

1 Pet. 1:1-2: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, & Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ & for sprinkling with his blood: May grace & peace be multiplied to you.

Intro: We start a new book of the Bible today: 1 Peter; 63-65 AD; Some think during great persecution under Nero who set Rome on fire & blamed Christians (suffering); So much here:

- 1) Do you want to know more deeply the joy of being chosen by God & the joy of knowing you are His people, His children?
- 2) Do you ever feel like you don't belong here in this world – like an exile or a sojourner?
- 3) Do you delight in the Trinity & how God saves sinners – a salvation angels long to look into?
- 4) Do you want to know more about what it means to be born again to a living hope?
- 5) Do you want to set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ?
- 6) Do you want to learn how to endure suffering as a good soldier of Jesus & be assured God works all things for good?
- 7) Do you want to learn more about Jesus & His shed blood & work on the cross?
- 8) Do you want to grow in holiness & be more like Jesus, & learn to follow Jesus' example? *(In His Steps)*
- 9) Wives, are you in a marriage where your husband doesn't know or obey God, & you want to know what to do?
- 10) Husbands, do you want to know how to love & serve your wives better?
- 11) Do you want to better understand what it means to dress modestly?
- 12) Do you want to grow in humility?
- 13) Do you want to grow in being a loving, hospitable person without grumbling & complaining?
- 14) Do you want to learn more about experiencing a joy that is inexpressible & filled with glory?!

- Because Jesus Christ suffered, died, rose again, & is returning, by the power of His Spirit, hope fully in God & His promises, endure suffering faithfully, & pursue holiness for the glory of God.

- Because of Jesus, hope in God, suffer well, & pursue holiness for the glory God.

1. Peter Was An Apostle Of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1:1: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ

Who is an apostle of Jesus Christ? a. An apostle had to be an eyewitness of the resurrected Christ: Acts 10:39-41: (Peter) & we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews & in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day & made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate & drank with him after he rose from the dead.

b. An apostle had to be personally appointed by the Lord Jesus Christ: Luke 6:13: He [Jesus] called his disciples & chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles.

- **Tom Schreiner:** As an apostle he is commissioned by Christ & writes God's words to the churches

- **Wayne Grudem:** The supreme importance of the apostles is suggested by the fact that the phrase

of Jesus Christ is attached to no other New Testament office: (no teacher, prophet, or evangelist)

c. An apostle had to be able to authenticate his apostolic appointment with miraculous signs:

Acts 2:43: awe came upon every soul, & many wonders & signs were being done through the apostles

d. Paul was the last Apostle called by Jesus Christ: 1 Cor. 15:7-8: Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

2. Peter Was Not The First Pope

Matt 16:18-19: I tell you, you are Peter, & on this rock I will build my church, & the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, & whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Jonathan Leeman: How will he build it? He will build it "on this rock." What rock? Theologians have long debated whether the rock is Peter or Peter's confession. In fact, I think you have to say both. Theologian Edmund Clowney writes, "The confession cannot be separated from Peter, neither can Peter be separated from his confession." Jesus will build his church not on words, & not on people, but on people who believe the right Gospel words. Jesus will build the church on confessors. Jesus then gave Peter & the apostles the keys of the kingdom, which gave Peter the authority to do what Jesus had just done with him: to act as God's official representative on earth for affirming true gospel confessions & confessors. The apostles had heaven's authority for declaring who on earth is a kingdom citizen & therefore represents heaven.

Notice Leeman writes: Jesus then gave Peter & the apostles the keys of the kingdom: **Matt. 18:1:** At that time the disciples came to Jesus . . . **Matt 18:18:** Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Now, the Church is the final authority under Christ to bind & loose on earth: Matt. 18:17: If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

Ed Clowney writes that Peter cannot be isolated from the eleven: Jesus grants to them all the power of the keys of the kingdom that he gave to Peter. The church is not built on Peter as an isolated stone, but upon the foundation of the apostles [plural!] & prophets, those who like Peter have received the revelation of Christ: **Eph. 2:19-20:** the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles & prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone

- **Call no man pope: Mat 23:9:** call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven
- **Peter was rebuked by Paul because his conduct was not in step with the Gospel:** Gal. 2:11-14
- **God never gave Peter the position of pope: 1 Cor. 12:28:** God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers . . .
- **1 Cor. 9:5:** Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles & the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?
- **Peter viewed himself as an elder like other elders: 1 Pet. 5:1-2:** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder & a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory

that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you

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3. Peter's Life And Legacy

1) Peter was a fisherman: Matt. 4:18-19: While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) & Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. & he said to them, "Follow me, & I will make you fishers of men."

2) Peter boldly believed & weakly doubted Jesus: Matt. 14:26-31: But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, & said, "It is a ghost!" & they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." & Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat & walked on the water & came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, & beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand & took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Luke 5:4-8: when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep & let down your nets for a catch." & Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night & took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." & when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, & their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come & help them. & they came & filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

3) Peter knew Jesus Christ – he was saved: Matt. 16:15-17: He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." & Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."

- Matt. 19:26-27: But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything & followed you.

- John 6:67-69: So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, & we have believed, & have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

- John 13:6-10: He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands & my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. & you are clean, but not every one of you." **GOSPEL!**

4) Peter was one of the apostles closest to Jesus – one of the inner three who saw Jesus' glory in special ways: In Luke 8, He allowed only Peter, James, & John to enter the house where He raised a little girl from the dead.

Jesus was transfigured before Peter: Matt. 17:1-2: after six days Jesus took with him Peter & James, & John his brother, & led them up a high mountain by themselves. & he was transfigured before them, & his face shone like the sun, & his clothes became white as light.

He took Peter with Him to Gethsemane: Mark 14:32-33: they went to a place called Gethsemane. & he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." & he took with him Peter & James & John, & began to be greatly distressed & troubled.

5) Peter was one of the first witnesses of Jesus' resurrection: Luke 24:12: But Peter rose & ran to the tomb; stooping & looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; & he went home marveling at what had happened.

6) Peter became a mighty preacher of the Gospel: Acts 2:38, 41: Peter said to them, "Repent & be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, & you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit . . . ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, & there were added that day about three thousand souls.

7) Peter committed some terribly egregious (really bad!) sins: Matt. 16:21-23: From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem & suffer many things from the elders & chief priests & scribes, & be killed, & on the third day be raised. & Peter took him aside & began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned & said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

John 18:10-11: Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it & struck the high priest's servant & cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Even after Jesus' death & resurrection, & even after Pentecost, Paul found Peter's conduct not to be in step with the truth of the Gospel: Gal. 2:11: But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

But Peter committed one sin that seemed unforgivable: Matt. 10:32-33: So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Matt. 26:31-35: Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, & the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of

you, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" & all the disciples said the same.

Matt. 26:69-75: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him & said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." & when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, & she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." & again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up & said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself & to swear, "I do not know the man." & immediately the rooster crowed. & Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." & he went out & wept bitterly.

8) Jesus is an amazingly patient, all merciful Savior Who forgives terribly egregious (really bad!) sinners!

- **John 21:7:** That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, & threw himself into the sea.

- **John 21:15-17:** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" & he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." (**Mercy-Heart!**)

Peter fed Jesus' sheep! He labored, preached, & witnessed to the life, death, & resurrection of Jesus until his death (tradition is that he was crucified on a cross upside down). & he's still feeding Jesus' sheep today – his book – 1 Peter! & you can feed Jesus' sheep too!

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Jesus The Apostle And High Priest Of Our Confession
There's No Messenger Like Him Without Any Question
He Took God's Wrath For Our Every Transgression
Then Rose From The Dead To Crush Death's Oppression
In Him There Is Mercy – He Makes Intercession
Even Peter Found Grace For His Sinful Regression
So Trust In The God-Man – Through Faith Make Profession
Like Peter You'll Find Christ To Be Your Obsession!