1 Peter: A Journey of Faith and Obedience

“Let those who suffer...entrust their souls to a faithful creator while doing good.” (1 Peter 4:19)

I. Salutation (1:1-2)
   A. Greeting (1:1)
      1. Author – Peter, the Apostle
      2. Audience- believers (Jesus and Gentiles) who are exiles and strangers to this world, scattered throughout Asia Minor
   B. Believers are God’s Elect (1:2)
      1. According to God’s foreknowledge
      2. Through the sanctifying work of the Spirit (i.e., set apart)
      3. For obedience
      4. By the sprinkling with His blood

II. Praise for Our Salvation (1:3-2:10)
   A. Our Living Hope – Hope in the Midst of Trials (1:3-12)
      1. Reason for this hope – regeneration and resurrection of Jesus – sin and death have been overcome (1:3)
      2. Security of this hope – an inheritance that won’t spoil or fade (1:4)
      3. Basis of this hope – guarded by God’s power through faith until Christ returns (1:5)
      4. The fruit of this hope – rejoicing in trials (1:6)
      5. The purpose of trials – the refining of faith (1:7)
         a. Proved genuine and precious (important since our inheritance is kept by faith)
         b. Results in praise and glory to God
      6. The reason for joy (1:8-9)
         a. Our love for Christ
         b. Our faith in Christ
         c. Obtaining the salvation of our souls
      7. Prophets and angels amazed at the glory of our salvation (1:10-12)
         a. Prophets did not see clearly when their prophesies would be fulfilled (1:10)
         b. Prophets foretold, by the Holy Spirit, that the Messiah would suffer and be glorified (1:11)
         c. Prophets realized they were serving a future generation – NT believers who have heard that gospel proclaimed (1:12)
         d. Even angels longed to understand what has been accomplished (1:26)
B. Our Living Hope – The Motive for Holiness (1:13-21)
   1. Because of the hope of our future inheritance when Christ returns (1:13)
   2. Because we are His children and He is holy (1:14-16)
   3. Out of reverential fear of an impartial Judge (1:17)
   4. Because we have been ransomed by Christ’s precious blood (1:18-19)
   5. Because our faith and hope are in God, who resurrected and glorified Christ (1:20-21)

C. Application: Exhortation to Holy Living as the New Temple of God (1:22-2:10)
   1. Love one another earnestly (1:22)
   2. Obey and desire to grow through the living and enduring word of God (1:23-25; 2:2-3)
   3. Put off sins of the tongue, hypocrisy and envy (2:1)
   4. Abide in Christ – together – as the new temple of God (2:4-10)
      a. We are living stones, built together on Christ, the cornerstone, as a new temple where God dwells (2:4-6)
      b. Unbelievers reject Christ, disobey His word and stumble (2:7-8)
      c. We are God’s people and His possession to proclaim His excellencies (Note: the church is described in terms used of the people of God in the Old Testament) (2:9-10)

III. Holy Living in Relationships (2:11-3:12)
   A. General Principles of Holiness as Exiles in this World (2:11-12)
      1. Abstain from the passions of the flesh (2:11)
      2. Live honorable and good lives among unbelievers (2:12)
   B. As Citizens: Be Subjects to the Governing Authorities (2:13-14) (Note: These may be the ones who are causing suffering among these believers)
      1. Submit to every civil authority (2:13-14)
      2. Do good so false charges are silenced (2:15-16)
      3. Fear God and honor everyone, including those in authority (2:17)
   C. As Servants: Be Subject to Your Masters (2:18-25)
      1. Be subject, respectful, and do good even to evil masters (2:18-19)
         a. Enduring unjust suffering is a work of God’s grace and will merit reward (2:20)
      2. Christ endured unjust suffering (first example) (2:21-25)
         a. He suffered as one who was sinless (2:22)
         b. He did not retaliate when reviled or threatened (2:23a)
         c. He trusted God – the just Judge (2:23b)
         d. His unjust suffering purchased our salvation (2:24-25)
D. As Wives: Be Subject to Your Husbands (3:1-6)
   1. Submissive, respectful and pure conduct may win the hearts of unbelieving husbands (3:1-2)
   2. Beauty should not be external only, but an internal beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit (3:3-5)
   3. Sarah is an example of submission, holiness, hope in God and internal beauty (3:6)

E. As Husbands: Living Understandingly with Your Wives (3:7)
   1. Be understanding and attuned to her unique needs as a woman and wife
   2. By showing her honor
      a. She is the weaker vessel
      b. She is a fellow heir of grace
   3. So the Lord will hear and answer your prayers

F. Toward Enemies: Bless and Do Good (3:8-12)
   1. Our Response to enemies
      a. Love, compassion and humility (3:8)
      b. Do not repay evil for evil, instead bless (3:9)
      c. Avoid evil and deceitful speech (3:10)
      d. Do good to them (3:11a)
      e. Seek and pursue peace (3:11b)
      f. Remember that God is against evil (3:12b)
   2. The Benefits
      a. We will inherit a blessing (3:9b)
      b. We will see good days (3:10a)
      c. We will enjoy fellowship with the Lord (3:12)

IV. Godly Response to Suffering (3:13-4:11)
   A. We are Blessed if We Suffer for Doing Good (3:13-17)
      1. Don’t be fearful or troubled (3:14b)
      2. Instead trust in, follow and testify for the Lord
         a. By our words – defending the hope within us (3:15a)
         b. By our attitude of gentleness and respect (3:15b)
         c. With good behavior, silencing slanders (3:16)
      3. It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil (3:17)

   B. Christ Suffered Unjustly (Second Example) (3:18-22)
      1. Christ, the righteous, suffered for the unrighteous (3:18a)
      2. His death and resurrection reconciled us to God (3:18b, 22)
      3. Noah and his family, though persecuted and suffered, went through the flood and were saved (3:19-20)
         a. Baptism symbolizes that we died and are raised (3:21)
      4. Like Noah and Christ, God will save us (3:20)
5. Christ’s suffering brought about His exaltation (3:22)

C. Be Willing to Suffer for Righteousness Sake (4:1-6)
   1. Arm yourself with the same attitude as Christ, who also suffered in the flesh (4:1)
   2. A Christian willing to suffer has made a break with sin (4:2)
   3. The time is past for giving ourselves over to sin (4:3)
   4. There is a judgment coming for unbelievers who inflict suffering – i.e., they do not have the final word (4:4-5)
   5. The gospel was proclaimed to those who have died to save them from eternal judgment (4:6)

D. Motivation to Righteous Living: The End is Near (4:7-11)
   1. Be devoted to prayer (with self-control and clear-mindedness (4:7)
   2. Love one another earnestly (4:8)
   3. Extend hospitality (4:9)
   4. Use your gifts to serve one another and glorify God (4:10-11)
      a. Whoever speaks as speaking the oracles of God
      b. Whoever serves as serving in the Lord’s strength

V. Perseverance in Suffering and Trial (4:12-5:11)
   A. Our Response to Trial: Don’t be Surprised (4:12)
      1. It is normal, not something strange

   B. Our Response in Trial: Rejoice and Worship (4:13-19)
      1. You share in Christ’s suffering (4:13a)
      2. You are blessed if you are insulted for the name of the Christ (4:14a)
      3. It is a sign that you belong to Christ (4:14b)
      4. Caveat: Don’t suffer for doing evil (4:15)
      5. Don’t be ashamed of suffering as a Christian (4:16a)
      6. Praise and glorify God in the midst of suffering (4:16b)
      7. It is time for judgment to begin in the church (4:17-18)
         a. The righteous are barely saved from judgment; what will become of unbelievers?
      8. Entrust your souls to a faithful Creator (4:19a)
      9. Continue to do good (4:19b)

   C. Our Response to God and to One Another (5:1-11)
      1. Exhortation to the elders (5:1-4)
         a. Shepherd the flock, exercising oversight (5:2a)
         b. Shepherd willingly – not under compulsion or for sinful gain (5:2b)
         c. Do not lord it over the flock (5:3a)
         d. Be examples to the flock (5:3b)
e. Your reward will come when Christ returns (5:4)
2. Exhortation to young men – submit to their elders (5:5a)
3. Exhortation and encouragement to everyone (5:5b-11)
   a. Be humble toward each other (5:5b)
   b. Humble yourselves under God’s sovereign plan (5:6)
   c. Humble yourselves by casting your cares on God (5:7)
   d. Beware of the devil who seeks to devour (5:8)
   e. Resist the devil with firm faith (5:9)
   f. After you have suffered for a time, the God of grace will restore and strengthen you (5:10-11)

VI. Final Greetings (5:12-14)
   A. Letter Sent by the Faithful Brother Silvanus (5:12a)

   B. Stand Firm in the True Grace of God Peter has Described (5:12b)

   C. Greetings from the Church in Rome and from Mark (5:13)

   D. Greet One Another (5:14a)

   E. Peace to All Who are in Christ (5:14b)