer to everyone who asks you for a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet *do it* with meekness and respect, ¹⁶having a good conscience, so that those who revile your good manner of life in Christ may be put to shame concerning that which you are spoken against.

¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if the will of God should will it, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in *the* flesh, but made alive in *the* spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and heralded *his* victory to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who at one time were defiant, when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah,

during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water, ²¹which is symbolic of the baptism that now saves you also (not the removal of the filth of the flesh but an appeal to God for a good conscience) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who is on the right hand of God, having gone into heaven; angels and authorities and powers being made subject to him.

4 Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same way of thinking, (because whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin) ²so that you no longer should live the rest of your time in flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. ³For the time that has past is sufficient *for you* to have done what the Gentiles desire to do, and to have walked in unrestrained behavior, lusts, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and detestable idolatry. ⁴In regard to this, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* into the same excesses of reckless actions, and they blaspheme *you*. ⁵They will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is why the Good News was told even to those who are dead, that they might be judged indeed according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

⁷But the end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be sensible and clear-minded for *the sake of your prayers*, ⁸above all things, being fervent in your love among yourselves, since **love covers a multitude of sins**. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the many-sided grace of God. ¹¹If anyone speaks, *he should do so as one who speaks the utterances of God*. If anyone serves, *let him serve* as by the strength that God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised about the fiery trial among you, which comes upon you to test you, as though a strange thing was happening to you, ¹³but to the degree you are sharing in the suffering of Christ, keep on rejoicing, in order that at the revelation of his glory you may also rejoice, being exceedingly glad. ¹⁴If you are reproached for the name of Christ, *you are blessed*, because the *spirit* of glory and the spirit of God rests upon you. ¹⁵For let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evil-doer, or as a meddler in other men's matters, ¹⁶but if *a man suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name. ¹⁷For it is

time for judgment to begin with the house of God, and if *it begins* first at us, what *will be* the end of those who do not obey the Good News of God?

¹⁸**And if the righteous is saved with difficulty, where will the ungodly and sinner appear?** ¹⁹So then, let those who also suffer according to the will of God commit their souls in well-doing to a faithful Creator.

5 I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow-elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as also a partaker of the glory that is about to be revealed: ²Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, exercising oversight, not out of compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you do it, and not for dishonorable gain, but eagerly, ³not lording it over those allotted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

⁵Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, since **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble**.

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷casting all your anxiety upon him, because he cares for you.

⁸Be clear-minded, be watchful. Your adversary the

Slanderer, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that the same *kind of* sufferings are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace who called you to his Age-abiding glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish *you*. ¹¹To him *be* the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

¹²By Silvanus, *whom* I consider a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

¹³She who is in Babylon, elect together with *you*, greets you, and *so does* Mark my son. ¹⁴Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ.