

# **OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## **Wednesday Bible Study**

October 28, 2020

### **THE BOOK OF - 1 PETER**

#### **Introduction:**

The church of Jesus Christ has been no stranger to suffering. The clash of truth with error, of the kingdom of light with the kingdom of darkness, and of the children of God with the children of the devil inevitably results in severe conflict. Opposition, rejection, ostracism, scorn, contempt, persecution, even martyrdom have been the lot of believers through the centuries. That the evil world system vents its fury on the church should be no surprise; for it is how it treated the Lord Jesus Christ. Describing the persecution of His followers would experience, Jesus pointed out this truth to His disciples, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!" (Matt. 10:24-25)

So Peter here in our study explores the gift of salvation with special attention to God's sovereignty and Christian suffering. He speaks about hope, in fact, hope is a central theme in the epistle. For when we live our lives as strangers upon the earth, and when we live in constant communion with God, we can enjoy the life of hope regardless of the external circumstances and the present sufferings.

However, Peter is not only writing to comfort Christians who have known sufferings, but he is preparing them for increased sufferings which is about to come under the deranged hand of Nero, the infamous emperor of Rome. As many of our Christians brothers and sisters are suffering for their faith in Christ in other parts of the world, it is possible that we, too, will face increased suffering in the days ahead. Therefore, his words of instruction are also appropriate for us today. We will do well to study this book inductively. Our concern should not be only for what our Lord was saying to Peter's contemporaries through this epistle, but what He is saying to us personally. We need to be strengthened and encouraged in the faith in light of this COVID-19, election, and what might come next; in the same way as the early Christians were.

Lastly, the value 1 Peter cannot be overstated. Other than Jesus, no other person is mentioned as often in the New Testament or plays as large a role in the establishment of Christianity as Peter. Peter is prominent in the Gospels and Acts. The sense of importance that Paul attributes to him in 1 Corinthians which we've study, and Galatians is unparalleled among the other disciples. In addition, he wrote two epistles of his own. There is no one else whose successes and failures are catalogued so completely for us. So to have two epistles from this apostle is a blessing.

I like this book because Peter was also present at major key events of Jesus' life, including the transfiguration, the Last Supper, the resurrection, and the ascension. He had firsthand knowledge. And here in First Peter he addresses a range of important topics, like the already/not-yet character of salvation, fearing God, the church, God's sovereignty and grace, spiritual gifts, elders, hospitality, evangelism, submission, governing authorities, husbands and wives, spiritual warfare. My prayer is that we will Oak Ridge be challenged and made better upon our study of this great book.

## **Outline of 1 Peter**

- I. What Salvation Is All About: 1:1-25**
  - A. Why Has God Chosen You? 1:1-2
  - B. The Fringe Benefits of the New Birth: 1:3-5
  - C. How Trials Can Bring Joy: 1:6-9
  - D. The Priority of Salvation: 1:10-12
  - E. Called to Be Holy: 1:13-16
  - F. Living Like Strangers Here on Earth: 1:17-21
  - G. Loving from the Heart: 1:22-25
- II. What Christian Living Is All About: 2:1-25**
  - A. Growing Goes Better with Milk: 2:1-3
  - B. Building with Living Stones: 2:4-8
  - C. The Truth about Self-Image: 2:9-10
  - D. Goodness, Freedom, and Servanthood: 2:11-17
  - E. Called to Be Servants: 2:18-25
- III. What Being Good Is All About: 3:1-22**
  - A. How to Be a Good Christian Wife: 3:1-6
  - B. How to Be a Good Christian Husband: 3:7
  - C. Repaying Evil with Good: 3:8-12
  - D. Sharing the Hope: 3:13-16
  - E. Suffering for Doing Good: 3:17-22
- IV. What Suffering Is All About: 4:1-19**
  - A. Living for the will of God: 4:1-6
  - B. The End Is at Hand: 4:7-9
  - C. You Are Called to Ministry: 4:10-11
  - D. Suffering as a Christian: 4:12-19
- V. What Christian Leadership Is All About: 5:1-14**
  - A. Priorities for Christian Leadership: 5:1-4
  - B. Clothing Yourself with Humility: 5:5-7
  - C. Standing Firm in the Faith: 5:8-11
  - D. Final Greetings: 5:12-14