

1 Peter

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen exiles of the dispersion (in Pontus, Galatia, Cappodocia, Asia, and Bithynia),² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in holiness of the Spirit, for obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace to you, and may peace be multiplied.

³Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his plentiful mercy has begotten us again to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an imperishable and unstained and never-fading inheritance, reserved in heaven for you. ⁵You are protected by God's power through faith for the salvation ready to be revealed at the last time. ⁶In it you are rejoicing, though for a little while now, if need be, you have been troubled by various trials. ⁷Your faith (which is more precious than gold which perishes, being proved by fire) has been tested that you might be found in praise and glory and honor at the disclosure of Jesus Christ.

⁸You love him whom you have not seen; you believe in him whom you do not see, and you rejoice with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰The prophets, who prophesied of the grace that is yours, sought and searched carefully concerning that salvation, ¹¹searching what kind or manner of time the Spirit of Christ, who was in them, was pointing to, when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and subsequent glories. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you in the things which are now being proclaimed to you through the ones who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven; into which things the angels desired to gain a clear look.

¹³Therefore, prepare your mind, be alert, and hope completely in the grace being brought to you at the disclosure of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not let your lives be shaped by the desires of your

former ignorance; ¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you yourselves be holy in all your manner of life, ¹⁶for it is written, "You shall be holy, because I am holy."

¹⁷If you call him Father, the one who impartially judges the work of each one, then reverently live the time of your stay here in a strange land. ¹⁸You know that you were redeemed, not by perishable things (as silver or gold), from your worthless manner of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹but by the precious blood of Christ, as of an unblemished and spotless lamb.

²⁰He was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in the last of the times for your sake. ²¹Through him you believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth, love one another fervently from a pure heart in sincere brotherly affection. ²³You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring message of God, ²⁴because

All flesh is as grass, and all of its glory is as the flower of the grass: the grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵but the Lord's message remains forever.

This is the message of the gospel which was preached to you.

2 Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice and deceit and pretenses and envies and slanders; ²crave pure spiritual milk, as newborn babies, that by it you may grow to salvation, ³if you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. ⁴You are coming to him, who is a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but he was God's chosen and precious One.

⁵You yourselves, as living stones, are built into a spiritual house as a dedicated priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶Therefore, it says in scripture, "Behold! I lay in Zion a keystone, chosen and precious, and he who believes on him shall

not be put to shame."

⁷The preciousness therefore is to you who believe; but to those who do not believe, "The stone which the builders rejected became the keystone," ⁸and "a stumbling stone and a rock that causes a fall." They stumble at the message, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

⁹But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, a people for God's own possession; that you might declare the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰At one time you were not a people, but now you are God's people; you had received no mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Beloved, I beg you, as strangers and exiles, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. ¹²Have your manner of life honorable among the Gentiles, so that, when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good deeds and praise God in the day of visitation.

¹³For the Lord's sake, be subject to every human authority: whether to a king as supreme, ¹⁴or governors as being sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. ¹⁵God's will is that by doing good you might muzzle the foolishness of ignorant men; ¹⁶as free, and not using freedom as a cover for evil, but as God's slaves. ¹⁷Honor all men, love the brotherhood, revere God, honor the king.

¹⁸Slaves, be subject with all respect to your masters, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹This is being gracious, if because of conscience toward God, someone bears up under pain, suffering unjustly. ²⁰What sort of credit is it if you patiently take punishment after doing wrong? But this is being gracious before God if, when you do good, and suffer for it, you endure patiently.

²¹You were called for this, because Christ also suffered for your sake, leaving an example that you should follow his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." ²³When he was cursed, he did not reply with a curse; when he suffered, he did not

threaten; instead, he committed himself to the One who judges righteously. ²⁴He himself brought our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might live in righteousness, having been freed from sins; by his wounds you were healed. ²⁵You were as sheep going astray, 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, if some do not obey the message, they will be gained without the message through the manner of life of the wives, ²as they respectfully observe your pure manner of life. ³Do not let your adorning be outward: of hair-braiding, of gold jewelry, or of clothes; ⁴but let it be the hidden person of the heart, of the imperishable adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which before God is of surpassing value.

⁵In this manner, in previous times, dedicated women, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection to their own husbands. ⁶Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him master, whose children you have become, as you courageously do good.

⁷Likewise, husbands, live understandingly with your wives, as with those who are more delicate; and bestow honor on them, as being fellow-heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered.

⁸Finally, all of you be of one mind, sympathetic, loving as brothers, tender-hearted, humble-minded, ⁹not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult; but on the contrary, blessing. You were called for this, that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰Therefore,

He who wants to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no deceit. ¹¹Let him turn away from evil, and do good. Let him seek peace and pursue it; ¹²for the Lord's eyes are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers, but the Lord's face is against evildoers.

¹³Who will mistreat you if you are enthusiastic for that which is good? ¹⁴But even if you suffer because of righteousness, you are

blessed! Be courageous and undisturbed. ¹⁵Set Christ the Lord apart in your hearts, always being ready with a reply to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope which is in you. ¹⁶But do it gently and respectfully, having a clear conscience, in order that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good manner of life in Christ may be ashamed.

¹⁷It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing what is right than for doing wrong, ¹⁸because Christ also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might lead you to God. He was indeed put to death in the flesh, but brought to life by the Spirit, ¹⁹by whom also he went and preached to spirits in prison.

²⁰At one time they were disobedient, when God's patience waited in Noah's days, while the ark was being built, in which a few (that is, eight souls) were brought safely through the water. ²¹This is a figure of the washing which now saves you, not the removal of dirt from the body, but the appeal to God of a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²²He has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, having angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

4 Since Christ suffered in the flesh, equip yourselves with the same insight, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²that he should not live his remaining time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. ³Enough time has passed to have accomplished the desire of the Gentiles, who have walked in sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, revelry, drinking orgies, and wanton deeds of idolatries. ⁴They blaspheme and are surprised that you do not run with them into the same overflow of debauchery. ⁵They will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶This is why the gospel has been preached to these who are dead, that they indeed might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

⁷The end of all things is near. Therefore, be sensible and exercise self-control to help you pray. ⁸Above all things, be fervent in your love

among yourselves, because love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Extend hospitality one to another without complaining. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, distribute it among yourselves, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

¹¹If anyone speaks, let him speak as God's oracles. If anyone serves, let him serve by the strength which God supplies, that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and power forever and ever, amen.

¹²Beloved, do not be astonished at the fiery ordeal among you, which has come to test you, as though a strange thing were happening to you; ¹³but as you share in Christ's sufferings, rejoice, that at the disclosure of his splendor, you may overflow in joy.

¹⁴If you are reviled for Christ's name, you are blessed, because God's glorious Spirit rests upon you. ¹⁵Let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a busybody; ¹⁶but if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, and let him praise God in this name. ¹⁷It is time for judgment to begin from God's house; and if first from us, what will be the end of those who do not obey God's gospel? ¹⁸"If the righteous is saved with difficulty, what will become of the godless and the sinner?" ¹⁹So, also, let those who are suffering according to God's will entrust their souls to a dependable Creator by doing good.

5 I, therefore, a fellow elder, and witness of Christ's sufferings, and sharer of the coming splendor, entreat the elders among you: ²shepherd God's flock which is among you. Do not oversee by compulsion, but willingly; not greedily, but eagerly; ³not as being masters over those under your care, but being examples to the flock. ⁴When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of splendor.

⁵Likewise, you who are younger, submit to the older. Yes, all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because "God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble." ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's powerful hand, that at the proper time he may

exalt you. ⁷Cast all your worry upon him, because he is concerned about you.

⁸Be alert; be watchful: your enemy, the devil, stalks about like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him steadfastly in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are laid upon the brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰After you have suffered a little, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal splendor in Christ Jesus, will himself complete, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹The dominion is his forever, amen.

¹²I have written to you briefly by Silas, a faithful brother by my reckoning, to encourage and to testify that this is the true grace of God in which you stand. ¹³She who is in Babylon (chosen with you), and my son Mark, greet you. ¹⁴Greet one another with a sacred kiss. Peace to all who are in Christ.