

THE EPISTLES OF PETER

AN EXPOSITION

THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTERS

- Peter recognized that the end times would bring false teachers, false prophets, chaos, and persecution. He therefore develops a strategy for how we as Christians should be prepared.
- "But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief"

- I Thessalonians 5:4



THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

- To develop a Biblical response to end time prophecy
 - What is the role of the church?
 - How do we walk in love in the face of persecution?
- To increase your ability to study scripture at home
 - John 14:26
 - Get a pen, write down notes, questions, disagreements
- To challenge you personally
 - Only human?
 - Peter calls us to live a life which is contradictory to the world, our natural self, and even what is taught in many churches
 - Why are you studying?



THE HISTORY

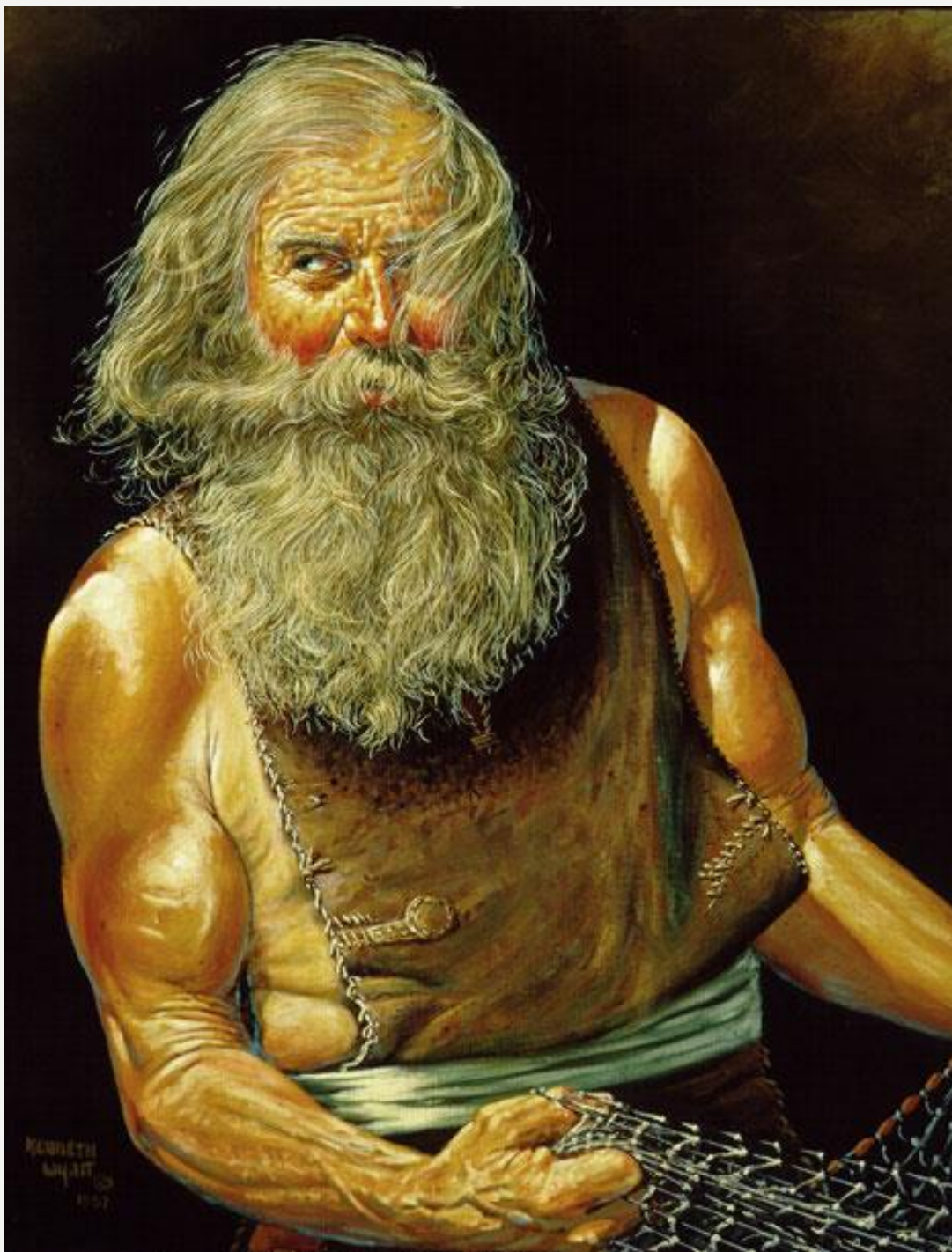
INTRODUCTION

AUTHORSHIP

- **VI - "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ"**
- **Problems**
 - 1.) References to global persecution
 - Persecution outside of Rome didn't start until after Peter's death under Nero
 - 2.) The audience is geographically large (VI)
 - No record that Paul visited Pontus, Cappadocia, or Bithynia
 - 3.) The language and style do not reflect an "unschooled, ordinary man" (Acts 4:13)
 - The epistles of Peter reflect a prose more like that of Paul

AUTHORSHIP

- **Response**
 - The very early church accepted the epistles of Peter while rejecting other works discovered to be pseudonymous
 - Papias, Clement of Rome, Irenaeus, Eusebius
 - 1.) **Global persecution:** If the purpose is to prepare you and I for persecution, would the scope for the original audience not also be prophetic?
 - 2.) **Geographically large audience:** When might Peter have met Christians from other parts of the world? Acts 2:5-12
 - 3.) **Articulate language:** This is the bigger issue of the change in Peter's life which should make us uncomfortable



PETER

Son of Jonah

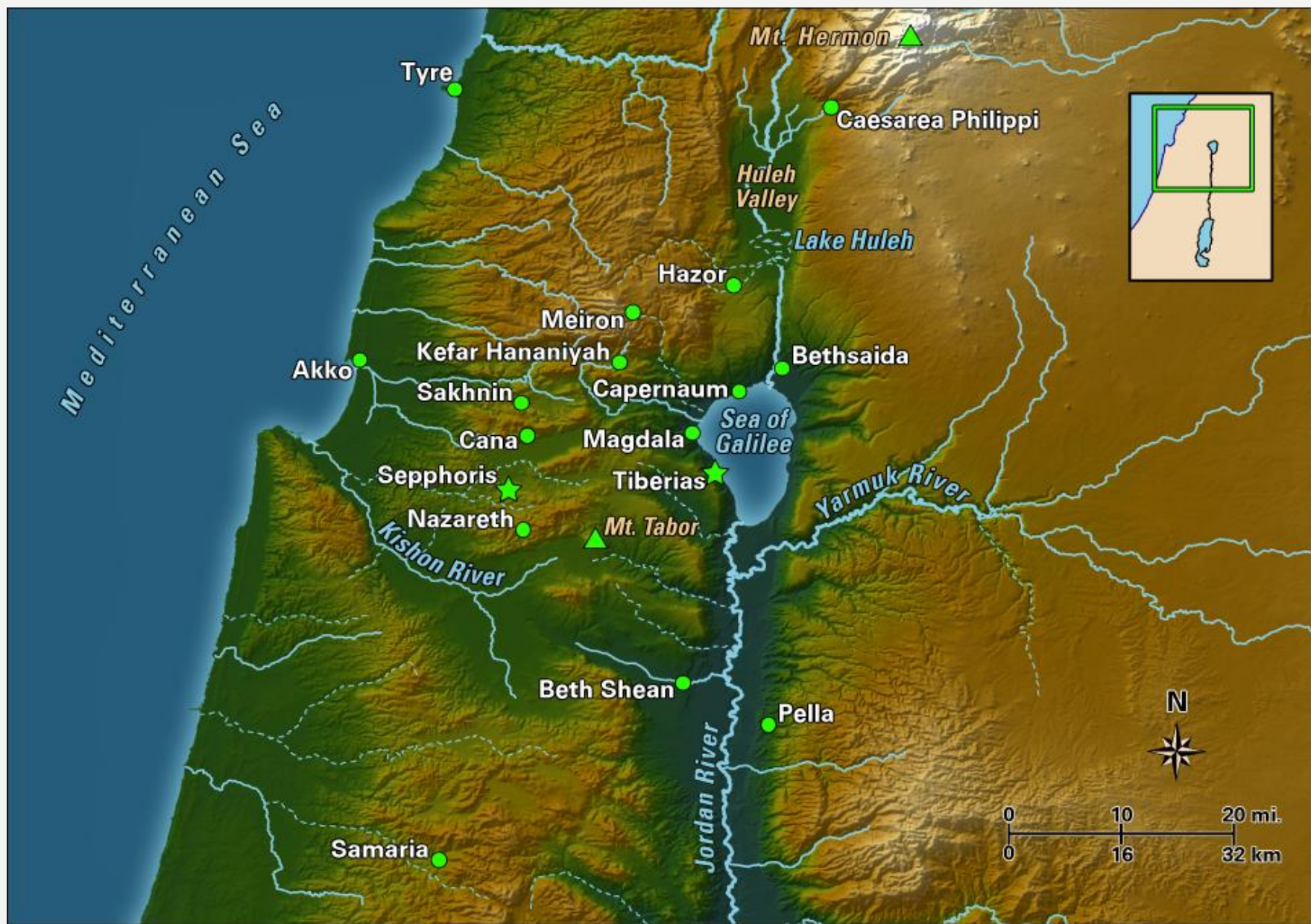
Birth name Simeon

Brother of Andrew

**Born in Bethsaida in
Galilee, moved to
Capernaum**

Married

**One of the three
disciples to whom Jesus
gave special revelation**



WRITER OR REDNECK?

- Galilee accent (Matt 26:73)
- Galilee is not a region renown for its intellectual leaders
 - John 7:45-52
 - 2 Kings 14:25 – Jonah was from Gath Hopher
- Unschooled
 - "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" - Acts 4:13
 - ἀγράμματος – "unlettered"
 - ἰδιώτης
 - Illiterate? The book of Mark
 - The epistles of Peter are organized and articulate

WRITER OR REDNECK?

- How would you describe Peter?
 - Articulate?
 - We love Peter because we recognize the weakness that we struggle with
- Acts 2
 - Peter addresses people in Jerusalem and 3,000 people are saved
- Acts 3
 - Peter heals a cripple and preaches at the temple, adding 2,000 more
- Acts 4
 - Peter preaches a marvelous sermon to the priests, elders, and teachers
- Is this the same Peter?

180 DEGREES

Was Peter one of the twelve disciples?

– **What does it mean to be a disciple?**

- **Prerequisites?**

– **When did Peter become a disciple?**

- **"follow me"**

– **Was Peter still a disciple after he denied Jesus?**

- **Mark 16:6-7**

- **John 21:15-19**

- **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**

- **If God makes us stand firm in Christ, how did Peter lose his discipleship?**





WHICH PETER DO YOU RELATE TO?

- We can't use the disciple Peter as an excuse for our weakness
 - He didn't have the Holy Spirit
- The apostle Peter urges us to
 - "Be self controlled"
 - "Be holy in all you do"
 - "You are a royal priesthood"
 - "Christ suffered for you... you should follow in His steps"
- *If we have the Spirit of God living inside of us, the difference in our lives should be as dramatic as Peter's!*



CHAPTER ONE

BEING HOLY

1 PETER 1:1

- VI – Peter claims his calling as part of his identity
- VI – what is an apostle?
 - Ἀποστέλλω
 - One authorized and sent with a specific message or task
 - The emphasis is on the authority of the sender
- VI – To whom is this letter written?
 - "The elect"
 - "Strangers in the world"
 - The term refers to a low caste of people unprotected by rights of citizens
 - The life Peter understood requires alienation from this world

ASIA MINOR



1 PETER 1:2

- **V2 – you were chosen before you were born**
 - This is the key starting point for dealing with the end times
 - "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." -Ephesians 1:4
 - We must begin with a clear understanding that we did nothing to deserve the life we have in Jesus
 - **When did Simeon get the name Peter?**
 - Matthew 16:13-20
 - John 1:41-42

1 PETER 1:2

- **V2 – Why has God called you?**
 - To obey and be clean
 - Sprinkling is better translated "washing"
 - 1 John 1:7-10
- **V2 – Peace**
 - This letter addresses coming persecution
 - The peace of God is not a lack of adversity
 - John 17:14-19
 - Are we called to be sanctified on this earth?



MEDITATION

God called you before you were born; you had nothing to do with it.

You are a stranger in this world.

You are called to obey Christ every minute of every day

You are called to be holy, just as God is holy

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CHAPTER ONE

CONTINUED

LAST WEEK

- Old Peter vs New Peter
- Election: the key to living in the end times.
- Are we called to live a holy life?
- *If tonight's message doesn't make you uncomfortable, you weren't paying attention*

1 CORINTHIANS 3

- **Spiritual meat is not for those who are worldly**
 - **The Corinthians wanted spiritual meat, but they were not Spiritual beings**
- **Our foundation is Christ**
- **Fire will come**
 - **The builder will be rewarded if the building stands**
 - **The builder is saved either way**
- **The beginning of Spiritual meat is the understanding that you are God's sacred temple**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

- **Have you been saved or will you be saved?**
 - **"...it is by grace you have been saved" - Ephesians 2:5**
 - **"...through faith (you) are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time" - 1 Peter 1:5**
- **Is everyone saved who has called on the Lord?**
 - **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" - Romans 10:13**
 - **"Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" - Matthew 7:21**

THREE TENSES OF SALVATION

- **Justified** - past
- **Sanctified** - present
- **Glorified** - future



1 PETER 1:3-5

- **V3 - "In his great mercy" - Peter insists on this foundation**
- **VV3-4 – Is there a difference between being given something and an inheritance?**
- **V4 – Who keeps your inheritance?**
- **V5 – Who keeps you?**
 - **The foundation of this book is election.**
 - **John 10:27-30**
 - **I Corinthians 9:24-27**
 - **Working for salvation vs working for inheritance**



PERSECUTION

Do we experience it?

Will we experience it?

Is this belief spreading
doom?

1 PETER 1:6-9

- **V6 – What do we rejoice in greatly?**
- **V7 – Does God cause trials?**
- **V7 – Your genuine faith results in praise, glory, and honor for God**
- **V9 - "The goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls"**
 - **Which tense of salvation is this?**
 - "are receiving"
 - **Your perseverance in trials:**
 - Proves your faith genuine
 - Brings praise, glory, and honor to God
 - Results in your sanctification

1 PETER 1:10-12

- **VV10,11** – These prophets were searching for the suffering of the Messiah because they knew that glory would follow
- **V10** – Which prophets?
 - Isaiah 53
 - 1 Peter 1:11 – Who wrote Isaiah 53?
- **V12** – You have the right to understand things which angels will never understand

1 PETER 1:13

- **V13 – Study Tool: What's that therefore there for?**
 - Preparing our minds for action is our holy response to the promise of coming persecution
- **V13 – How do we prepare our minds for action?**
 - Know what you believe and why
 - This requires risk to experience
 - No one was ever argued into believing
 - Meditation – When have you experienced God?
 - Our action should be 100% obedience to Christ
 - When you pray, do you bring something to record instructions?

1 PETER 1:14-16

- **VI4 – Do the evil desires go away?**
 - A stipulation of being an obedient child is not conforming to those desires
 - Once we are filled with the Spirit, there is an understanding that sin is no longer who we are
- **VI5 – Be holy in all you do**
 - I John 3
 - Bonhoeffer - "cheap grace"
 - Did Christ justify sin?
 - Our sanctification is a process, but we cannot live as though it is impossible to complete
 - Do you expect to sin in the future?
 - "I don't sin"



If you want to be popular, preach
happiness. If you want to be
unpopular, preach holiness.

— *Leonard Ravenhill* —

AZ QUOTES

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CHAPTER ONE

CONTINUED

LAST WEEK

- Peter's epistles are written to the end time church
- Election: the key to living in the end times.
- There is a connection between striving and reward
- Salvation
 - Past: Justification
 - Present: Sanctification
 - Future: Glorification
- Tonight, the conclusion of Peter's argument which is the opposite message of our modern culture
- *God's will for your life is that you cause stupid people to shut up

1 PETER 1:17-18

- **VI7 – What does the Father judge?**
- **VI7 – There is no misunderstanding of the severity of the coming persecution, but we know that the power and authority of God is greater**
 - **Fear of anything else elevates that thing above the power and authority of God**
 - "pride says I don't need God and fear says God can't do it"
- **VI8 – You inherited a holy life from God in the same way you inherited an empty life from your ancestors**
 - **Did you decide to live an empty life?**

1 PETER 1:19-25

- V19 – Are you valuable?
- V20 – The gospel is that Jesus died for our sins according to scripture, was buried, rose on the third day, *and revealed himself to men!*
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-9
 - Jesus is a person, an experiential being, not a religion
- V22 – These believers had already been purified through obedience
- V23 – 1 Corinthians 15
- V24 – Peter endcaps this passage by restating our impotence to do this on our own
 - This is why it is necessary to understand election in order to live a holy life



CHAPTER TWO

FIGHTING FOR YOUR RIGHTS

1 PETER 2:1

- **VI - "Therefore; Why should we rid ourselves of these things?"**
- **VI – We apparently are free to do this**
- **VI – Five things we should stop completely**
 - **Malice - κακία: Evil which is incapable of change**
 - **Deceit - δόλος: A baited trap**
 - **Hypocrisy - ὑπόκρισις: An actor who depicts a role**
 - **Envy - φθόνος: A positive feeling based on other's misfortune**
 - **Slander - καταλαλιά: Any speech which is malicious**
 - **These are all issues of attitude and speech**

1 PETER 2:2

- **V2 - Spiritual milk**
 - **"Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?" - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3**
 - **Does Peter discourage Spiritual milk?**
 - **We should crave the simplicity of the life we are called to**
 - **Because we are called to live holy lives through the power of God, the absence of these five things should be elementary**

1 PETER 2:3

- **V3 – Milk is sweet and easily digestible**
 - **What does it mean when living a holy life doesn't feel good?**
 - **Prayer**
 - **Worship**
 - **"I don't feel like God is near"**
 - **God may be bringing you into a place where you serve Him because it's who you are, not because it feels good.**
 - **V3 – Now that we have tasted that the Lord is good, we no longer require the same confirmation that He is good**

1 PETER 2:4-6

- **V4** – Christ is the living Stone and we are to be living stones
 - To build what structure?
 - In order to build the house of God, we must be like Christ
- **V5** – Are we still required to make sacrifices?
 - Romans 12:1 – Peter is building an argument on this
- **V6** - This is the structure we are becoming
 - "I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line" - Isaiah 28:17



(Altar of burnt-offering.)

1 PETER 2:7-12

- **V8 – Those who don't believe stumble on Christ because they don't and can't obey Him**
- **V9 – This is written to the gentile church**
- **V11 – What does he mean "sinful desires which war against your soul?"**
 - **"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." - James 4:1-3**
- **V12 – Is this justification in the eyes of God alone?**

1 PETER 2:13-17

- **V13 – For whose sake do we submit to authority?**
 - **Why would Peter bring this subject up in a letter written to the end time church?**
- **V14 – What if those governors aren't punishing those who do wrong or commending those who do right?**
- **V15 – Do you want to silence foolish men who speak ignorantly about government authority? Do good by submitting to that authority and praying for him/her**
- **V17- In the same way you are called to love your brother and fear God, you are to honor authority**
 - **Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2**
 - **If those laws conflict with God's laws – Acts 4:19**

GRECO-ROMAN SLAVERY

- The Bible never condones slavery nor condemns it
- "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." - Galatians 3:28
- Three types of Greco-Roman slaves
 - Helot – citizen of a subordinate state
 - Indentured Servant – temporary position to pay off a debt
 - Chattel – property of a master
- Slavery could range from hard labor to house teacher

1 PETER 2:18-20

- **V18 – What if the authority you are under doesn't act as they should?**
 - σκολιός: "crooked"
 - Peter's authority was Nero
- **V19 – How does this affect our response to laws and regulations which cause us unjust suffering?**
- **V20 – We must live a holy life so that when persecution comes, it isn't justified punishment**

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CHAPTER TWO

FIGHTING FOR YOUR RIGHTS

TONIGHT

- **We've yet to stop at a chapter break, and I don't intend to tonight**
 - Last time, we stopped at chapter 2, verse 20
- **Peter has been building an argument, and in this passage, he concludes something which is the exact opposite of what we have been taught**
- **We will answer the question "does God hear your prayers?"**
- **The importance of your testimony**

PETER'S ARGUMENT TO THIS POINT

- **God chose you first, so nothing we are about to discuss is because of your initiative (1:2)**
- **The end time church will suffer persecution because we are Christian, and how we respond is key (1:5-7)**
- **You are no longer human (1:22), therefore, you are called to be holy in everything you do, just as God is holy (1:15)**
- **When we are living holy lives, the world will see it and know that it is because of God (2:12)**
- **This includes especially submission to those in authority (2:13-25)**



Fight for Your Right

YOUR RIGHTS

"Don't let yourself
get run over"

"You have the right
to be happy"

"You deserve
better"

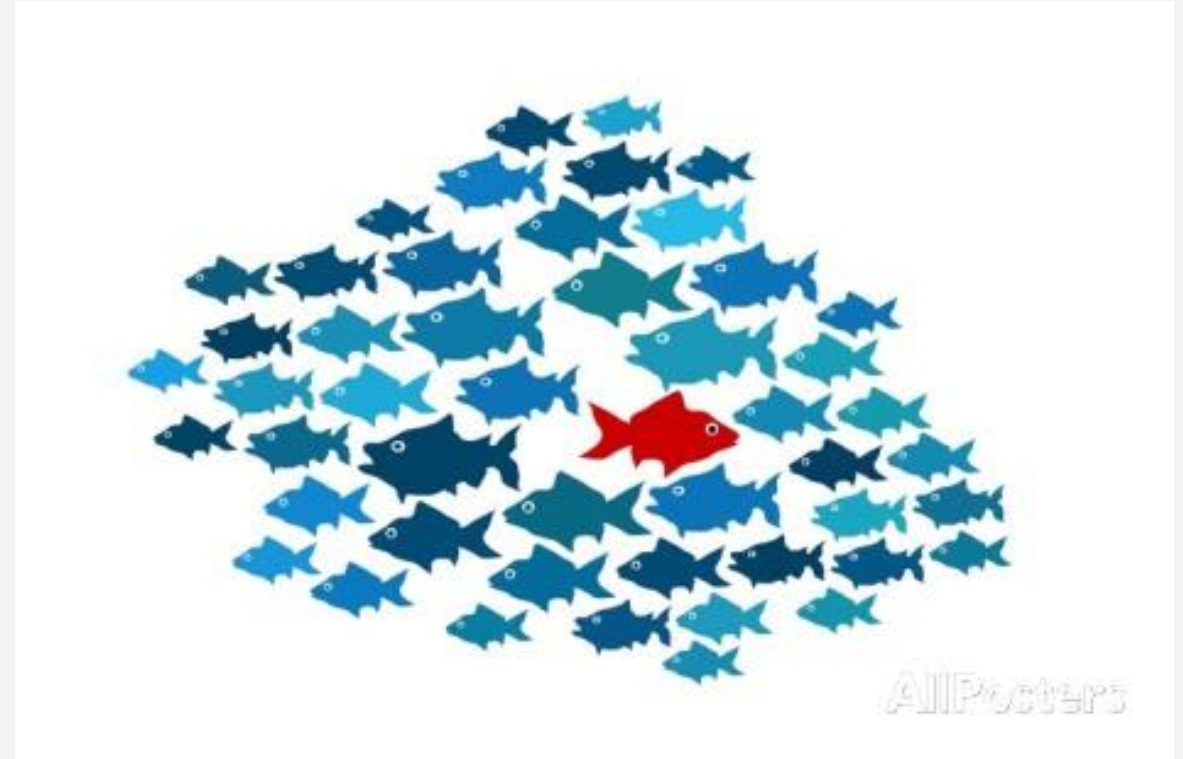
"You respect me
and I'll respect you"

1 PETER 2:21-25

- **V21 – What are we called to as Christians?**
 - **V22 – We are to first be found to be holy in the sight of God and man**
 - **V22 – We are to give up our right to defend ourselves**
 - **At any point, Jesus could have left the cross and killed everyone**
 - **V23 – We are to trust in God for all of these things**
 - **V24 – We are to be dead to sin and live for righteousness**
 - **"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'" - Matthew 16:24**
- **V24 – Healed from what?**
- **V25 - Peter brings us back to the foundation of election: God is the Overseer of your soul**

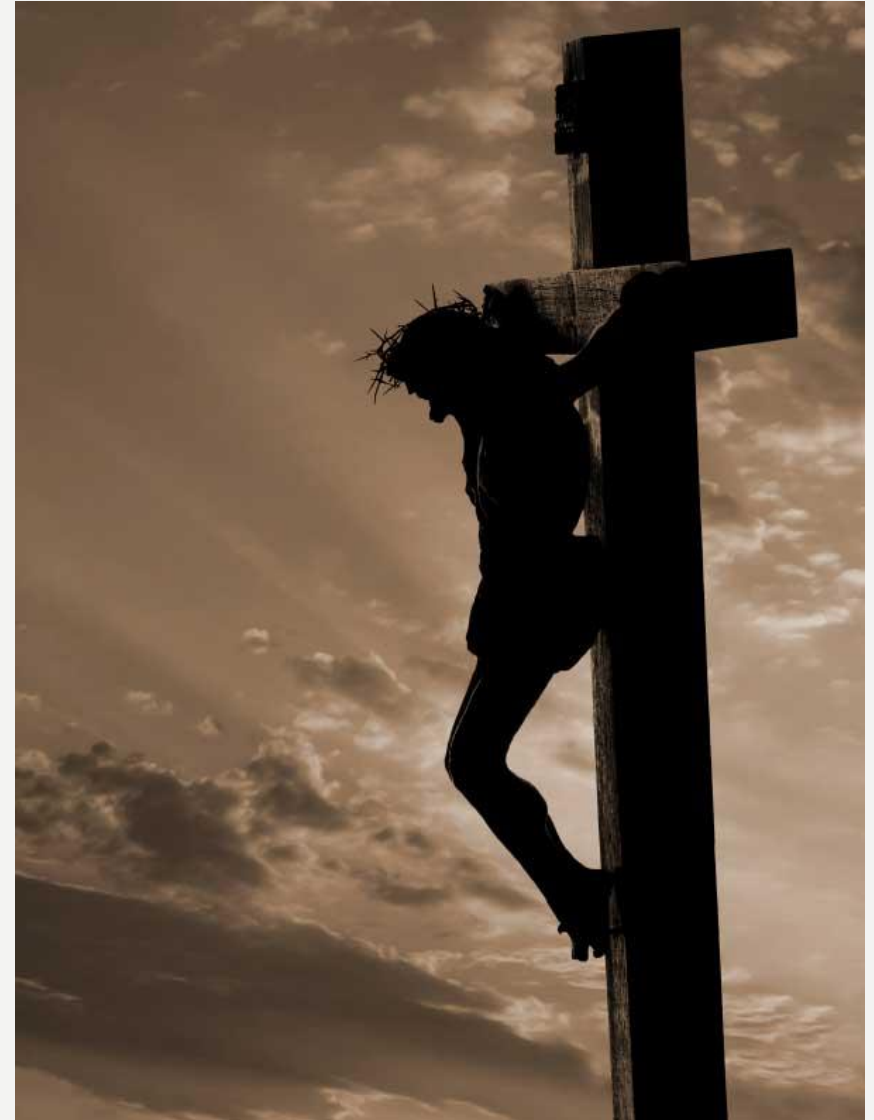
AN UNPOPULAR LIFESTYLE

- You have the ability and obligation to live a holy life in the eyes of God and man
- You are to subject yourself to worldly authority
- You must live for righteousness so that when persecution comes, it's not justified
- When the world wrongs you, you are not to defend yourself
- If Jesus is the example (2:21)...



A CHRISTIAN GIVES UP THE RIGHT:

- To be offended
 - Matthew 6:14-15
- To be angry at someone
- To explain yourself
- To complain about authority
- To value your life over others
 - John 15:13
- To be rejected by anyone
 - Ephesians 1:3-6
- You have been set free from yourself!





CHAPTER THREE

THE HOLY LIFESTYLE EXPLAINED

1 PETER 3:1-6

- **V1 – In the same way**
- **V1 – In any relationship, you + God is a majority**
- **V3 – Does this say that women shouldn't braid their hair or wear jewelry or nice clothes?**
- **V5 – This is continuing the thought that holy submission to authority brings a dying world to Christ.**
- **V6 – Fear of that authority not respecting our personal rights.**

DOES GOD HEAR YOUR PRAYERS?



1 PETER 3:7-15

- Solomon, Daniel, and David all prayed "Hear my prayer"
- V7 – ἐγκόπτω - "Detained" -Rom 15:22, 1 Thess 2:18
 - Men, if you want to ignite your prayer life, find ways to build up your wife
- V10 – Who is life?
- V12 – It is possible for God to not be attentive to prayer!
- V14 - "Thou shalt not's" in the New Testament
- V14 – It is impossible for a heart which is dedicated to Christ to be afraid

APOLOGETICS VS TESTIMONY



APOLOGETICS VS TESTIMONY

- You need to know what you believe and why
- You need to be prepared to not use that information at any moment
- Nobody can argue with your testimony
- Have you written your testimony?
 - Homework: Write down your two minute testimony

THE EPISTLES OF PETER

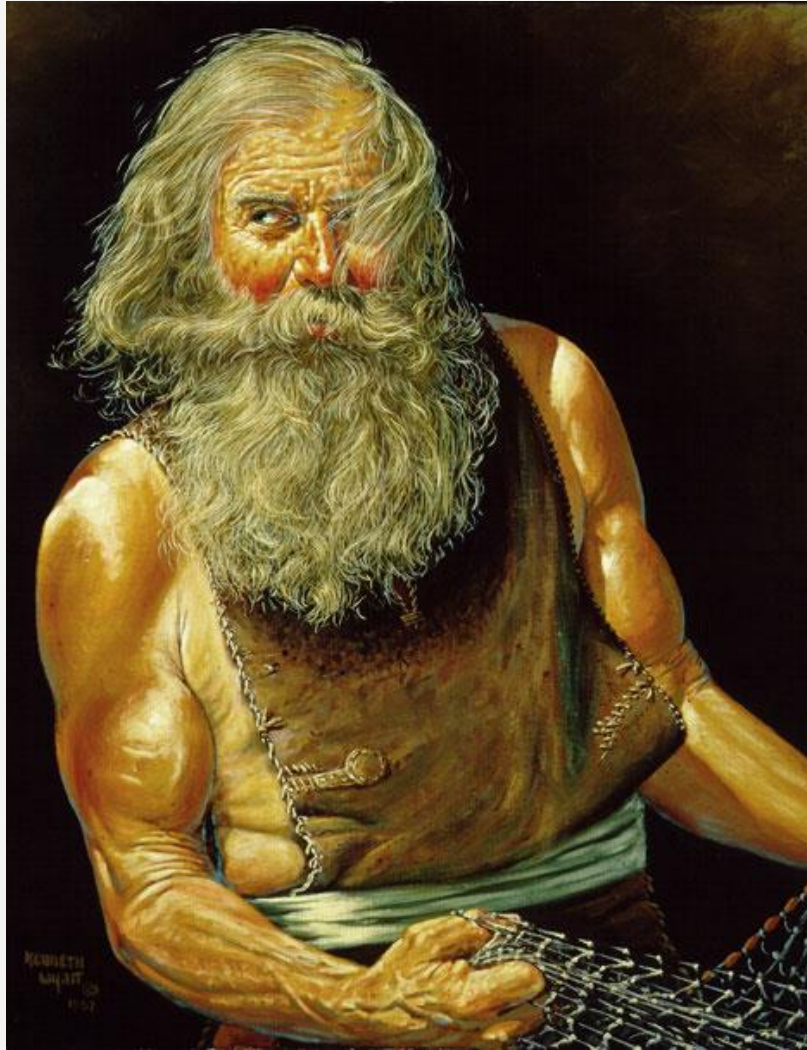
AN EXPOSITION



CHAPTER THREE

CONTINUED

THE UNPOPULAR LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN



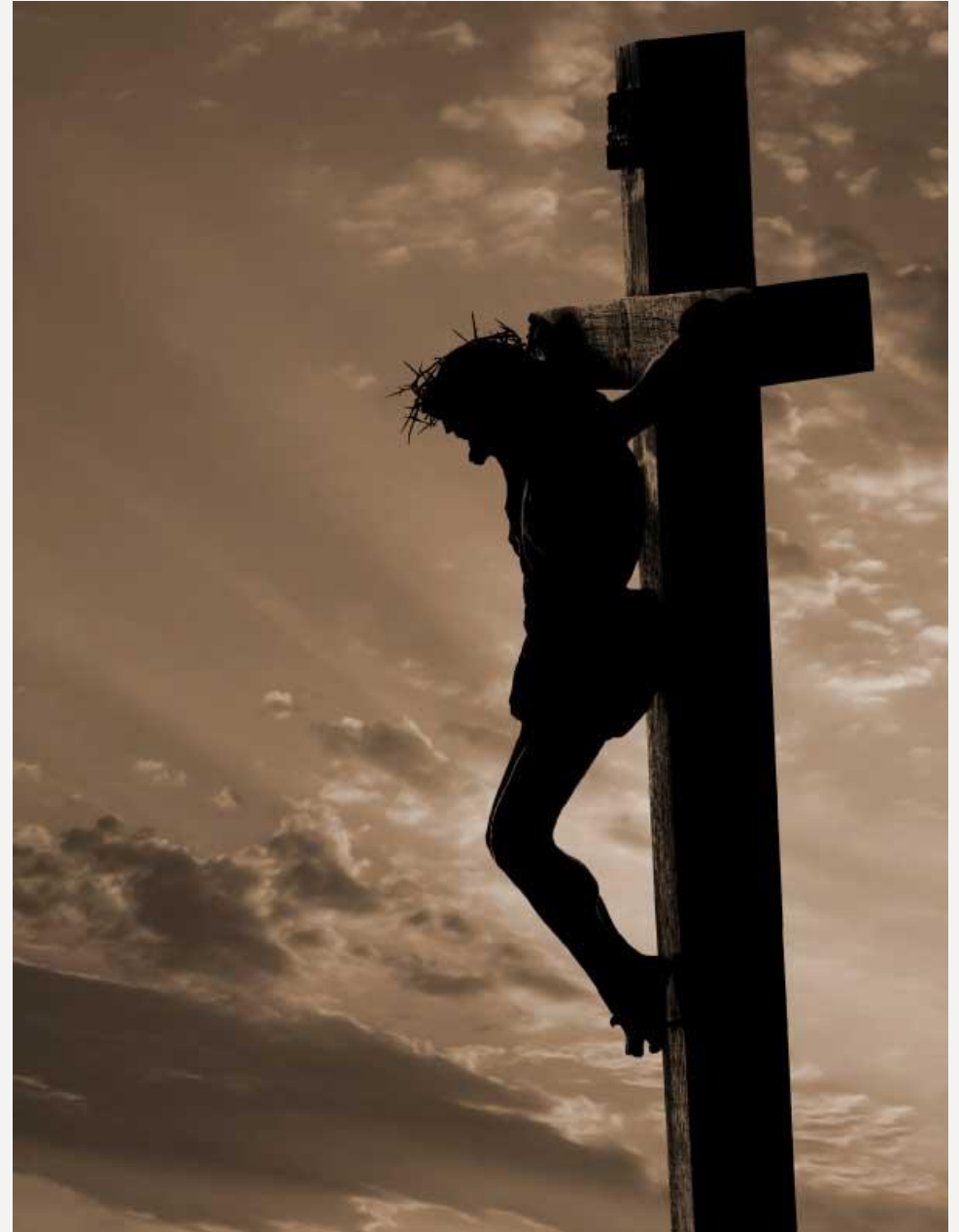
- God chose you first
- You are no longer human
- You can and should live a holy life
- You will be persecuted
- You must respond the way Christ did
- Christ gave up his rights as a human
- You have no earthly rights

TONIGHT WE WILL ADDRESS:

- **Where was Jesus after the crucifixion and before the resurrection, and what was He doing?**
- **Can a person be saved after death?**
- **We're going to hell.**
- **Exactly how many is a few?**
- **Does baptism save you?**

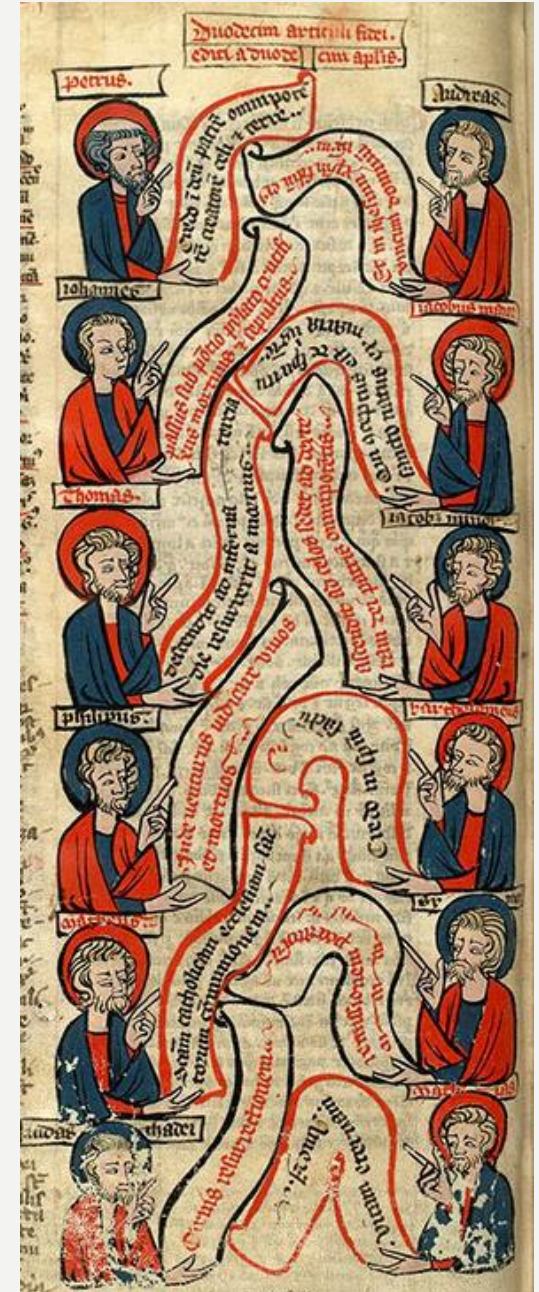
1 PETER 3:15-19

- **VI6** – This is not slander against your bad behavior
 - Peter's message of holiness gives us a clear conscience before God
 - This will be pivotal by the end of the night
- **VI8** – The most concise message of the cross in Scripture
- **VI9** – What on earth does this verse mean?



THE APOSTLES CREED

- A statement of essential Christian beliefs
 - Not inclusive (Does not include the Deity of Christ)
- First written reference 7th c by Ambrose to the Council of Milan
- Some believe it was written as early as the late 2nd c
- Used primarily by
 - Roman Catholics
 - Lutherans
 - Anglicans
 - Presbyterians
 - Methodists



THE APOSTLES CREED

**"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was
buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen."

EPHESIANS 4:7-10

- Ephesians 4:7-10
 - When did Christ ascend on high?
 - When were gifts given to men?
 - Who, then, are these captives?
- Romans 10:5-8
 - Christ was "in the deep" while dead?
 - ἄβυσσος
 - Deuteronomy 30:8-14
 - Why would the law of the God be proclaimed in the Abyss?

HEAVEN AND HELL



WHAT IS HELL?

- **Sheol? Hades? Gehenna? The Lake of Fire? Tartarus? Abussos?**
- **Sheol**
 - **A broad word meaning the place under the earth for the dead**
 - **Literal grave or netherworld**
 - **Not necessarily a place of punishment**
 - **Ravenous beast with gaping jaws (Isaiah 5:14, 14:9, Habukkuk 2:5)**
 - **A place of exile from the living (Ezekiel 31-32)**
 - **A place absent of God's praise (Psalm 6:5), yet God is present (Psalm 139:8)**

WHAT IS HELL?

- **Hades**
 - **A Greek word, often the translation for Sheol in the Septuagint**
 - **Emphasizes the line between the dead and the living which cannot be crossed (Luke 16)**
 - **Netherworld**
 - **"Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay." -Acts 2:26,27**
 - **Christ was in the realm of the dead before He was resurrected**
 - **A place which will give up its dead to God's judgment (Revelation 20:13)**
 - **The righteous and the unrighteous**

WHAT IS HELL

- **Gehenna**

- In 2 Kings 16 & 23, the Valley of Hinnom is used for child sacrifice to Molech
- "The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes, declares the Lord. They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my Name and have defiled it. They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire—something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind. So beware, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when people will no longer call it Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter, for they will bury the dead in Topheth until there is no more room." Jeremiah 7:30-32
- Jesus uses this phrase as the place of "fiery punishment" (Matthew 5:22, 10:28, 18:9)
 - There is a connection here with the Lake of Fire from Revelation 19-21
- Original purpose was punishment of the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41)

WHAT IS HELL

- **Tartarus**
 - From **Greek literature**, but used in **2 Peter**
 - The deepest part of **Hades**
 - A place of punishment for wicked angels
- **Abussos**
 - This is where **Christ** went before **His resurrection** (**Romans 10, Ephesians 4**)
 - A prison for demonic powers (**Luke 8:31 – "Legion"**)
 - **Creatures** will be released from here for a time (**Revelation 9:1-2**)
 - **Satan's destiny** (**Revelation 20:1-3**)

1 PETER 3:19-20

- Can spirits in the Abussos be saved?
 - Luke 16:19-31
 - Hades
 - Christ cannot then be preaching repentance to the dead
 - κηρύσσω - "to announce an event" "to proclaim as a herald"
 - Which event is He proclaiming to those in Hades?
 - Luke 4:18-19 Jesus quotes from Isaiah 61:1
 - Revelation 20:14 – Death and Hades are themselves thrown into the lake of fire
 - Jesus is proclaiming that death itself is about to be overcome!

“Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”
The sting of death is sin, and the
power of sin is the law. But thanks
be to God! He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57



1 PETER 3:20-22

- **V20** - The water of baptism is life to those who accept it and death to those who reject it (Romans 9:33)
- **V21** - "The baptism that now saves you?"
 - An external representation of an internal reality
- **V21** - What is baptism?
 - A pledge of a good conscience toward God
 - Did the thief on the cross make this pledge? (Luke 23:39-43)
- **V21** – How does the resurrection of Christ save you?
 - By giving you the right to also be resurrected into a new, holy creation
 - This is the right you have when you give up your earthly rights
 - This is how baptism saves you

COLOSSIANS 2:9-15

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

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CHAPTER FOUR

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

CHAPTER THREE

- We are called to be submissive to all authority
- Christ went into the Abyss to declare His victory over death
- We should follow His example
 - Where is the darkness to which you are called to proclaim life?
- We are called to live with a clear conscience
- Baptism is a pledge of that good conscience toward God
- Christ has given us the authority to do this

TONIGHT

- **Peter has finished his point, so in verse 7, he begins addressing major issues for the end time church**
 - **Does persecution make us holy or does holiness bring persecution?**
 - **What two things do you have to do before you can pray?**
 - **Why does God give us gifts?**
 - **How can we avoid burnout?**
 - **Will Christians be judged?**

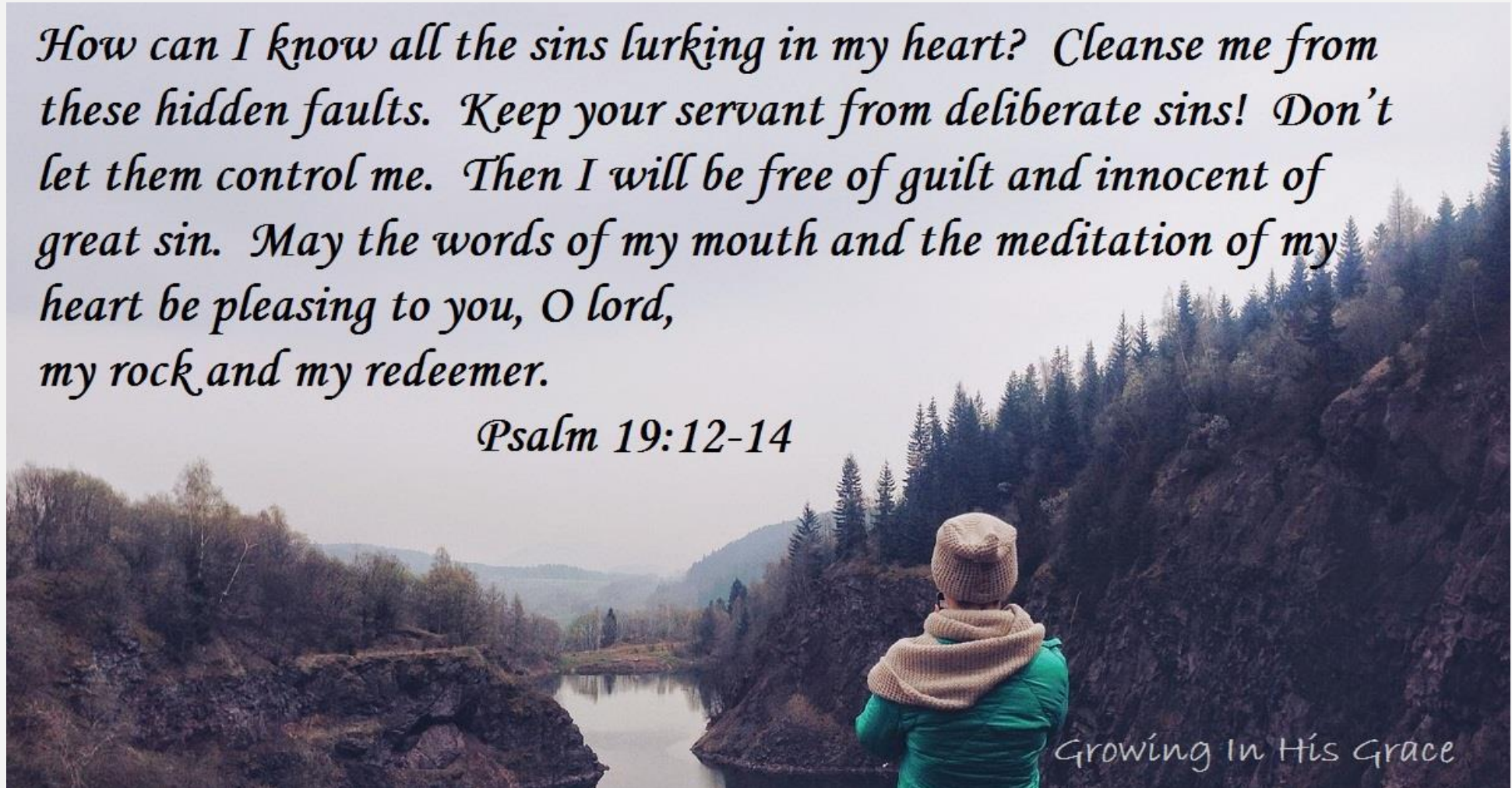
1 PETER 4:1

- **VI –What's that therefore there for?**
 - The following is only possible through the absolute authority of Jesus Christ
- **VI - "arm yourselves"**
 - Ephesians 6:10-18
 - "and His mighty power"
- **VI - "he who has suffered in the body is done with sin"**
 - Don't mistake the cause for the effect
 - παύομαι - "to stop, make an end"
 - Active, rather than passive; to willingly lay down rather than a forced cessation
 - Romans chapter 6

PSALM 19:12-14

How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalms 19:12-14



Growing In His Grace

1 PETER 4:2-5

- **V2** – As a result of willingly putting away sin
- **V3** – Is this letter written to the **Diaspora**?
- **V4** – It will always make worldly people uneasy when they see you living a holy life
 - "I'm a pretty good person."
 - People will always compare themselves to you
- **V5** – Two categories
 - Are you alive? If and when your body ceases to function, will you be alive?

1 PETER 4:6-7

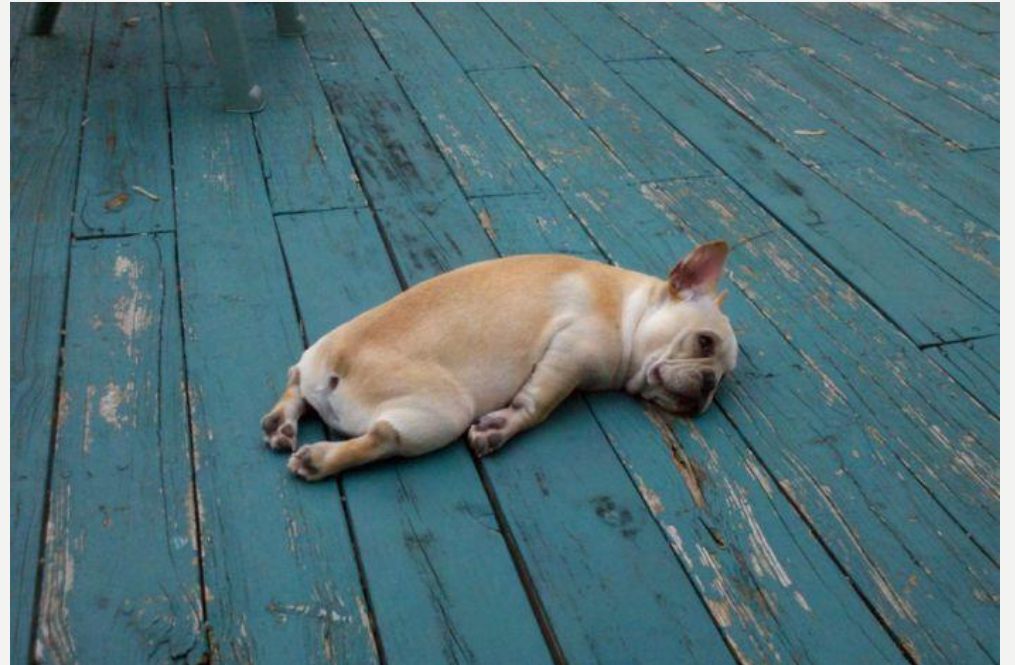
- **V6 - Why do we proclaim the gospel?**
 - Two judgments: one for the living and one for the dead
- **V6 - Your spirit is alive according to God**
 - This is the conclusion of the primary purpose of 1 Peter
- **V7 – Peter will now address other issues facing the end time church**
- **V7 – The end is near**
 - Why is it important that Christians live with an expectation of the imminent return of Christ?
- **V7 – What is required for prayer?**
 - Clear minded – Ephesians 5:18
 - Invite the presence of God
 - Self-controlled – Peter will address this in his second letter

1 PETER 4:8-11

- **V8 - "the multitude"**
- **V9 – φιλόξενος – literally "love to foreigners"**
 - If this is a **Godly** principle, it should be no surprise that it's being taken away from our culture
- **V!0 - The gifts you have been given aren't for you**
 - **Matthew 25:14-30 – The parable of the talents**
- **V10 – How does God administer His grace?**
- **V11 –Meditation of the week**
 - "Thou shalt not take the name of the **LORD** thy **God** in vain; for the **LORD** will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain" - **Exodus 20:7**
- **V11 – Working in the strength of God is something we all agree is necessary, yet very few of us know how to do!**

BURNING VS BURNOUT

- Do you know how to serve in God's strength and not yours?
 - You can do the right thing with the your own strength... for a while
 - Joshua
 - Know what you are called to (This will be another key element of 2 Peter)
 - Don't be afraid
 - Invade the spiritual realm with spiritual weapons



Colossians 1:28-29

²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

THE EPISTLES OF PETER

AN EXPOSITION



CHAPTER FOUR

CONTINUED

LAST WEEK

- **Chapter 4: I-II**
- **Two things you have to do before you can pray(V7)**
- **Why does God give us gifts? (V10)**
- **How do we work in the strength of God and not our own?**
 - **Know what you are called to (This will be another key element of 2 Peter)**
 - **Don't be afraid**
 - **Invade the spiritual realm with spiritual weapons**
- **God is going to judge two categories of people(V5)**

TONIGHT

- Does being a child of **God** make you an heir?
- Does suffering for **Christ** mean you're a **Christian**?
- What does it mean to be ashamed of the gospel?
- What happens at the judgment seat of **Christ**?

1 PETER 4:12-14

- **VI4 - How can we be certain that the Spirit of God rests on us?**
 - **Basic Logic: If P, then Q**
 - If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, then the Spirit of God rests on you.
 - Does it follow: If the Spirit of God rests on you, then you will be insulted
 - **We don't strive to be offensive, but if the righteousness of our lives offend no one, we should seriously evaluate that righteousness**
 - **Romans 8:15-17**
 - Are you a child of God?
 - Are you a co-heir of Christ?

1 PETER 4:15-16

- **V15** – Meddling is in the same list as murdering?
- **V16** - "Christian" - "of Christ"
 - Acts 11:26 – This term was coined in Antioch
 - The Latin suffix – *ianus* was added to the slave owner's name to describe the slave
 - Iulius' slave Iulianus
- **V16** – ashamed of what?



2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12

- **"So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day."**

1 PETER 4:17-19

- **V17 - Peter is setting up a major subject of his next letter: false teachers**
 - **Will you be judged?**
 - **"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." - 2 Corinthians 5:10**
 - **"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."**
 - John 10:27-30



WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE
JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

WE WILL NOT ALL BE REWARDED EQUALLY

- **Revelation 2-3** offers promises to those in the body of Christ who "overcome"
- **At least five crowns are mentioned in the New Testament which are given as reward to certain people among believers**
 - **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**
 - **Revelation 2:10**
 - **1 Peter 5:4**
 - **2 Timothy 4:8**
 - **James 1:12**
 - **1 Thessalonians 2:19**

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11-15

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames."

THREE JUDGMENTS



THREE JUDGMENTS

- **The Bema Seat**
 - A judgment for believers after the rapture
 - I Corinthians 3
- **The Sheep and Goats**
 - A judgment for those on earth after the 70th week
 - Matthew 25
- **Great White Throne**
 - A judgment for the dead after the millennium
 - Revelation 20

1 PETER 4:17-19

- **V18 – Is Peter quoting Proverbs?**
 - **"If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!" - Proverbs 11:31**
 - **Solomon saw that God rewards the righteous and the unrighteous on earth. Peter sees that God will reward us in full on the Day of judgment**
 - **"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." - Galatians 6:7-9**
- **V19 – a summary of salvation vs rewards**

THE RACE



- Are you a child?
- Are you an heir with Christ?
- Are you persecuted for bearing the name of Christ?
- What does it look like to give up? (Galatians 6:9)
- What does it look like to struggle with all Christ's energy which so powerfully works in you? (Colossians 1:28)
- Your eternal inheritance, responsibility, and authority depend on knowing what it means to not be ashamed of the gospel
- Now we understand why Peter was so insistent to build the foundation of election

Philippians

Chapter 3

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