

1 & 2 PETER

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

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© 2018 by Andrew M. Davis

Published by Two Journeys Ministry
414 Cleveland St,
Durham, NC 27701
www.twojourneys.org

Printed in the United States of America

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Preface to the Reader

One of the most important elements of a healthy Christian life is regular study of God's word. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 19:7-8 that *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."* I yearn for Christians to reap the rich benefits of scripture study, and to grow in the knowledge and love of God's word through directly engaging with the biblical text. This is why I have chosen to publish bible study questions instead of commentaries. There are many valuable commentaries to help aid your study of scripture, and I recommend using them. For guidance on commentaries visit www.bestcommentaries.com.

However, the focus of this book is to engage you, the reader, and to challenge you to answer relevant questions based on the scripture.

I have in mind three types of users for this book: First, group bible studies. Most of these questions were written for my weekly men's bible study. I recommend that the leader use this resource to prepare beforehand, reading all the questions and picking only five to seven for discussion. Twenty questions would certainly be a lot of material to discuss! For the bible study, each participant could have a copy to follow along. Second, sermon preparation. Asking questions of the text can be very helpful for understanding the flow and point of a passage of scripture. Third, personal bible study. Again, you can gain valuable insights by asking questions of the text.

My hope for these bible study questions is that they would encourage and facilitate Christians' gathering together to study God's word. One day, as Habakkuk 2:14 says, *"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* Critical to this prophecy in Habakkuk is our *knowing* about the Glory of God, and this is best achieved through the study of the bible. So let's do our part!

I challenge you, reader, to ask some friends, colleagues, classmates, or fellow church members to join you for a bible study. Ask God to open your eyes to understand the scripture (Psalm 119:18), and step out in faith to spread the knowledge of the Glory of God. May this book enrich your study of God's living and active word (Hebrews 4:12), and may the Lord Jesus Christ bless your bible studies!

Peter commands Christians to live their lives maximally to the glory of God in holiness and fruitfulness.

Summary of 1 Peter

1 Peter is a letter penned by the Apostle Peter to suffering Christians dispersed throughout the regions of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. In the midst of great suffering, Peter wants them to know that their inheritance is safe in heaven. They must suffer well for the name of Christ, because following Jesus Christ involves imitating his pattern of suffering in this world.

In light of suffering, Peter reminds his readers of the great salvation that has been accomplished on their behalf, as well as the call to holiness. The community of Christians consists of a new race, a “Royal Priesthood,” set apart for service to the Lord, and we must be holy because our heavenly Father is holy.

The ethical implications of this call to holiness are vast. Christians must submit joyfully to God-ordained authority and live openly hope-filled lives, ready to give a defense for Christian hope. Even still, trials will continue to come, unbelievers will revile and mock Christians for so they reviled and mocked Jesus Christ the son of God.

Finally, Peter encourages the church leaders to be faithful shepherds of their congregations. The devil is always prowling around like a lion seeking to devour Christians, therefore they must always be firm in the faith, knowing that Christians all over the world are suffering for Christ. In the end, God will bring his kingdom, and Christ will restore all things!

Summary of 2 Peter

Peter’s second letter, written by the aged Apostle in light of his approaching death, reminds his readers of their calling and election, and the need to mature and “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” As Peter knows his time of leadership is nearing its end, he reminds the readers of both his genuine eyewitness testimony, as well as the rock-solid prophetic scriptures that testify to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christians must remain vigilant, as there is imminent danger from false teachers who are creeping into the churches. Peter reminds the Christians of God’s prior record of punishing the wicked and saving the righteous, and reminds them that God will do the same to current evildoers. Though they will enslave many unsteady souls through their false teaching, the sensuality and moral licentiousness advocated by these false teachers will not go unpunished.

Finally, the impending return of Christ and judgment day (the day of the Lord) will come soon. Though many mock the notion because of the regular turn of days, weeks, months, and years, Christ will fulfill his promise and return to judge the world, which will then be destroyed with fire. Nevertheless, Christians, who are awaiting a new heaven and a new earth, are to be faithful servants on the earth, waiting for the return of Christ, and faithfully sharing the good news of the gospel to hasten that glorious day.

CHRIST A PREDICTED, POWERFUL, PURIFYING, AND PRECIOUS SAVIOR 1 PETER 1:1-12

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does this passage magnify the perfections of Jesus Christ?
2. How does it reveal the power of the written word of God?
3. What do you learn about the value of your salvation?
4. How does this chapter help Christians to suffer well in this world?
5. How would meditating on 1 Peter 1 help us to be filled with hope? How would it also fill us with love for other Christians?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

GREETING FROM THE APOSTLE PETER TO GOD'S ELECT EXILES (VV. 1-2)

1. How is it helpful to meditate on Peter's calling Christians "elect"? (1)
2. Why is it vital for us to meditate on our status as "aliens" or "exiles"? Is it tempting for us to feel too comfortable and "at home" in this world? How does this relate to Hebrews 11:13-16? (1)
3. How are God's elect "dispersed" throughout the world? See also John 11:52, Matthew 12:30. (1)
4. What does verse 2 teach us about the role of the Trinity in our salvation? What does it teach us about God's sovereignty in human salvation? (2)
5. What is the relationship between us being "sprinkled with His blood" and our being sanctified by the Spirit? (2)

HOPE IN CHRIST'S RESURRECTION DESPITE PURIFYING TRIALS (VV. 3-9)

6. The epistle begins with a word of praise to the God and Father of Jesus. What does this teach us about the role worship should play in our lives? (3)
7. What specifically does Peter focus on as a good reason for praise in verse 3? (3)
8. What is the relationship between the resurrection of Jesus Christ and sinners being "born again to a living hope"? Who caused this new birth? (3)
9. What is the inheritance that can never perish, be defiled, or fade? How should knowledge of this inheritance influence your daily attitude and disposition? (4)
10. How are both we and our inheritance protected by the sovereign power of God? (5)
11. What is the salvation that will be revealed yet in the future? How does this verse on the future aspect of our salvation connect with Romans 5:9? (5)
12. Peter uses the phrase, "guarded through faith." What does this mean? (5)

13. What painful topic does Peter address in verses 6-9? How do these verses relate to James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5? (6-9)
14. What is the specific purpose of these various fiery trials? (7)
15. What does verse 7 teach you about the value of your faith in Christ? (7)
16. What does verse 8 teach us about our relationship with the invisible Christ? How does verse 8 relate to John 20:29? (8)
17. What is the nature of the joy we have in Christ? (8)
18. What is the cause of this amazing joy in the midst of suffering? (9)
19. How does verse 9 reveal our salvation to be an ongoing process? (9)

GOSPEL PREDICTED CLEARLY BY THE PROPHETS (VV. 10-12)

20. What do verses 10-12 focus on? (10-12)
21. What do these verses teach us about Old Testament prophets, and the scriptures they wrote? (10-12)
22. What does verse 11 tell us that the OT prophets were searching so intently for? Why do you think they were so interested in the prophecies they themselves were speaking and writing? (11)
23. What does verse 11 teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in the writing of these prophecies? (11)
24. What are the “sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories”? (11)
25. What does verse 12 teach us about the limitations of the understanding OT prophets had about their own prophecies? How is Daniel 12:4 and 12:8-9 a pretty clear example of what Peter was writing about? (12)
26. What does the Holy Spirit now do for us? (12)
27. What does it mean that angels long to look into these things? How is Daniel 12:6 an example of this? (12)

III. SUMMARY:

The Apostle Peter writes to suffering Christians, reminding them that their suffering is essential to their final salvation. Their inheritance is safe and kept in heaven by God, and they are safe and are guarded by God through faith while on the earth. Though they have not seen Jesus Christ with their eyes, they love him in their hearts.

YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY

1 PETER 1:13-25

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this section teach about the need for holiness in the Christian life?
2. What is the connection between the holiness of God and our conduct?
3. How does this chapter help Christians to suffer well in this world?
4. What does the end of this chapter teach you about the word of God?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

BE HOLY BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY! (VV. 13-17)

1. What does it mean to “prepare your mind for action”? Why would Christians need to prepare their minds for things? How can you do this? (13)
2. What commands does Peter give to believers in verse 13? How do these commands prepare us for an active life of holiness? What role does the mind play in that life? (13)
3. What passions (lusts) were part of our former lives? How are we now not to be conformed to those lusts and passions? (14)
4. What vital command does Peter give in verses 15-16? Why is this command central to the Christian life? How is this the “Internal Journey”? (15-16)
5. How do verses 15-16 relate to Hebrews 12:14? (15-16)
6. What does verse 17 call on us to do? What does it mean to live in fear? How does it relate Philippians 2:12? (17)
7. How do you reconcile the command to “conduct yourselves with fear” in verse 17 with Romans 8:15 which says “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of adoption”? What are the two different types of fear referenced in these verses?

CHRIST A PRECIOUS LAMB SACRIFICED FOR US (VV. 18-21)

8. What do these verses teach us about Jesus Christ? (18-21)
9. What has Christ redeemed or ransomed us from in verse 18? (18)
10. What was “futile” about the ways inherited from our forefathers?

11. How is Christ's blood "precious"? How is it the most "precious" substance there has ever been on earth? What can Christ's blood accomplish that nothing else in the universe can? (19)
12. Verse 20 says that Christ was foreknown (chosen) before the creation of the world. We usually think of God's election being of us to believe in Christ. What does verse 20 teach you about God's eternal salvation plan? (20)
13. What does verse 21 teach you about the origin of your faith? (21)

PURIFIED BY OBEYING THE LIVING WORD OF GOD (VV. 22-25)

14. What does verse 22 teach you about the relationship between obedience and purification? (22)
15. How does our faith result in a sincere love for other Christians? What does it teach you that we do love and yet are commanded to love more? See 1 Thessalonians 4:10. (22)
16. Peter links our love for other Christians to our being born again. What is that link? (23)
17. How is the word of God an "imperishable seed"? (23)
18. What do verses 24-25 teach us about the Word of God? What do they teach about us (all flesh)? How should these verses put your life in the proper perspective? (24-25)

III. SUMMARY:

The Apostle Peter writes to suffering Christians, reminding them that their suffering is essential to their final salvation, and that they should be holy and loving to other Christians while waiting for that final salvation. He also depicts in powerful terms the perfection of both Jesus Christ and the Scriptures which testify to Him.

A HOLY PRIESTHOOD OFFERING SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

1 PETER 2:1-12

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this chapter teach us about the role of the Word of God in a healthy Christian life?
2. What does this chapter teach about those who reject Christ?
3. What is the significance of the idea that Christians are to be a “holy priesthood” before God? How should this idea shape the way we live?
4. Why is it so vital for Christians to abstain from lusts and live a holy life in this world?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

CRAVING THE PURE MILK OF THE WORD (VV. 1-3)

1. What does Peter command Christians to put away? Why is this so vital for our spiritual health? What are the dangers of living in such sins? (1)
2. How do newborn babies crave milk? How should that be a picture of Christians craving the Word of God? How does the Word provide nourishment? (2)
3. What is the reason why Christians should crave the milk of the Word? What does Peter say it will do for us? (2)
4. See Psalm 34:8. How can we “taste and see that the Lord is good”? (3)

THE LIVING STONE AND A HOLY PRIESTHOOD (VV. 4-12)

5. How is Jesus the “living Stone”? See Psalm 118:22, Matthew 21:42, 44. (4)
6. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus was “rejected by men” but in God’s sight “chosen and precious”? (4)
7. How are Christians also “living stones”? What is being built? (5)
8. What image does Peter give of the Christian church in verse 5? What does it teach you about Christians and their relationship to the church? What does it teach you about the purpose of the church? See also Ephesians 2:19-22. (5)
9. What is a “spiritual house”? A “holy priesthood”? How does this shed light on the Christian life? What kinds of “spiritual sacrifices” do Christians offer to God? How are they acceptable to God? (5)
10. What does verse 6 teach about Jesus Christ? What descriptions are given? (6)
11. What promise is given to all who trust in Christ? What does it mean that they will not be put to shame? (6)

12. What further insight does Peter give us in 7-8? Who does 7-8 focus on? How do these verses shed insight into the Jew's rejection of Christ? (7-8)
13. How does Peter contrast Jesus as "chosen" with the rejection by "the builders"? Who are the "builders"? See Matthew 21:42, 45; and Acts 4:11. (7)
14. How does Peter extend the "builders" to include all unbelievers? (7-8)
15. How is Jesus the "cornerstone"? How is Jesus "The stone that the builders rejected" and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"? Explain these titles. (6-7)
16. What reason does Peter give for their stumbling? What does verse 8 teach about God's sovereignty over people who disobey the message? What does it mean that these people were destined to disobey the gospel? (8)
17. How does Peter's assertion that people were destined to disobey the message relate to human responsibility? How does it relate to what many people call "free will"? How would you connect this doctrine to Paul's similar teaching in Romans 9:13, 15, 16, 18, 22-24? Why do so many people struggle with the idea that people are destined to disobey the message of the gospel? (8)
18. How does verse 9 stand as a direct contrast to verse 8? (9)
19. What four things does Peter call believers? What does it mean to be a "chosen race" and a "royal priesthood"? How does it relate to Exodus 19:5-6? Note how remarkable it is that Peter calls Gentile believers by these seemingly Jewish names! (9)
20. How should it affect Christians to be called a "holy nation"? How does it relate to Philippians 3:20, "our citizenship is in heaven"? (9)
21. How are Christians God's own treasured possession? See Deuteronomy 7:6. (9)
22. What is the purpose clause of verse 9? How should it affect our speech? (9)
23. How does verse 10 reveal the greatness of God's mercy to us in Christ? How does it relate to Romans 9:25? (10)
24. In what way does thinking like "sojourners and exiles" help us to be holy in this world? How do fleshly lusts wage war against our souls? How do we "abstain" from them? (11)
25. How is our personal holiness a key part of our mission to unbelievers? (12)

III. SUMMARY:

Peter calls on we who have come to Christ by faith to realize who we are in God's household (a chosen race and royal priesthood, etc.) and to offer daily sacrifices of praise and worship, coupled with a complete commitment to personal holiness so that we can lead pagans to faith in Christ.

SUBMISSION TO AUTHORITY

1 PETER 2:13-25

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why is glad submission to God-ordained authorities so essential to the Christian life?
2. Why does the principle of submission hold even when an authority is unjust?
3. How is Christ's submission in the face of unjust suffering an example for us?

II. VERSE BY VERSE:

1. Is there a connection between verse 12 and verse 13? What is it? (12-13)
2. What is Christian "subject" to? To what authorities does Peter command submission for Christians? (13-14)
3. Why does God delegate authority to sinful human beings? What are the possible problems with this?
4. What motive does Peter give for submission in verse 13? How does this help us understand Peter's main message here, namely that we should submit whether the authority is godly or not? (13)
5. How is the example of delegated authority highlighted in verse 14? Why does the king "send" the governor? (14)
6. Both 1 Peter 2:14 and Romans 13:3 speak of the ruler "commending" those who do right. How does government "commend" or "praise" right behavior? Does this happen in America? (14)
7. Both Romans 13:4 and 1 Peter 2:14 also speak of the ruler's "punishment" of the evil-doers. How does government "punish" evil-doers? Do Peter and Paul think this is right for government to do? (14)
8. What is Peter's motive for Christian submission in verse 15? How has this worked in church history? (15)
9. The beginning of the struggle between Christ and Caesar occurred when Pontius Pilate asked Jesus about the nature of His kingship in John 18:33-36. Why did Rome fear the rise of powerful local kings? How does Peter's command in verse 15 mesh with Christ's assessment of the advance of His own kingdom in the face of Roman power? (15)
10. How does good behavior by Christians "put to silence the ignorance of foolish people"? (15)
11. Americans always talk much about our freedoms. It is part of our national heritage. Patrick Henry said "Give me liberty or give me death." Is there a limit to Christian liberty? If so, how would you characterize that limit? What

- problems occur in the Christian life when we consider our personal liberty as unlimited and as the highest virtue? (16)
12. What is the nature of Christian freedom? How does John 8:31-36 help us understand it? How could Christian liberty be used as a guise or “cover-up” for evil? (16)
 13. How does the string of commands in verse 17 help explain the Christian’s responsibility to authorities in this world? Is the emperor’s authority over a Christian absolute? How does Peter’s statement “We must obey God rather than men” fit in with his commands here? See Acts 5:29 and Acts 4:19. (17)
 14. The issue of slavery is a painful one for modern Christians, given the excesses of certain people who claimed to be Christians in past history. Can these verses be used to uphold the institution of slavery as 18th-19th century Americans understood it? Why/why not? (18)
 15. What does Peter command of slaves in verse 18? Does it surprise you that Peter commands submission to even to an unjust master? What does this teach you about Biblical submission? Is there a limit to this? (18)
 16. What reasoning does Peter give as a basis for verse 18? (19-20)
 17. How is Christ an example of submission under unjust suffering in verse 21-23? What is the significance of the phrase “to this you were called”? (21-23)
 18. How important is Christ’s example in the daily Christian life? (21)
 19. How does Christ’s sinlessness make Him a perfect example of unjust suffering? (22)
 20. What does Peter say Christ did or did not do in response to unjust suffering? What does it mean to “entrust yourself the one who judges justly” in times of unjust suffering? (23)
 21. How is verse 24 a wonderful one-verse summary of the gospel? How does it function in Peter’s argument in this section?
 22. How does Christ’s healing us of our sin and wandering enable us to obey Peter’s difficult commands in this section? How is Jesus the “Shepherd and Overseer of our souls”? Is there a connection here to Isaiah 53:6-7? (24-25)

III. SUMMARY:

Peter urges Christians to submit to God-ordained authorities, even if it results in unjust suffering. The highest authority is God, but God instituted all authorities and God’s Kingdom advances when Christians refuse to retaliate but rather humbly submit and suffer. Peter uses Christ as a perfect example of submission, for He entrusted Himself to the just Judge. In the same way, suffering Christians should commit themselves to the “Shepherd and overseer” of their souls.

WIVES AND HUSBANDS

1 PETER 3:1-7

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How is this section on Godly submission in the marriage relationship related to the previous passage?
2. What is the significance of Peter focusing on the “hidden person of the heart”?
3. How is Peter’s instruction to husbands a very sobering warning?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

TO THE WIVES (vv. 1-6)

1. What does Peter command the wives to do in verse 1? What does it mean to be “subject” to someone? What is the significance of the word “own”? (1)
2. Peter says, “even if some do not obey the word...” Why could it be incredibly difficult for a God-fearing wife to submit to an ungodly husband? (1)
3. What reason does Peter give for the godly submission in verse 1? How could an unbelieving husband be won over to the faith by the conduct of his wife? Do you live like this? How does this exhortation challenge you? (1)
4. How does verse 2 shed light on the kind of conduct Peter has in mind? (2)
5. What do you think “respectful and pure conduct” is? (2)
6. What two ways of “adorning” are contrasted in verses 3-4? What is the danger of focusing on “adorning” yourself? Do you think Peter is saying that we cannot dress nicely? What is the core issue here? (3-4)
7. How does Peter say the adorning should be done? Why is it so important to see that the “hidden person of the heart” is properly adorned? (4)
8. Do you think the words “gentle and quiet spirit” are speaking of outward “personality qualities” or an inward disposition of the heart? Why is this heart stance “very precious” in God’s sight? (4)
9. How was Sarah an example of Godly submission? Do you think it was always easy to follow Abraham? See Genesis 12:10-20 and Genesis 20. (5)
10. How do you reconcile this statement in verses 5-6 about Sarah and her actions in Genesis 16? How is it encouraging to you to see statements like 1 Peter 3:5-6 and Hebrews 11:11 spoken over Sarah’s life? (5-6)
11. What is the significance of being a child of Sarah? Hint: it is the same as being a child of Abraham! See Galatians 3:7-9 and Galatians 4:21-31. (6)

TO THE HUSBANDS (vv. 7)

12. Why do you think Peter commands husbands to live with their wives in an “understanding” way? (7)
13. Why is it important for a husband to honor his wife? How does this verse combat the idea that the biblical writers were chauvinistic oppressors of women? (7)
14. In what ways is the wife the “weaker vessel” in the marriage relationship? How does the fact that husbands and wives are co-heirs with Christ influence how a husband should care for his wife? (7)
15. What do you make of the phrase, “so that your prayers may not be hindered”? How is this incredibly sobering for men? (7)
16. How could you use the end of verse 7 to warn a husband who treats his wife with contempt? (7)

III. SUMMARY:

Peter urges Christian wives to demonstrate a Godly submission to their husbands, regardless of whether the husband is a believer, for this may be the very means with which God brings them to faith in Christ. Likewise, Peter instructs the husbands to honor their wives and understand them, or else God will turn a deaf ear to their prayers.

A GOOD LIFE LEADS TO EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES

1 PETER 3:8-17

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. A main theme in these verses is the need for Christians to “do good” before a watching world. How is our behavior linked to our fruitfulness as evangelists?
2. These verses speak of the need for suffering Christians to not repay evil for evil. Why is this so hard to do, but yet so vital to our fruitfulness in this world?
3. Verse 15 is one of the most important verses on evangelism and apologetics. How does this verse teach us to prepare for evangelism?
4. According to this passage, what causes an unbeliever to come ask questions about your faith? Based on verse 15, how can we live so that more people will come and ask us about Christ?
5. What is a biblical definition of hope? How can we live out our hope openly in front of hopeless people? Why is this so powerful in evangelism?
6. What are some ways this passage challenges you to be a more prepared and fruitful witness for Christ?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What does verse 8 teach about a healthy local church? How is a harmonious and loving local church a powerfully effective weapon in the Lord’s hands for evangelism? (8)
2. What does it mean for Christians to have “unity of mind”? What is the opposite? How does Christian harmony picture the unity of the Trinity? (8)
3. Peter also commands for Christians to have “sympathy.” This is also called being “compassionate.” How is this an important part of Christian unity? How is it starkly different from the non-Christian world? (8)
4. Verse 8 ends with three commands having to do with humble Christian love. How are these a powerful display of the gospel in a lost world? (8)
5. What does verse 9 forbid Christians from doing? Why are human beings so zealous for revenge if they have been wronged? Why is it essential for Christians to forsake taking revenge, or repaying evil for evil? How does verse 9 relate to Romans 12:18-21? (9)
6. What “blessing” does Peter have in mind in verse 9? (9)
7. What promise does the Lord make in verses 10-12? How is that promise a conditional one? What conditions must we meet in order to be blessed by the Lord according to these verses? (10-12)

8. What forms of speech does Peter (Psalm 34) focus on? How would persecuted Christians be tempted to speak evil? (10)
9. What does it mean to “seek peace and pursue it?” (11)
10. What does 12 teach us about God? What does it teach about prayer? (12)
11. Verse 13 seems to imply that Christians who are eager to do good will never be harmed by anyone. Does Peter really mean this? Since he has already given us the example of Christ who suffered unjust torture and death in 1 Peter 2:21-23, what do you think is Peter’s point in verse 13? (13)
12. Based on verse 14, how can Christians live lives free from fear even in an evil world? How does Matthew 10:28 relate to this? (14)
13. What does verse 15 command us to do with Christ? How do we “honor Christ the Lord as holy”? (15)
14. Verse 15 has traditionally been a central verse on the issue of apologetics—making a defense for Christianity. Why is this? (15)
15. How can Christians be prepared in advance to give an answer to people who ask for reasons for our faith? (15)
16. What specifically does Peter say that people will come and ask us to give a reason for in verse 15? What is our hope? How would you define “hope”? What is the difference between Christian hope and worldly hope?
17. How can a Christian live openly in hope in a way that is very attractive to a world of people “having no hope and without God” (Ephesians 2)?
18. How does Peter say we should give a reason for our hope? Why is it crucial for us to do this with gentleness and respect for the other person? (15)
19. Why is it vital for Christians to live lives that result in a good conscience? How will our good lives cause our attackers to be put to shame in their malicious speech against us? (16)
20. What point does verse 17 make? How is it consistent with Peter’s whole approach to Christians in persecution: “do good”? How does verse 17 relate to 1 Peter 2:20? (17)

III. SUMMARY:

This passage seems to be unified around the theme of Christians who are in a persecuting circumstance continually doing good, living high quality lives (including in fellowship with each other), keeping a clear conscience, and living openly in joyful hope so that unbelievers will ask us to give a reason for the radical difference they see in the way we live. Peter seeks to shut Christians off from bitter vengeance because only good can overcome evil.

CHRIST DIED TO BRING YOU TO GOD

1 PETER 3:18-22

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. In his second epistle, the Apostle Peter said that Paul's letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which people distort (2 Peter 3:16). How does this passage contain some things that are hard to understand? How could these verses be distorted?
2. How does verse 18 help you to understand the work of Jesus Christ on the cross?
3. What sense can you make of verses 19-20? Do you think this passage teaches that Christ descended to hell after his death?
4. What does this passage teach you about water baptism? How would it be easy to misunderstand baptism based on this passage?
5. How does this passage encourage you about the greatness of the person and work of Jesus Christ?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the connection between verse 17 and verse 18? Note that verse 18 begins with the word "for" meaning Peter feels there is a logical connection between them. (17-18)
2. The overall theme of 1 Peter seems to be comfort for persecuted and suffering Christians, and the need for persecuted Christians to do good to those who are doing evil against them. How does verse 18 help support that point? (18)
3. How does verse 18 teach substitutionary atonement? How is this teaching similar to 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Isaiah 53?
4. What does it mean that Christ died that he "might bring us to God?" In what ways were we separated from God? How has this gap been bridged? (18)
5. What does it mean, "being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit"? Should the word "spirit" be capitalized? What is the significance if it is read "spirit" vs "Spirit"? (18)
6. What is the connection between verses 18 and 19? Verse 19 begins with "in which..." What does this refer to? (18-19)
7. What action does Christ carry out in verse 19? To whom does he make this proclamation? (19)

8. What does verse 20 teach us about the spirits to whom Jesus preached? What are various options for explaining those to whom Christ preached? (20)
9. How could 1 Peter 1:11-12 and 2 Peter 2:5 help us understand 1 Peter 3:18-20?
10. Some Christian confessions teach a “descent to hell.” How would you connect this text to that doctrine? Does this passage actually teach a descent to hell? (18-20)
11. What does verse 20 teach us about the patience of God? Compare with Romans 9:22? (20)
12. What does verse 20 teach us about the flood of Noah? (20)
13. How does the water of Noah’s flood “correspond” to the water of baptism? How is the salvation of Noah’s family in the midst of God’s judgement an incredible picture of salvation? (20-21)
14. How does baptism now save us? How does baptism not save us? How do we understand that assertion? (21)
15. What is the connection between true water baptism and a good conscience toward God? How does it relate to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead? (21)
16. What does verse 22 teach us about Christ? How does it relate to Ephesians 1:20-22?

III. SUMMARY:

This is a difficult passage of Scripture, with many fascinating details of interpretation. But at its core, it focuses on the awesome work of Christ in dying and rising again from the dead and ascending to the right hand of God. This doctrine greatly encourages suffering Christians to continue to do good to those who persecute them.

LIVING FOR GOD AS THE END OF ALL THINGS DRAWS NEAR
1 PETER 4:1-11

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What practical insights does this section of 1 Peter give you for the best way to live the Christian life?
2. This passage breaks into two main sections: 1-6, living a holy life free from lusts; 7-11, living a fruitful life, empowered by God. How do holiness and fruitfulness together aptly describe the best possible Christian life?
3. According to this section, how does the cross of Christ enable us to live maximally fruitful and holy lives for God?
4. How does a vigorous and healthy awareness of the “end of all things” help to motivate us to be holy and fruitful in the Christian life?
5. What are some of the greatest hindrances to Christians using their spiritual gifts? How could this section of 1 Peter help us overcome those hindrances?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

LIVING A HOLY LIFE, NOT ENSLAVED TO LUST BUT SERVING GOD (VV. 1-6)

1. How do verses 1-2 link Christ’s suffering in the flesh with our personal holiness? How would you relate these verses to Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:1-4, 6-7, 11? (1-2)
2. How does thinking of ourselves as having died with Christ help us to resist temptations?
3. Peter says we should “arm” ourselves with a certain mindset, attitude, or “way of thinking.” The language is military, as though we are equipping ourselves for a battle. How is the struggle to resist temptation like a battle? (1-2)
4. What two ways of living are contrasted in verse 2? How does this “teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom”? See Psalm 90:12. (2)
5. How does verse 3 help motivate us toward holiness? (3)
6. How does verse 3 show the destructive ways that pagans choose to live? (3)
7. What does verse 4 teach about how non-Christians view us? How could it be said based on verse 4 that Christians and non-Christians agree: we each think the other is crazy to live like they do! Why do non-Christians slander and heap verbal abuse on Christians for not participating in the immorality? (4)
8. How should verse 5 stand as a warning to the unregenerate (as well as to Christians)? How does the impending Judgment Day stand over all immoral feasts and debauched parties? (5)

9. Verse 6 is a very difficult verse. How would you understand it? Who does it say the gospel was preached to? What was the effect of that preaching? How does it fit into the train of thought in these verses? (6)

One possible interpretation of this verse is that Peter is speaking of how the gospel saved Christians who are now dead, perhaps even those who died as martyrs—judged by human courts as wicked people, but accepted by God into heavenly realms. Thus pagans judge us harshly in this world, but God will welcome us (through the gospel) into the next world in glory. (6)

LIVING A FRUITFUL LIFE, EMPOWERED BY GOD (VV. 7-11)

10. What does Peter mean by “the end of all things is at hand”? What is he referring to? How does the imminent end of the world motivate us both toward holiness and fruitfulness? (7)
11. What application does Peter make to the imminent end of all things in verse 7? What does it mean to be sober-minded and self-controlled for the sake of your prayers? How does failing to be sober-minded and self-controlled hinder our prayer lives? How does being vigorously aware of the end of all things empower our prayer lives? (7)
12. What does verse 8 command us to do as Christians? What does he mean that “love covers a multitude of sins”? How is “covering up sin” related to forgiveness? See Psalm 32:1-2. (8)
13. What is the significance of the word “multitude” in verse 8? (8)
14. What does verse 9 teach us about the challenges of offering hospitality to people? How are those challenges still every bit as much operating now in our age as they were in Peter’s? (9)
15. Why is it damaging to grumble while offering hospitality to people? How does the statement, “God loves a cheerful giver” help us in this ministry? (9)
16. Why is hospitality vital to healthy church life? How is it especially vital in “way of life” discipleship, such as Philippians 3:17? (9)
17. What does verse 10 teach us about spiritual gifts? How are spiritual gift ministries vital to a healthy church? (10)
18. How does verse 11 explain spiritual gifts in two main categories? How does Peter relate the two patterns of spiritual gift ministries to God? (11)
19. According to verse 11, what is the ultimate goal of all spiritual gifts? (11)

III. SUMMARY:

Peter commands Christians to live their lives maximally to the glory of God in holiness and fruitfulness.

THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTIAN SUFFERING

1 PETER 4:12-19

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. How does being prepared for a life of suffering as a Christian help us endure it better?
2. What are the blessings of suffering that Peter lists in this section of his epistle?
3. What role does Christian suffering play in both the external journey of evangelism/missions and the internal journey of sanctification? Why is suffering in both of these journeys inevitable?
4. What would you say to a “health/wealth” Christian who says that it is never God’s will for any Christian to suffer? How would you use some of the verses in this section of 1 Peter to refute such a claim?
5. Given that Christians in other parts of the world suffer so much more than we in the United States do, how shall we understand the proper place of suffering in the Christian life? How could we get ready for future suffering? Should we assume that lack of suffering means we are not really being bold in standing up for Christ?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. Why does Peter urge his readers not to be surprised at the trial they are suffering? Why would it be wrong for Christians to be surprised at suffering? How is it helpful to be mentally and spiritually prepared in advance for suffering? (12)
2. Peter calls it the “fiery trial” they are suffering. How is a trial like fire in the Christian life? How do the following verses help us understand how a “fiery trial” can do us good? See 1 Peter 1:6-7, Isaiah 43:2, Numbers 31:22-23. (12)
3. Why would we think of suffering as a Christian to be a “strange” thing? What would that reveal about our wrong view of life in this world? (12)
4. Instead of being surprised, what should be the proper reaction of a Christian to suffering according to verse 13? How does this relate to Christ’s teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, especially in Matthew 5:11-12? (13)
5. What does it mean to “share in Christ’s sufferings”? What doesn’t it mean? How does it relate to Paul’s assertion in Colossians 1:24? (13)
6. Why would we be able to “rejoice and be glad when Christ’s glory is revealed” if we have suffered greatly? (13)
7. Why is it helpful for us to see that even being insulted for the name of Christ is rewardable? What blessing does Peter promise in verse 14? What does it mean that the Spirit of glory and God rests on a person? Why would that happen

- especially in times of enduring suffering for the name of Christ? See Stephen in Acts 6:15 and Acts 7:55-56. (14)
8. What caution does Peter give in verse 15? Why should we not assume that all suffering in the Christian life is specifically because we are Christians? Is it possible for someone to be really bold in evangelism, but suffering not because of his boldness but because of his rudeness? (15)
 9. How would suffering as a “Christian” tempt us to be ashamed of the name of Christ? How does Mark 8:38 address that? (16)
 10. How can we “glorify God in that name” when enduring suffering? How does this display the sovereignty of God in bringing glory to himself? (16)
 11. What amazing assertion does verse 17 make about the judgment of God? What does it mean for judgment to begin with us? How does suffering fit into that? (17)
 12. What question does Peter make in verse 17? How would he answer that question? (17)
 13. What is the significance of the fact that Peter uses the verb “obey” in connection with the gospel of God? How is the gospel something to be obeyed? (17)
 14. What does “if the righteous is scarcely saved” mean? How does that assertion relate to the Christian life? Why should we not assume that it is easy to be saved? (18)
 15. How does verse 19 teach us that suffering is definitely part of God’s will for our lives? (19)
 16. What clear command does Peter give Christians in suffering? How does it relate to 1 Peter 2:23? (19)
 17. How do you feel God is using this section of 1 Peter in your life?

III. SUMMARY:

Peter prepares Christians for a life of suffering for the glory of God. He yearns for us to expect suffering and to rejoice in the midst of it, because it achieves God’s glory in our own growth and in the spread of the gospel. He warns us to be sure that we are not suffering for wrong reasons.

HEALTHY CHURCH LIFE IN A WORLD OF SUFFERING

1 PETER 5:1-14

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What do Peter's instructions to elders teach you about healthy church life?
2. What does this chapter teach us about suffering in the Christian life?
3. How does an attitude of humility under God's mighty hand help Christians to endure suffering well?
4. What insights do we learn here about the devil's actions toward Christians? Why is it important for us to be aware what the devil is seeking to do?
5. How do you understand the relationship between God's grace and our need to "stand fast" in that grace? See verses 10 and 12.

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

THE ROLE OF ELDERS IN HEALTHY CHURCH LIFE (VV. 1-4)

1. Who are "elders" in the life of a church? (1)
2. How does Peter describe himself in verse 1? What do you find noteworthy about that description? (1)
3. What exhortations does Peter make to the elders? (2)
4. What do you think it means to act as a shepherd for God's flock? How would you relate this to John 21:15-17 and Acts 20:28? (2)
5. What does the image of God's people as sheep teach you? (2)
6. What attitudes/motivations does Peter seek to weed out from elders? (2-3)
7. Why is it important for elders to shepherd the flock eagerly and not "under compulsion"? (2)
8. Why is it so damaging for elders to be in it for the money? (2)
9. What does "domineer" the flock mean? Why is this a danger to the health of the church? How does plurality of elders help minimize this threat? (3)
10. Why is it so vital for elders to be role models for the flock? (3)
11. Who is the "Chief Shepherd"? What reward is promised faithful elders? (4)

HUMBLE YOURSELVES UNDER GOD'S MIGHTY HAND (VV. 5-7)

12. What does Peter command young men? Why is glad submission to the authority of elders so vital to the health of a church? (5)
13. What is humility? Why is pride such a poison in the Christian life?

14. What does the image of “clothe yourselves with humility” teach you? How do we “put on” a virtue like humility as though it were clothing? (5)
15. What does verse 5 teach you about God’s hatred of pride and love of humility? How could we show that much of the gospel’s work in the human heart is to humble us? (5)
16. Talk about how scary it is to have Almighty God opposing you. (5)
17. What does it teach that God “gives grace” to the humble? Since grace is always given to sinners, despite their sinfulness, what does it show you that humble people get grace? (5)
18. What does it mean practically to humble yourself under God’s hand? (6)
19. What does it mean that God will lift us up? What about “at the proper time”? Who determines the “proper time”? (6)
20. How do we obey the command in verse 7? Why is this difficult? What role does prayer play in that? How does verse 7 relate to Philippians 4:6-7? (7)

VIGILANTLY RESISTING THE DEVIL (VV. 8-11)

21. Why should we be constantly vigilant in resisting the devil? How does Peter describe the devil in this passage? (8)
22. How does self-control fit into our watchfulness in reference to the devil? Why is it much harder to fight the devil if we have sinned in some way? (8)
23. How do we resist the devil? What does it mean to do this resistance “firm in your faith”? How does it relate to Ephesians 6:10-18? (9)
24. How does it help us to know that our brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of sufferings? (9)
25. What does verse 10 teach you about how God limits the devil’s access to us? Why does God only allow Satan to tempt us for “a little while”? (10)
26. What does God promise to do after we have suffered for a little while? (10)
27. What does verse 11 ascribe to God? (11)

STANDING FAST IN GRACE (VV. 12-14)

28. What does verse 12 teach you about how and why Peter wrote this letter? What does it mean to “stand firm” in grace? See also verses 9-10. (12)
29. What do you make of the word “Babylon” in verse 13? (13)

III. SUMMARY:

Peter concludes his letter with some commands to the church—its elders and church members—that will best serve them through this age of suffering in which we seek to follow Christ.

MAKING YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE

2 PETER 1:1-11

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this section of 2 Peter teach you about the Christian life?
2. What does this teach about the relationship between God's grace and our effort in Christian growth?
3. What do you think it means to "confirm your calling and election?" Why is it vital for our fruitfulness as Christians?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does Peter identify himself in verse 1? (1)
2. Who does he say he is writing to? How would you connect the righteousness of God to our receiving faith as a gift? (1)
3. What does Peter mean when he says that his readers have received a faith "of equal standing with ours? How would this be encouraging to hear? (1)
4. What does Peter mean by "grace and peace be multiplied to you"? How does the "knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord" relate to this? See also the conclusion of this letter, 2 Peter 3:18. (2)
5. What is the significance of Peter's statement "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness..."? Since verse 4 mentions God's "precious and very great promises," how is verse 3 a strong verse supporting the doctrine of the sufficiency of scripture? The Westminster Confession of Faith says, "The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from scripture..." How does 2 Peter 1:3-4 help teach this? (3-4)
6. How would you define "life and godliness"? How does God's power give us everything we need for these two things in particular? How does our knowledge of God relate to these? (3)
7. What do you think it means that God has called us to his own glory and excellence? (3)
8. What is the significance of the phrase "his precious and very great promises"? Why are the promises of God so vital to our salvation? (4)
9. How do God's promises enable us to be "partakers of the divine nature"? What does this phrase mean? Why is it also important to understand what this phrase does not mean? (4)

10. How do God's promises enable us to escape the corruption in the world that comes from evil desires? (4)
11. What is the connection between verses 4 and 5? (4-5)
12. What is the significance of the words "make every effort to supplement your faith..."? How does that relate to justification by faith alone apart from works of the law? What insights does this give us to the difference between justification and sanctification? How does effort play a role in the second, but not in the first? (5)
13. What do you make of the sequence: faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, love? Is there a discernable order to these? How do they relate to the fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5? (5)
14. What does this list of virtues teach us about Christian maturity? (5-7)
15. How do we "make every effort..."? What is the relationship between our effort and our growth in the virtues listed here? (5-7)
16. What does he say about the outcome of growth in the virtues listed here? (8)
17. Why does our level of these virtues have to be increasing consistently? Why would it be bad to see stagnation (plateau) in these? (8)
18. How does a consistent growth in these virtues keep us from being unfruitful in the Christian life? (8)
19. What does Peter say is true of someone who does not possess these virtues in increasing measure? Do you think Peter is talking about a Christian in verse 9? (9)
20. What does Peter mean by "confirm your calling and election"? How does this relate to 2 Corinthians 13:5? (10)
21. What is election? Can we know for sure that we have been elected by God for eternal life? (10)
22. How would consistent growth in the Christian life ensure that we will "never fail"? (10)
23. What other reward comes from this kind of growth to maturity? What is the "richly provided...entrance into the eternal kingdom" that Peter refers to? (11)

III. SUMMARY:

Peter urges his readers to grow into Christian maturity by consistent trust in the promises of God found in scripture.

THE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN WORD OF SCRIPTURE

2 PETER 1:12-21

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this passage teach about the nature and importance of Scripture?
2. Why is it important for teachers of the Word of God to remind their hearers of things they already know? What does this teach us about our hearts?
3. Peter saw Jesus' radiance and glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, but he says the word of prophecy (Scripture) is a more certain foundation for the Christian life. Why is this true? And what is the significance of this idea?
4. On the other hand, why is the testimony of eyewitnesses to Christ's life essential to the faith of all who followed, who have never seen Jesus?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

MEMORY (VV. 12-15)

1. Peter speaks of his commitment to remind his hearers continually in verses 12-15. What specifically is he referring to in verse 12? (12-15)
2. Why do you think we are so prone to forget true and helpful things from the Word of God?
3. How should a pastor balance reminding his hearers of foundational (milk) truths and teaching them new and harder truths (meat)? (12-15)
4. What does Peter mean when he says they are "established" in the truth? (12)
5. Peter says he thinks it right to "stir up" or "wake up" his hearers by way of reminder. How does being reminded of foundational truths act like a "wake up call" for Christians? Why do we tend to "go to sleep" in certain areas of the Christian life? How does the ministry of the Word remedy this? (13)
6. What gives Peter a sense of urgency in this ministry? Peter says the "putting off of his body" will be soon. How does John 21:18 relate to this? (13-14)
7. How does verse 15 show the godly commitment every pastor should have to teaching the Word of God consistently to the flock of Christ? (15)

EYEWITNESSES (VV. 16-18)

8. What role do eyewitness testimonies of events from the life of Christ play in the New Testament and the Christian church? See Luke 1:2 and 1 John 1:1-3. How do those passages speak of eyewitness testimony? (16)
9. What does Peter mean by "cleverly devised myths"? How are cults and non-Christian religions based on cleverly devised myths? Give examples. (16)
10. What does Peter mean by the "power and coming" of Jesus? (16)

11. What “majesty” does Peter speak of in 16? In what ways did Jesus reveal his majesty on earth? In what ways did he conceal his majesty? (16)
12. What is the significance of the statement made by the Father, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”? (17)
13. Why is the fact that he heard this voice with his own ears so important? (18)
14. How does the event Peter recalls in verses 16-18 help Peter’s readers in their Christian lives? (16-18)

SCRIPTURE (VV. 19-21)

15. What two forms of revelation are being compared in 16-18 and 19-21? What is the significance of the words “more fully confirmed” in verse 19? (16-21)
16. What does Peter urge his readers to do with the “prophetic word” in verse 19? How should we take this command to heart and act on it? (19)
17. Why does Peter focus on the “prophets” in their testimony to Jesus? Is he speaking of predictive prophecy? How does it relate to 1 Peter 1:10-12? (19)
18. What does Peter compare the word to in verse 19? How does that statement relate to Psalm 119:105? (19)
19. What does he mean by “until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts?” (19)
20. What important thing does Peter teach about the origin of Scripture in verses 20-21? Why is it vital for us to know this about Scripture? (20-21)
21. Why is it important that no prophecy of Scripture is from one’s own interpretation? Is this referring to the prophet himself or the reader of the prophecy? (20)
22. What the ultimate origin of Scripture? How would it change our understanding of Scripture if we learned that Scripture originated in the mind and creativity of humans alone, not from God? (20-21)
23. What does the fact that the human authors of Scripture were “carried along by the Holy Spirit” teach us about the nature of Scripture? How do we see Scripture as, like Jesus, fully human and fully divine? How do we get the doctrine of inerrancy from this verse? (21)

III. SUMMARY:

Peter commits himself to a ministry of constant reminder of basic doctrine in the hearts of his readers. This ministry is based on both the eyewitness accounts of Jesus and the greater certainty Scripture.

THE DANGER AND FINAL JUDGMENT OF FALSE TEACHERS

2 PETER 2:1-22

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. Why does Peter warn his readers so vigorously about false teachers? What does his warning reveal to us about the danger of false teachers today?
2. There are two destructive tendencies in false teaching: 1) legalism, which teaches that a strict adherence to a moral law is the basis of a right standing with God; 2) license, which teaches that moral behavior is irrelevant to our standing with God. Which of the two types of false teaching is in 2 Peter? Which of the two is the greater threat to the church in America today?
3. How does this display the terrifying zeal with which God will judge false teachers? How can meditating on this help us grow in our Christian lives?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

THE DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES AND SHAMEFUL WAYS OF THE FALSE TEACHERS (VV. 1-3)

1. How are false teachers in the church similar to false prophets in Israel's history? How are they different? (1)
2. What is the significance of the words "among you"? How do they relate to the warning Paul gives the Ephesian elders in Acts 20?
3. Peter says that these false teachers will "secretly bring in destructive heresies"? What does the word "secretly" teach us? How can the church expose them and protect itself from them? (1)
4. What is a "destructive heresy"? We don't hear the word "heresy" used much in church life these days. Why do you think this is? (1)
5. The greatest danger of false teachers is the influence they have on others. This is why Peter is writing this. How is that danger exposed in verse 2? (2)
6. Why is greed such a common motive for false teachers? Give examples of how false teachers today exploit those that follow them. (3)
7. What does Peter say is waiting for these false teachers in verse 3? (3)

GOD'S PAST JUDGMENT SHOULD TERRIFY THESE TEACHERS (VV. 4-10)

8. What angels does Peter refer to in verse 4? What does Peter say God did with sinful angels? How else does Peter describe their punishment? (4)
9. What lesson does Peter draw from the flood and its victims? How does God make a distinction between the wicked and the righteous in the flood? Why are both lessons (God judges the wicked and preserves the righteous) which are clearly on Peter's mind, essential for the church to understand? (5)

10. What lessons does Peter draw from the example of Sodom and Gomorrah? How is the example of Sodom and Gomorrah a possible insight into the type of depravity the false teachers were displaying? How is the judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah an “example” of what is going to happen? (6)
11. What is the lesson of Lot (similar to Noah in the flood)? Are you surprised by the things Peter says about Lot in verses 7-8? If Lot was so distressed by the wickedness of his neighbors, why did he continue to live there? (7-8)
12. What is the final lesson Peter draws from all of these OT examples in verse 9? How does he intensify it in verse 10? (9-10)

THE FLAGRANT MISCONDUCT OF THE FALSE TEACHERS EXPOSED (VV. 10-16)

13. What strange thing does Peter reveal in verse 10 about the way that these false teachers behave arrogantly? How does Jude 1:8-10 give additional insights? (10)
14. How are these false teachers arrogant and in over their heads when it comes to their attitude about “glorious one” or “celestial beings” who deserve condemnation from good angels? How does verse 12 show the mentality of these false teachers? How are they like irrational animals? (11-12)
15. Verse 14 reveals another aspect of their depravity; what is it? How do their lustful eyes lead them to do great wickedness? (14)
16. Who was Balaam? See Numbers 22-24. How are these false teachers like Balaam? How does Peter use the donkey to make his point? (15-16)

THE CERTAIN DESTRUCTION OF THE FALSE TEACHERS (VV. 17-22)

17. In what way are false teachers like “waterless springs”? In what way are they like “mists driven by a storm”? What does Peter say is their fate? (17)
18. What does verse 18 reveal about the teaching strategies and message of these false teachers? (18)
19. What false promises do teachers of license promise? How can they not deliver freedom (though they promise it) but only greater enslavement? (19)
20. Why are such people worse off than they were before they heard the gospel? Why would it have been better never to have heard the gospel at all? (20-21)
21. What do these proverbs reveal about the true nature of those who forsake the gospel and go back to an old pattern of sin? (22)

III. SUMMARY:

Peter exposes the grave danger of false teachers in the life of the church. There are legalists and license people. These are teaching license into immorality in the name of Christ and the gospel. Peter says such false teachers will most certainly be condemned by the holy Lord, just as God has done many times in the past.

PREPARING FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD

2 PETER 3:1-18

I. MAIN QUESTIONS:

1. What does this section teach us about the coming Day of the Lord?
2. How does Peter encourage us to prepare for the coming Day of the Lord?
3. How is a fertile meditation on the Day of the Lord helpful in both personal growth in holiness (“internal journey”) and missions (“external journey”)?
4. How could thinking more about the Day of the Lord help free us from materialism and other worldly concerns?

II. VERSE BY VERSE QUESTIONS:

DESPITE THE SEEMING DELAY, THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME (VV. 1-9)

1. What do verses 1-2 teach us about the role of reminders in the teaching ministry of the church? Why do you think God’s people need so many reminders of the things they already have been taught? (1-2)
2. What specifically does Peter want his readers to remember in verse 2? What does this verse teach about the authority of the apostles’ doctrine? (2)
3. What does Peter warn about in verse 3? Why is it good for his readers to know that scoffers will come? How does the warning ahead of time help to blunt the negative impact their ridicule will have? (3)
4. What does Peter single out concerning their scoffing in verse 4? How do the scoffers seem to have a case concerning the “coming” of the Lord? What evidence do they put forward that the Second Coming will never occur? (4)
5. How could the sameness of time, the unfolding of hours, days, and years lull people into a false sense of security concerning the end of the world? (4)
6. What does Peter say these people deliberately forget? How do verses 5-6 answer the scoffers? What does verse 6 refer to? (5-6)
7. How is the Flood of Noah a foretaste of the final judgment on the earth? (6)
8. Why does Peter zero in on the “word” in verse 7 as the common link concerning both the Flood and the future destruction of the earth? (7)
9. What issue does Peter address in verse 8-9? Why is it vital to understand why the Day of the Lord seems to be taking so long? What does Peter mean by this: “With the Lord, one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day”? How does this give us insights into the “eternality” of God, and how God views time? How does it relate to Jesus’ statement in Revelation, “Behold, I am coming soon”? (8-9)

10. What does verse 9 teach us about God's apparent "slowness" in keeping His promises? What are some ways we feel this in life? How does it relate to the duration of time the Lord is allowing between the first and second comings of Christ? What reason does He give for that long delay? (9)
11. How would you relate verse 9 to Romans 2:4? Who does verse 9 say God is patient with? (9)
12. Does verse 9 teach that God wants every single person on the face of the earth to come to repentance and thus avoid perishing eternally? If you answer "Yes," how do you reconcile that with God's sovereignty over human hearts in salvation? (9)

ANTICIPATING THE DAY OF THE LORD: HOLINESS AND MISSIONS (VV. 10-18)

13. What strong assertion does verse 10 make concerning the Day of the Lord, especially in light of the skepticism of scoffers in verses 3-4? (10)
14. In what way will the Day of the Lord come "like a thief"? How should that make us prepare for the coming of the Lord? See Matthew 24:42-44. (10)
15. What does verse 10 teach will happen when the Lord returns? What will happen to the heavens? What will happen to the physical universe? (10)
16. What are the moral implications of the coming Day of the Lord? How do verses 11-12 point to the internal journey of sanctification? What about the external journey of missions? How do we look forward to the day of God? How do we "hasten" its coming? (11-12)
17. What else does Peter say will happen on the Day of God in verse 12? Why does Peter repeat what he already said would happen in verse 10? (10, 12)
18. What marvelous promise does Peter refer to in verse 13? How should this encourage us? What does the statement, "the home of righteousness" teach us about that coming world? (13)
19. What interesting thing does Peter say about Paul's letters? How does this verse help prove the inspiration and authority of the apostolic writings, equal to the prophets of the OT? (16)
20. What does Peter say that the ignorant and unstable do with scripture? (16)
21. How does verse 17 warn us? What should verse 17 lead us to do? (17)
22. How is verse 18 a key verse on the responsibility each of us has in sanctification, the "internal journey"? (18)

III. SUMMARY:

Peter prepares us for the coming of the Lord Jesus, explaining the reason for the long delay and how best to spend our lives until then: holiness and missions.

About Two Journeys

Two Journeys exists to help Christians make progress in the two journeys of the Christian life, the internal journey of sanctification and the external journey of gospel advancement. We do this by exporting biblical teaching for the good of Christ's Church and for the glory of God.

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Other Books By Dr. Andrew M. Davis

- *An Infinite Journey: Growing Toward Christlikeness*, 2014.
- *Revitalize: Biblical Keys to Helping Your Church Come Alive Again*, 2017.
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