The Books of Peter

1 Peter

Chapter 1 (2/21/21)

Introduction

Who wrote this book? This is a super easy question, as the answer is Peter, we know that Peter was one of the first followers of Jesus (Matthew 4:18), from there he was called to be a disciple and as we get further into the gospels we see that he becomes part of Jesus' small circle and was one of three witnesses who saw Jesus' Transfiguration. As a disciple, he received a new name (Cephas) or stone. On the day Jesus went to the cross Peter would deny Jesus 3 times. Peter could be perceived as having lost his discipleship position based on the wording used in Mark 16:7. After the Resurrection Jesus would restore him by asking "do you agape me?" twice and then "do you phileo me?" the final time to meet Peter where he was at (by a lakeside just as He did when He first called Peter). Such a beautiful thing to see Jesus meet us where we are at. That's the message of the cross, we could reach God, so He reached down to us despite our sins against Him.

Biblical Doctrine on mans nature is exemplified in the life of Peter.

* Two Natures: Old Name: Simon; New Name: Peter
* Two Births: Born in the Flesh(Old Man); Born in the Spirit(New Man)
* Inconsistencies; Apparent Contradictions. We see the name of both Peter and Cephas based on how he is acting throughout his life.

What is the purpose of this book?

Chuck Missler points 3 major topics that Peter discusses in his first letter:

1. Christian suffering and conduct in the light of full salvation (1:1-2:8)
2. The believers life in light of sevenfold position (2:9-4:19)
3. Christian service in light of the coming Chief Shepherd. (5:1-14)

Why are we going through it?

We are going through this book because it was addressed to believers who were suffering for Christ's sake based on their stance against a pagan culture, I felt it would be very applicable to what is going on today. When I was asked to teach, I was excited and had these books in mind, along with some others, and after some prayer I was inspired to go through this book.

How can we glean from it?

This should be a question we ask every time we go into scripture, for here and today we can say that we should glean from the time period Peter is writing this. He was preparing Christians for imminent persecution from the governing powers, encouraging them in their salvation and to rejoice in suffering for Christ's sake. Personally I am not a fortune teller, nor a prophet, but I can see with my eyes that things are going south at an alarming rate, and I would not be surprised if persecution for Christians comes to America in my lifetime. That being said, it is encouraging to see that God was and is in control of these situations even when they seem gloom. As we study this book, please be encouraged by an original disciple of Christ who experienced these things first hand and could genuinely say that God is still sovereign. Here we go.

Verses

1-2.

Peter was called to be an apostle, one of 12, I could make a sermon on this but rest assured that there are no more apostles alive today, as the requirements for being one had to have been personally called by Christ, taught by him directly for several years (as Paul would be), and seen him alive after his resurrection (Acts 1:17, 22, 25).

Peter was addressing the dispersion in Gentile cities, these were Jews who had not being living in Israel ever since the exile that occurred more than half a millennia prior.

He gets more specific and states that he is addressing the pilgrims who were elect of God, by His foreknowledge, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit and covered by Jesus Christ blood. Here we see the Trinity, the Election of God, Sanctification and the atonement of Jesus' blood. I could make a sermon on each of these topics, but for now lets just give a brief summary of each.

God's Election:

It is found in both the Old Testament and New. It applies to corporate election as well as individual election (Israel and the Church), it is fully reliant on Grace and can be for a distinctive service and only applies to those who are chosen for Himself. Foreknowledge precedes election, which precedes predestination, but also points back to foreknowledge for our reference. How do you know if you are elected? by Gods foreknowledge, which is beyond our scope and comprehension because we live in time and space where as God is outside the restrictions we are placed under. Again this is a topic widely discussed amongst biblical scholars but that's how it applies to us.

Sanctification:

"I have been saved; (Justification)

I am being saved; (Sanctification)

and I will be saved." (Glorification)

Earl Radmacher

Justification: The gift from God of everlasting life received by Faith alone in Christ alone.

* Past Tense: Separation from the Penalty of Sin (For us; Declared; Removes Guilt and Penalty)

Sanctification: A progressive work that involves the faith and the works of the believer.

* Present Tense: Separated from the Power of Sin. (In us: Working; Makes; Removes Growth and Power of Sin)

Glorification: A result of the previous aspect and applies to all believers.

* Future Tense: Separated from the Presence of Sin.

Example: Imagine buying a house, when you first buy a house, it goes into escrow, that's a declaration that you are buying the house. Then you transfer the money (Jesus paid it in full) and that typically is a working process. Finally you move into the house, which is the final part. The entire time you own the house, but you weren't able to live in it until you went through the processes.

Blood of Jesus:

We are cleansed by Christ's Blood, which separates us from the world.

3-5

With the doctrinal introduction, we can go through these verses a bit quicker, otherwise we'll be here til evening. Peter starts off by reminding them that we are kept by the power of God and that our inheritance isn't here on earth. Basically do not get caught up with your worldly possessions, as they are not eternal, but your salvation through Jesus is.

6-9

We are reminded to rejoice in trials, reminiscent of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5, verse 12 as well as James 1:2. The joy that you are to have is not based on circumstance, but rather a choice, in the Greek the idea of calm delight. Are you joyful when trials come your way? These trials we go through are a testing of your faith. This test is not a reference to a math test you take in grade school, rather it describes gold being tested with fire. This process was where a smelter would heat up the gold to such an intense heat that the impurities would separate from the gold so that he could remove it. When you are going through a trial, how you respond to it is what is being talked about. Do you give up and call it a day? Do you blame others or your circumstances for them? Or are you thanking God for His mercies, and seeking how you can grow from these experiences so that you can walk closer with God.

10-12

In regards to salvation, Peter wants us to notice something, that the Old Testament prophets spoke about it, yet they didn't have it yet, it was something they looked forward to. This same salvation even has the Angels baffled, who seek to look into it. The gospel of Jesus itself is so easy, a caveman can do it ;), and yet the workings of it are so complicated that angels cant understand it. Just like my phone, its so easy to use, by daughter can use it, and yet I wouldn't be able to go very far in creating one myself as I have no idea what parts are needed and how they function to make it work.

13-16

Gird up the loins of your mind, Peter is using a pun to make a point, be free from things that waste space in your mind, clearing your head, and focus on God's Grace in your life. Just as children are to be obedient to their parents, we shouldn't allow ourselves to be conformed by the world. Romans 12:2 states that we are not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we can know the will of God in our lives. Conformed means to comply... wow! Do not comply with the rules the world has set up, rather, be transformed, which means to make a thorough or dramatic change in the form, appearance, or character of. Even more wow! So don't sit there and try to blend in with the world, rather, stand out so much that people cant help but notice you're different! That is a bold call indeed.

17-21

God's judgment is impartial, so our actions should be in reverence to that. We wont receive special favor for deliberately acting in sin against the Lord. Our grace comes directly from God, it cannot be corrupted by sin because Jesus was perfect, and He planned this before the beginning of time. It is a result of God's eternal plan and priceless payment for sin, therefore faith and hope can be placed in him

22-25

Since implies a past action, since you are in the process of purifying your souls, which happens by obeying God's word in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are commanded to love one another fervently (Enthusiastically) with pure intentions. Peter then makes a contrast using Isaiah 40:6 to say that our flesh will fade, but Gods Word (Jesus; John 1:1) endures forever. This is the same word by which we heard the Gospel.