

## Daily Bible Study

*1 Peter ~ “In A Week”*

*1 Peter*

*March 27 – April 2, 2011*

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** –It had been our great pleasure to go verse by verse through the book of **1 Peter** starting back in *June* of 2006. This week as we take a break from our study of Mark we want to look at The Apostle Peter’s letter and do a general review and attempt to summarize the five chapters helping us to see the “bigger” picture of this Epistle. You will remember that at the start of our current study in Mark we spoke of the scholarship that sees Peter’s influence in the writing of Mark as it may very well be that he helped Mark in his record, Peter being an eyewitness of Jesus life. **Mark 1:16 - 18** “*And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*” **Mark 3:14 - 16** “*Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter...*” Well, let’s dive right in and go through **1 Peter ~ “In A Week”**. After a formal introduction as an “*Apostle of Jesus Christ*”, chapter one begins by Peter quickly moving into somewhat of a doctrinal treatise concerning salvation and our future security as God’s elect. He touches on the secure, heavenly inheritance of the true believer as well as the ultimate security of their salvation based on the fact that it originated with the plan of God and God Himself. He speaks to the depth of this profound salvation which the prophets who spoke of it as well as the angels themselves marvel and wonder at. He gives us some straight practical instruction on how to live presently in this life and he ends the chapter exalting and elevating the “*living, incorruptible seed*” of the Word of God which unlike the “*grass*” and temporary “*glory*” of men, “*endures forever*”. Read **1 Peter 1**.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today?

(Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Thank You God for such salvation that is eternally secure and reserved for us who have been brought to life through Your Holy Spirit and Your living Word.*

**TUESDAY** – Peter quickly moves on in chapter two by defining those who are the true children of God which have the great salvation awaiting them. They are the ones who have been made alive (born again), desire the milk of the Word, and are growing and being built up into a “*spiritual house*”. They also offer “*spiritual sacrifices*” that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Again we come across the security of the “*people of God*” in chapter two as we find

God's choosing and transforming work explained in **verses 9-11**. Peter then enters into exhortation to us as God's people and he stresses the theme of submission. He speaks in this chapter to submission to government and "masters" employers (even ones who are crooked and harsh). He closes with Christ's example of submission; who even when suffering wrongfully, took it patiently. Read **1 Peter 2**.

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today?*

*(Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Thank You Jesus for Your example of endurance in unjust suffering. Help me to follow Your example as well as rest in the security You provide for me as Your child.*

**WEDNESDAY** – If you will remember back, Peter continues his theme of submission in chapter 3. He gives a word concerning submission in the family and speaks of God's orders for a home and behavior between husbands and wives. Peter again calls us to blessing, even to those who "revile" us. He quotes an Old

Testament Psalm to confirm that God blesses the life of those who live humble, loving, with pure motives, and righteous. In the close of chapter 3, Peter again returns to the example of Christ in suffering. We are reminded of how we are to suffer and treat those who would harm us by remembering Jesus' example; that He (Jesus) suffered as "the just for the unjust". Peter closes with explaining how we who are "in Christ" are saved just as those 8 people in Noah's family were saved through judgment by being in the "ark of safety". Read **1 Peter 3**.

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today?*

*(Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to help you be submissive in the home among your family. Also ask for strength to live a life of blessing, even to our enemies, and praise God for the safety He has provided in Christ.*

**THURSDAY** – Peter begins chapter 4 by telling us to "arm ourselves with the same mind" that Christ had in His suffering. He is telling us that as believers, we can be triumphant in suffering, even the ultimate suffering of death. We know at death the struggle we have with sin will be over and yet here in this text we are commanded to pursue the Holy will of God as we live rather than be living in the ungodly lust of the flesh that characterizes a life without Christ. Peter heightens the seriousness of this warning by telling us "the end of all things is at hand". We are told how to

serve for God's glory; namely by being "*serious and watchful in prayers*", and having "*fervent love for one another*". Peter then tells us we demonstrate this love by serving through God given giftedness, whatever that may be. True, genuine love is expressed by the serving of others in the body through "*the ability which God supplies*". Read **1 Peter 4**.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today?

(Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: Praise God that we will be triumphant even in death when we are made like Christ and cease in the struggle against the lust of the flesh. Ask God to show you opportunities to serve and love others rather than being consumed and engrossed with your self.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY** – Peter ended chapter 4 by saying "*the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God*". He says that if God in love judges and chastens His own, "*what will be the end of those who don't obey the Gospel of God*". We understand that even suffering is meant for our sanctification and growth and sometimes it can be God lovingly disciplining us as His children. As he continues in chapter 5 Peter exhorts the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ to remember they are serving **under** the great shepherd. He commands them to feed the sheep and remain faithful as they watch over and care for the flock of God. He then tells all the body they are to have this attitude of submission to all God's authority, here seen in His Elders. We are to humble ourselves "*under the mighty hand of God*" and remember He is in total control of ALL things, so we then "*cast our care upon Him...*" Read **1 Peter 5**. Peter closes out his Epistle warning us to be "*sober*" and "*vigilant*" because we have a great enemy who is in a battle for the souls of men. He walks about seeking whom he may "*swallow down*". We are reminded we have victory through "*The God of all grace*" and we are to resist Satan and remain "*steadfast in the faith*". Meditate on this Epistle of **1 Peter** and search out and memorize some of your favorite verses in it.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today?

(Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: God, do a house cleaning in my heart and give me the power through Your Spirit and Word to do it. Help me to recognize Your authority both in the church and world and to live humbly under it. God, help me live out these truths of **1 Peter**.