

The Letters  
from  
Peter

**Living as Strangers in a  
Foreign Land**

## INTRODUCTION

This is a self-help study of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Letters of Peter. It was especially written to strengthen believers who were suffering persecution and who had to defend themselves against false teachers.

The Bible is divided into books, chapters and verses. This makes it easy to locate any particular passage. In this study you will find the reference (chapter and verse) to the left of the question, as in the following example:

*1:2 We are made clean in God's sight because Jesus paid for our sins by shedding his blood on the cross.*  
\_\_\_ True            \_\_\_ False

The answer to this question is found in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, chapter 1, verse 2.

Quotations are taken from the New International "Free on the Inside" Version of the Bible. It will be easier to do the study by using this version, although other versions can also be used. The wording may vary but the meaning will be the same.

After reading the passage, answer the question by making a mark beside the correct phrase. If you are uncertain of an answer, mark the one that you think is correct and make a question mark next to it. The person who corrects your study will be able to answer your question or will look for the answer if he or she does not know it.

If you have taken your stand to be with Jesus and serve him, I pray that you will remember the truth about Jesus and not be shaken when trouble and rejection come your way. Be sure that your faith will be tested. Expect it, face it and don't run from it. Christ was not abandoned to the grave by his Father, nor will we be abandoned by God in our time of trial.

2010

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## FIRST LETTER OF PETER

1:1-2 Why are Christians strangers in the world?

- Peter's readers lived far away from Jerusalem.
- They are being made pure and holy by the Holy Spirit while the rest of the world is not pure.
- They obey Jesus Christ while the rest of the world does what is right in its own eyes.
- They are on a journey to their real home in heaven.

**(3 correct answers)**

1:2 We are made clean in God's sight because Jesus paid for our sins by shedding his blood on the cross.

- True
- False

1:3-5 Every believer has an inheritance of life with God in heaven.

- This hope is real because Jesus rose from the dead.
- This is something that we earn because we are better than other people.
- This inheritance can get old and out of date just like cars or computers.

**(1 correct answer)**

1:5 What keeps us safe so that we get to enjoy a glad reception into God's home at the Last Day?

- Having our name on the membership list of a church.
- Faith in the Lord Jesus

**(Read Matthew 25 for more about our being received by Christ at the Last Day).**

1:6 How can the Christian be joyful when persecution and hardship come?

- Trouble is limited to this world and does not continue on into eternity.
- We can look forward to the joy of being with Christ in glory.
- By moving to a place where he or she is accepted.

**(2 correct answers)**

1:7 People who quit believing in Jesus when trouble comes show that their faith was not the real thing.

True       False

Faith that lasts till death is more valuable than gold and it brings praise to God when Jesus returns.

True       False

1:8-9 Faith is believing in Jesus even though we don't see him.

True       False

1:10-12 Two passages from the prophets that speak about the suffering and the glory of the Messiah are Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. ***Please read them.***

1:10-12 How could David and Isaiah write about the sufferings of Jesus?

The Spirit of Christ was telling them what to write.

They were writing about their own suffering and not about Jesus.

1:13-22 Why shouldn't we be controlled by our evil longings?

We should be holy because God is holy.

God will judge our work and he does not show favoritism.

Jesus bought us with his blood and now we belong to him. We want him to control and rule our lives.

Because we don't want to associate with sinful people.

***(3 correct answers)***

1:18-21 We believe that by trusting in Christ we have forgiveness and eternal life. Our obedience and suffering for Christ would be useless if there were no resurrection from the dead for us and no eternal reward. We know that our hope is not useless because:

God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory.

People will remember all of our good works at our funeral.

1:22-25 How were we born again to new spiritual life?

By hearing about Christ in God's word, the Bible.

By believing the message about Jesus.

By being reincarnated with another physical body.

**(2 correct answers)**

2:1-3 We were born again to new spiritual life by hearing and believing the word of God. How do spiritual babies grow up in their faith?

By continuing to hear and believe the word of God.

By obeying the word and getting rid of all types of evil.

By not volunteering for any work in the church. We don't want to get into conflict with anyone.

**(2 correct answers)**

2:4-8 Jesus is compared to a living Stone. When people believe in Jesus, they become joined to Christ, like bricks are laid upon a foundation to make the walls of building. What do we do as part of the church?

We worship God with prayer, songs of praise, and by believing the message.

We serve others by helping them in their needs.

We come to church late and leave early so we don't need to be involved.

**(2 correct answers)**

2:4-8 Why do people stumble and fall in their faith?

They do not believe that Jesus is a good person.

Although they believe that Jesus is good, they do not obey his teaching.

2:9-12 Because Christians are a "holy nation" and "priests" who belong to God and serve him,

They become outsiders and strangers to the system of this world.

Everyone will accept and like them.

2:12 Unbelievers often talk bad about believers. What will stop their criticism and win them over?

Arguing about how true the Bible is.

Doing what is good and right, and helping others.

2:13-17 We should obey all levels of governmental authority because:

God wants us to. Rulers get their authority from God.

We are a free people and we don't have to obey unless we feel like it.

Rulers have the job of stopping evil and encouraging what is right.

**(2 correct answers)**

2:18-23 Employees should obey their boss:

When their boss is good and kind.

When their boss is unreasonable and unkind.

To make a good impression and get a raise.

With respect from the heart as though they are working for Christ.

**(3 correct answers)**

2:23-25 What honors Christ

When we do wrong and we accept punishment for it.

When we do right and suffer unjustly.

2:23-25 Jesus is like a Shepherd who finds lost sheep and who then protects, feeds and leads them.

He wants us to stop wandering into the path of sin.

He wants us to lead godly lives like he led a godly life.

He wants us to say bad things if we are not treated right.

**(2 correct answers)**

3:1-6 How can believing wives win over their husbands to believe in Jesus?

- By being submissive and kind.
- By coming home from church and telling their husbands what the preacher said.
- By arguing with everything that they don't agree with.
- By demanding jewelry and nice clothes, and acting sexy like a Hollywood actress.
- By being gentle and trusting God to change their husbands hearts, and not being afraid what they might do.

**(2 correct answers)**

3:7 Why should believing husbands treat their wives with honor and respect?

- So that God will hear their prayers.
- Because they might leave for another man.
- Because they their wives have an equal standing with them before God who gives them eternal life.

**(2 correct answers)**

3:8-12 How can we live at peace with others?

- Be kind, tender and understanding.
- Get even by paying back evil for the evil that we've suffered.
- Use unkind words if others have used unkind words against us.
- Always use respectful and courteous words.

**(2 correct answers)**

3:8-12 If we practice what is wrong when others do wrong things against us, is God pleased?

- Yes
- No

3:13-17 What does it mean to accept Jesus Christ as Lord in our hearts?

- \_\_\_ That our belief can stay in our hearts without letting anyone know.
- \_\_\_ That we always do good like he did.
- \_\_\_ That we never are afraid of what others might do to us like Jesus was not afraid of people who hated him.
- \_\_\_ That we should explain to others that we are pleasing Jesus and not ourselves.
- \_\_\_ That we may be rejected by others.

**(4 correct answers)**

3:18 Those who did wrong should have died for their own sin. Jesus who did what was right should not have died, but did. He died to bring us \_\_\_\_ .

3:19-22 After he died, did Jesus in Spirit go to the realm of the dead and preach to the spirits of those people who once lived at the time of Noah and were disobedient? And if he did, what was the purpose of that preaching? We don't know for sure. It certainly was not to preach the good news so that they could have a second chance to be saved.

The interpretation that I think best fits the rest of the Bible is that the Holy Spirit who is also the Spirit of Christ used Noah to speak a message of warning to the people of his time. The spirits of those people who perished in the flood are now in the realm of the dead awaiting the Final Judgment. That preaching was for those people to turn from their sin and violence, but they did not and so were drowned in the flood.

Noah was told to build a large boat. He obeyed and when the waters of the flood came, those very waters were a means of salvation because they safely carried the boat and Noah and his family. What saves us today?

- \_\_\_ Taking a shower with soap and water.
- \_\_\_ Accepting baptism to join the church and make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
- \_\_\_ Having a clear sense of what is right and wrong and with the help of God's Spirit, doing what is right.

**(2 correct answers)**

4:1-3 If we suffer pain for following Jesus,

It causes us to stand firm and break the control of our evil human longings.

It causes us to give up because we think that God is breaking his promise to give us prosperity and an easy life.

4:4 If we and our friends have gotten drunk and partied a lot,

Our friends will understand it when we quit it.

Our friends will think that we are acting strange when we quit. .

4:5-6 When the Bible says that God will judge the living and the dead, it means that at the time of Christ's return, God will judge all those who have ever lived and all those who are alive when Jesus returns.

True       False

4:7-11 To love others deeply means that we erase their sins by forgiving them.

True       False

4:7-11 Why have we received abilities from God?

To be able to show off to other how talented we are.

To serve others and help them

To give God the praise because he is the Giver of those gifts and abilities.

*(2 correct answers)*

4:12-16 If we suffer for being a Christian and doing what is right

We should be very surprised.

We should be joyful because we are sharing in Christ's suffering.

We are blessed.

We should be ashamed.

*(2 correct answers)*

4:17-19 Sometimes it is discovered that a Christian leader is living in sin. This is often a scandal for the church, but sometimes the person who has sinned confesses the sin, asks for forgiveness and takes steps to quit it.

\_\_\_ This is a type of judgment that begins with the family of God.

\_\_\_ This is a type of sin that can never be forgiven.

\_\_\_ If God's judgment of his own people is so severe, then the judgment of those who reject the gospel will be much more severe at the Last Day

**(2 correct answers)**

5:1-4 The task of elders is to care for people like a shepherd cares for his sheep. They need to feed the people by speaking the message of God's word, and encouraging believers to reject and overcome sin.

\_\_\_ They do this only when they make good money.

\_\_\_ They do this because they want to.

\_\_\_ They do this because they want to be bossy and run everybody else's lives.

\_\_\_ They do this because they know that they will receive a great reward when Jesus the Chief Shepherd comes.

**(2 correct answers)**

5:5-7 To be humble is to submit to the authority of someone else. God opposes those who are proud, but gives \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are humble.

5:5-7 What will God do to those who submit and humble themselves under his authority?

\_\_\_ He will raise them up and honor them.

\_\_\_ He will humiliate them and keep them down.

5:7 What should we do with our worries, frets and cares?

\_\_\_ Trust in God because he cares for us.

\_\_\_ Rely on ourselves because our luck is made by ourselves.

5:8-9 What type of enemy is the devil?

- He is mean and on the prowl to find someone who is weak.
- He is so strong that we cannot resist him.
- He can knock us down through suffering for a short while, and then God will build us up again.
- He cannot overcome anyone who stands firm with the grace of God.

**(3 correct answers)**

5:12-14 Probably Peter dictated this letter while Silas wrote it down. Ancient Rome was called Babylon by the early Christians because like the Babylon that destroyed Jerusalem about 500 years before Christ, the Roman Empire at this time persecuted Christians because they would not worship the emperor who was thought to be divine.

5:12-14 The believers were persecuted. Some had died. Others had their homes ransacked and broken into. Peter wrote his letter:

- To cheer them up.
- To give witness to the true grace of God. God loves those who stand firm for him even if the whole world hates them.

## SECOND LETTER OF PETER

1:1-2 In his greeting Peter says that Jesus Christ is both \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

1:3-4 What has God given us so that we can share his nature?

\_\_\_ The power we need to lead a Godly life.

\_\_\_ His great and valuable promises.

\_\_\_ A healthy body.

**(2 correct answers)**

1:5-8 What are the things that will help us be useful and fruitful in  
serving God if we have them in ever greater measure:

\_\_\_ free time at the beach                      \_\_\_ goodness

\_\_\_ ability to control ourselves              \_\_\_ knowledge

\_\_\_ strength to keep going                      \_\_\_ godliness

\_\_\_ kindness to other believers              \_\_\_ love

\_\_\_ money to spend at the mall              \_\_\_ faith

**(8 correct answers)**

1:9-11 What will happen if we practice the qualities of verses 5-8?

\_\_\_ We will never trip and fall from God's grace.

\_\_\_ We will receive a wonderful welcome into God's  
everlasting kingdom.

\_\_\_ We will make a lot of enemies, especially among  
other believers in Christ.

**(2 correct answers)**

1:12-15 Peter writes because

\_\_\_ His readers have never heard what he has to tell them.

\_\_\_ His readers have heard this message before, but it is  
profitable for them to be reminded again.

\_\_\_ He would soon die, but his written word would  
continue to be with them and remind them of his  
teaching.

**(2 correct answers)**

1:16-18 To read about the transfiguration of Jesus turn to  
Matthew 17:1-9 or Luke 9:28-36

\_\_\_ Peter made up what he had told his readers.

\_\_\_ Peter told what he had seen with his own eyes, and  
heard with his own ears.

1:19-21 The prophets of ancient Israel told about the coming of the  
Savior who was Jesus Christ.

\_\_\_ The whole Bible including the Old Testament is like a  
light that shines in this dark and unbelieving world.

\_\_\_ The prophets did not speak by themselves, but it was  
the Holy Spirit who directed their thoughts to write  
what God wanted them to.

\_\_\_ We can get the Holy Spirit so that we can write  
Scripture today.

**(2 correct answers)**

2:1-9 False teachers:

\_\_\_ Are alright except for some minor point of doctrine.

\_\_\_ Take advantage of believes to enrich themselves.

2:1-9 How does God handle false teachers?

\_\_\_ He punishes them in various ways while they are alive.

\_\_\_ He guards their spirits in bondage after their death and  
holds them for the great and final Judgment Day.

\_\_\_ He allows them to go unchecked because he is tolerant  
and accepts every belief.

**(2 correct answers)**

2:9 The Lord knows how to keep godly people \_\_\_\_\_ in  
times of testing.

2:10-19 What are false teachers like?

- They speak of things that they don't understand.
- They have high morals and do not betray their wives or husbands and they never get drunk.
- They are selfish and self-centered.
- They promise freedom to new believers, but the freedom they have in mind is freedom to continue to go on sinning.

**(3 correct answers)**

2:19 A person is a \_\_\_\_\_ to anything that controls him.

2:20-22 It seems that these false teachers and their followers once belonged to the fellowship of believers who followed the teaching of the Apostles. To have known the truth about Jesus Christ and to have professed faith and then abandoned it is worse than to never have known about Jesus.

- True       False

3:1-2 Peter is reminding his readers again, like he did in 1:12-13. When we go to church each Sunday and attend Sunday School, we are:

- Always hearing something new.
- Often reminded of things that we've heard before but need to keep in mind so that we don't forget to obey.

3:3-10 Why do some people poke fun of the warning to be prepared for the Day of Judgment?

- They don't believe that God will destroy the world and the universe. For them God will not interrupt the natural order of things.
- They want to continue to satisfy themselves and ignore God's will.
- They say that heaven is on earth right now and that is good enough.

**(2 correct answers)**

3:8-10 It seems that it is taking a long time for God to keep his promise of a Day of Judgment. Why is God waiting?

\_\_\_ He wants people to hear about the good news of salvation and be saved.

\_\_\_ God's sense of time is not the same as ours. He is eternal so that a moment for him is like a long time for us.

\_\_\_ God will tell us the exact time that Jesus will return and he will also tell us the exact place. Then we will be able to be ready even at the last minute.

**(2 correct answers)**

3:11-15 What do we look forward to?

\_\_\_ The destruction of this present universe by fire.

\_\_\_ We will be raised from the dead and live forever in this world.

\_\_\_ An all new creation to take the place of this present universe. There will be no sin or suffering in this new creation.

**(2 correct answers)**

3:11-15 What must we do to be ready for Judgment Day?

\_\_\_ We must be pure and without blame and be at peace with God.

\_\_\_ We need to make sure that our name is on the membership records of a church.

(X) We need to be believing in Jesus and following his command to love others as he loved us.

**(2 correct answers)**

3:16-17 What Peter wrote agrees with all that the Apostle Paul wrote and taught. They both got their message from the Lord Jesus.

\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_ False

3:18 What are we to do?

\_\_\_ Accept Jesus and stay like a new baby Christian.

\_\_\_ Grow more and more in knowledge, in service, in love, in obedience to Jesus Christ.

## LAST TIME EVENTS

There is a certain amount of controversy about Christ's return and the Day of Judgment. I don't want to add to the argument, but point you to the Scriptures that talk about it.

1. The teaching about the last things comes from Jesus himself. He said that he would go away and prepare a place for us. Then he would come back to bring us to be with him where he is. Check this out in John 14:1-3.

2. Jesus also taught that the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed. Its destruction would be like the Last Day judgment. You can find this teaching in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21:5-36.

Before the end comes, the good news of the gospel will be preached to the whole world (Matthew 24:14). Jesus' coming will be seen throughout the whole world (Matthew 24:27). Jesus will gather his chosen people to himself from every corner of the globe (Matthew 24:30-31). Even the dead will hear his voice and come out of their graves (John 5:28-29).

3. No one knows when Jesus will return so we are to be prepared at all times (Matthew 24:36-51). In Matthew 25:1-13 Jesus tells us to be prepared. Then he tells us that he has given us his word and his Holy Spirit (the talents or money) and that he wants us to be profitable for him (Matthew 25:14-30). Those who serve and obey will be rewarded. In the remainder of Matthew 25 Jesus teaches that he will sit on his throne in judgment and separate people like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will judge us by how we have loved other believers and those who suffer.

Jesus also taught about the judgment in the parables of Matthew 13.

4. Before The End there will be a time of rebellion, lawlessness and great suffering. Paul wrote about this in 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 and 2:1-12, just as Jesus did in Matthew 24:9-22.

5. The Apostle Paul picks up on Jesus' teaching and explains what it will be like for the dead to hear the voice of Jesus and come from their graves. Paul speaks of the resurrection from the dead in 1 Corinthians 15 where he says that the dead will be raised from their graves and those who are alive at that time will have their bodies changed instantly into immortal, spiritual bodies. We will receive glorious bodies like the resurrected body of Jesus (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15: 42-44, 50-54).

He teaches the same thing in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:3. Notice that Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15 all mention the trumpet call of God. This lets us know that Paul is linking his teaching with the teaching of Jesus.

6. Our hope is for the resurrection from the dead and a new creation that will replace this present creation. The present world is subject to the curse of sin (Romans 8:18-25), but in the new world no one will sin and no one will suffer the consequences of sin. This is what Peter teaches in the third chapter of his second letter. This new world is also described in Revelation 21-22.

7. Followers of Christ will be with Christ at the moment of their death. Their bodies are buried in the ground, but their spirits are with Christ (Philippians 1:20-24). See also 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.

8. Those who follow other gods, serve the interests of this life, and do not follow Christ, will go to the realm of the dead where they will be in pain and torment (Luke 16:19-31). Their bodies will also be raised from the dead. Then they with body and soul will stand before Christ to be judged.

9. One of the principles in interpreting the Bible is to hold fast to the basic and clear teaching, but to be flexible when it comes to passages that are hard to understand and are less clear. Once the clear basics are understood, we can interpret obscure and difficult passages so that our interpretation of them fits in with the basics. Once we understand what Jesus and Paul and Peter are saying, we can go on to read Revelation. Revelation uses a lot of symbolism and makes many references to the Old Testament. What follows are passages that speak about the Last Day events.

Revelation 6:9-17: The souls of the martyrs are with God and await the final judgment, the day when their enemies will be judged.

Revelation 17 and 18 speak about judgment that will come to Rome, the city that rules over the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire was rich, powerful, and exploited the peoples over which it ruled. It was also against the rule of Jesus Christ and his followers. This reveals what will happen to every rich and godless empire that rejects Jesus Christ and his rule of love.

Revelation 19-20 speaks in vivid and figurative language about the final battle between Christ and Satan. Satan and all of his followers will be cast into the Lake of Fire at the Final Judgment.

One of the biggest disagreements among Christians is how to interpret the 1,000 years of Revelation 20. Some say that Jesus will return to reign on earth for a 1,000 years. There are many ideas on what this reign on earth will look like. Others believe that the 1,000 years is a figurative number and refers to Christ's reign at the present time. They say that he is reigning from heaven. He governs all things for the benefit of his church and he rules in the hearts of believers who love others as he loved them.

The scope of this study is not to argue about disputable things. The main point is that we must live in such a way so that we please Christ. We don't know when we will die, and we don't know when Christ will return; but we want to be working and living so as to please him because we know that he is present in our lives, homes, place of work and in church. In fact he is living with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. So at all times we want to be ready for his appearing and for the great Final Judgment—which by the way, is the great day when the full promise of our salvation will be revealed to us and to all mankind. For us who enter, it will be a time of great rejoicing; but for those who have rejected the gospel, it will be a time of anguish and horror to what is to come.

Rev. Chuck Uken, February, 2010.