

1 and 2 Peter

Study Outline

Jeff Blake

Copyright © 2007-2008
by
Jeff Blake
Ox Brook Ministries
<http://www.oxbrook.org/>

All Rights Reserved.

No part of this book may be used or reproduced for commercial purposes in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews.

All printed copies require that a royalty payment be made to
Ox Brook Ministries
in accordance with the schedule found at the above web site.

Most Scriptures are taken from the Modern King James Version of the Holy Bible
Copyright © 1962-1998
By Jay P. Green, Sr.
Used by permission of the copyright holder
Courtesy of Sovereign Grace Publishers and Christian Literature World

Scriptures taken from the New King James Version®
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scriptures taken from the Analytical-Literal Translation of the New Testament of the Holy Bible
Copyright © 1999-2001 by Gary F. Zeolla
Darkness to Light ministry (www.dtl.org)

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission

This edition:
February 2008

I am sincerely grateful to Chuck Missler
(Koinonia House -- www.khouse.org)
for lighting a fire under me regarding God's Word.

The Holy Spirit used his uncompromising, scholarly, and in-depth approach to
Bible Study to speak to me in a way that has never happened before.

Within me has now been ingrained a passion to know and understand the Bible,
to deeply respect and honor it for what it is, and to treat it very seriously because
it is indeed the very Words of God.

Table of Contents

Lesson 1 -- Introduction + 1 Peter 1:1-12	1
Lesson 2 -- 1 Peter 1:13-25	5
Lesson 3 -- 1 Peter 2:1-10	9
Lesson 4 -- 1 Peter 2:11-25	13
Lesson 5 -- 1 Peter 3:1-12	17
Lesson 6 -- 1 Peter 3:13-22	21
Lesson 7 -- 1 Peter 4:1-11	25
Lesson 8 -- 1 Peter 4:12-19	29
Lesson 9 -- 1 Peter 5:1-4	33
Lesson 10 -- 1 Peter 5:5-14	37
Lesson 11 -- Introduction + 2 Peter 1:1-4	41
Lesson 12 -- 2 Peter 1:5-11	47
Lesson 13 -- 2 Peter 1:12-21	51
Lesson 14 -- 2 Peter 2:1-11	55
Lesson 15 -- 2 Peter 2:12-22	61
Lesson 16 -- 2 Peter 3.....	65

These notes were written for use in our Home Bible Study. They were developed to encourage a regular verse-by-verse study of the Bible: this is the best way to immerse ourselves in God's Word. It needs to be read and studied "c-2-c", that is, "cover-to-cover." We need to involve ourselves with the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27), not just the popular or favorite passages.

In addition, it is essential to document how the Lord speaks and instructs us as we study His Word. We are responsible to know His Word, and make it a part of our everyday life.

These notes are being made available to encourage you to engage in a daily, personal, and serious study of God's Word.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." -- Psalm 119:105

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." -- Psalm 119:11

"I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down." -- Proverbs 24:30-31

*"Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks."
-- Ecclesiastes 10:18*

Lesson 1 -- Introduction + 1 Peter 1:1-12

I. Introduction

A. Peter, the book

1. it's well-accepted that it's written by Peter, the Disciple and Apostle
2. written around 64-65 A.D.
3. it's written from "Babylon": 1 Peter 5:13
 - a. some say that "Babylon" is used as an idiom for Rome to protect Peter's location
 - b. however, there is archeological evidence that Peter was in Babylon at one time
4. Greek styles differ between 1 Peter and 2 Peter
 - a. 1 Peter more classical and sophisticated than 2 Peter
 - (i) 1 Peter written through Silas: 1 Peter 5:12
 - (ii) Mark was also with Peter when 1 Peter was written: 1 Peter 5:13
 - so maybe he helped?
 - (iii) Peter may have written 2 Peter himself just before his death
5. purpose is to encourage believers during times of trials and persecution

B. Peter, the person

1. brother of Andrew
 - a. Matthew 4:18; 10:2
 - b. Mark 1:16
 - c. Luke 6:14
 - d. John 1:40; 6:8
2. a fisherman
 - a. Matthew 4:18
 - b. Mark 1:16
3. he was married
 - a. Matthew 8:14
 - b. Mark 1:29-31
 - c. Luke 4:38
 - d. his wife apparently went with him on missionary trips: 1 Corinthians 9:5
4. Andrew, his brother introduced him to Jesus: John 1:40-42
 - a. Andrew also introduced a lad (John 6:8-9) and some Greeks (John 12:20-22) to Jesus
5. originally known as Simon: Mark 1:16; John 1:40-41
 - a. Jesus changed his name to Peter (Greek) or Cephas (Aramaic)
 - (i) Mark 3:16
 - (ii) Luke 6:14
 - (iii) John 1:42
 - b. Jesus called him "Simon" after he denied Jesus: John 21:15-17
 - (i) Peter was being reinstated as a Disciple in this passage
6. seems to be at least the spokesman of the Disciples
 - a. he was always very bold to speak out
 - b. with this boldness he failed to acknowledge Christ, but denied Him instead
 - (i) Matthew 26:69-75
 - (ii) Mark 14:66-72
 - (iii) Luke 22:55-62
 - (iv) John 18:15-18, 25-27
7. always named first in the list of Disciples
 - a. Matthew 10:2-4
 - b. Mark 3:16-19
 - c. Luke 6:13-16
 - d. Acts 1:13

8. part of Jesus' "inner circle," being chosen by Jesus with 2 or 3 others for special occasions
 - a. when Jairus' daughter was raised from the dead: Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51
 - b. at the Transfiguration: Matthew 17:1; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28
 - c. for a prophetic teaching: Mark 13:3
 - d. to go further into the Garden of Gethsemane for prayer: Matthew 26:37; Mark 14:33
9. Peter became a great teacher and preacher after the coming of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2-12
 - a. he gave two great sermons: Acts 2:14-36; 3:11-26
 - b. he became the Apostle to the Jews
 - c. opened the door to the Samaritans: Acts 8
 - d. opened the door to the Gentiles: Acts 10
 - (i) he was given a special vision regarding the acceptance of the Gentiles: Acts 10:9-16
 - (ii) the Apostle Paul became the Apostle to the Gentiles
 - Acts 9:15; 22:21; 26:17-20
 - Romans 11:13; 15:16
 - Galatians 1:16; 2:2, 7-9
 - Ephesians 3:8
 - 1 Timothy 2:7
 - 2 Timothy 1:11
10. according to tradition he and his wife were crucified around 67-68 A.D.

II. Salutation: 1 Peter 1:1-2

- A. Peter was an apostle: 1 Peter 1:1
 1. "apostle" = delegate, ambassador, messenger, one sent with orders
 2. all believers are ambassadors
 - a. "As My Father has sent Me, even so I send you." -- John 20:21
 - b. John 17:18
 - c. Matthew 28:18-20
 - d. Mark 16:15-18
 - e. Luke 24:46-53
 - f. Acts 1:4-9
 3. qualifications of the original Apostles: Acts 1:21-22
 - a. there from the beginning with John the Baptist to the ascension
 - b. they're to be a witness of the resurrection
- B. Peter was an apostle of Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1:1
 1. not of any particular church or denomination
 2. Jesus Christ is always to be the center and reason for everything
 - a. "He is the Head of the body, the church, who is the Beginning, the First-born from the dead, that He may be pre-eminent in all things." -- Colossians 1:18
 - b. "...as Christ is the head of the church" -- Ephesians 5:23
 - c. our allegiance should not be to an earthly organization instead of Jesus Christ
- C. "to the pilgrims" -- 1 Peter 1:1
 1. we're to be strangers and pilgrims here on the earth
 - a. "For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which also we are looking for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" -- Philippians 3:20
 - b. "let us go forth to Him outside the camp..." -- Hebrews 13:13
 - c. "pass the time of your earthly residence in fear" -- 1 Peter 1:17
 - d. "Dearly beloved, I exhort you as temporary residents and pilgrims to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" -- 1 Peter 2:11
- D. "of the Dispersion" -- 1 Peter 1:1
 1. commonly refers to the Jews
 - a. "James... to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion" -- James 1:1
 - b. John 7:35

2. they were scattered by persecution
 - a. after Stephen's murder: Acts 8:1
 - (i) about 34 A.D.
 - b. by Herod Agrippa: Acts 12:1
 - (i) he reigned 37-44 A.D.
 - c. by Nero's persecution after he set Rome on fire
 - (i) 64 A.D.
- E. "Pontus... Galatia... Cappadocia... Asia... Bithynia" -- 1 Peter 1:1
 1. the area that we now know as Turkey
 2. they were probably supposed to share this letter with each other
- F. "elect" -- 1 Peter 1:2
 1. "elect" = select, chosen
 2. "you are a chosen generation..." -- 1 Peter 2:9
 3. "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved..." -- Colossians 3:12
 4. He does the calling, but we choose to become one of His elect
- G. "according to the foreknowledge of God" -- 1 Peter 1:2
 1. He knows ahead of time who will choose Him
 2. He is outside of our time domain
 - a. "declaring the end from the beginning..." -- Isaiah 46:10
 - b. "For so says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity..." -- Isaiah 57:15
 3. things are planned ahead of time for all Christians
 - a. "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will" -- Ephesians 1:4-5
 - b. "in whom also we have been chosen to an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His own will"--Ephesians 1:11
 - c. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them." -- Ephesians 2:10
 - d. "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit" -- John 15:16
 - e. Romans 8:29-30
- H. "in sanctification of the Spirit" -- 1 Peter 1:2
 1. "sanctification" = purification
 2. "...being sanctified by the Holy Spirit" -- Romans 15:16
 3. "you are washed... you are sanctified... you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" -- 1 Corinthians 6:11
 4. "God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" -- 2 Thessalonians 2:13
 5. we are sealed by the Holy Spirit
 - a. "who also has sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee" -- 2 Corinthians 1:22
 - b. "you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" -- Ephesians 1:13
 - c. "...the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" -- Ephesians 4:30
- I. "for obedience" -- 1 Peter 1:2
 1. we're expected to obey
 2. God has things already prepared for us to do
 3. obedience demonstrates true faith and conversion
 4. "If you love Me, keep My commandments." -- John 14:15
 5. "If a man loves Me, he will keep My Word." -- John 14:23
 6. "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit" -- John 15:16
 7. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works..." -- Ephesians 2:10
 8. "They profess that they know God, but in their works they deny Him, being abominable and disobedient and reprobate to every good work." -- Titus 1:16
 9. "Who is wise and knowing among you? Let him show his works by his good conduct with meekness of wisdom." -- James 3:13
 10. "I will show you my faith from my works" -- James 2:18

- J. "sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" -- 1 Peter 1:2
 - 1. would only mean something to those who are Jewish
 - 2. speaks of Jesus' blood used for priestly duties instead of the blood from the sacrifice
 - 3. Hebrews 9:19-22; 11:28; 12:24
 - K. the work of the Trinity is clearly seen in 1 Peter 1:2
- III. Our Heavenly Inheritance: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- A. the resurrection of Jesus is the key to us being born again: 1 Peter 1:3
 - 1. it was through his great mercy and nothing to do with our merits
 - B. we have a perfect, eternal inheritance waiting for us in heaven: 1 Peter 1:4
 - 1. "reserved" = guarded, watched over
 - 2. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ" -- Ephesians 1:3
 - C. the power of God guarantees our salvation: 1 Peter 1:5
 - 1. "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." -- John 10:28-30
 - D. they were very glad about this: 1 Peter 1:6
 - 1. "greatly rejoice" = jump for joy; be exceedingly glad
 - a. we should also be exceedingly glad about this, too!
 - 2. they rejoiced even though they're going through various trials
 - a. "trial" = putting to the proof; an experiment or trial to prove something
 - E. their faith was being tested: 1 Peter 1:7
 - 1. their faith is more precious than gold
 - a. faith is permanent
 - b. gold is only temporary
 - 2. the result of troubles is strength
 - a. "we glory in afflictions also, knowing that afflictions work out patience, and patience works out experience, and experience works out hope" -- Romans 5:3-4
 - b. "My brothers count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the proving of your faith works patience. But let patience have its perfective work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." -- James 1:2-4
 - 3. pure faith will result in "praise, honor, and glory" to Jesus when He comes back
 - F. they love Jesus Christ even though they hadn't seen Him: 1 Peter 1:8
 - 1. and they're "exceedingly glad" about it as in 1 Peter 1:6
 - 2. "Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed.'" -- John 20:29
 - 3. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." -- Hebrews 11:1
 - 4. "we not considering the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are not lasting, but the things which are not seen are everlasting" -- 2 Corinthians 4:18
 - 5. "Then being always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are away from home from the Lord; for we walk by faith, not by sight; then we are confident and we are pleased rather to go away from home out of the body, and to come home to the Lord." -- 2 Corinthians 5:6-8
 - G. their joy is "inexpressible": 1 Peter 1:8
 - 1. similar word used by Paul to describe the gift of salvation as being "indescribable": 2 Corinthians 9:15
 - H. salvation is the result of their faith: 1 Peter 1:9
 - I. the Old Testament prophets were very interested in learning as much as possible about the Messiah and the redemption that they were writing about: 1 Peter 1:10-12
 - 1. they yearned to know when this was going to happen
 - 2. they yearned to be part of it
 - J. "which things the angels desire to look into" -- 1 Peter 1:12
 - 1. even the angels don't know the whole story
 - 2. the angels are learning more about God through how He deals with the Church
 - 3. "so that now to the rulers and powers in the heavenlies might be known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" -- Ephesians 3:10-11

Lesson 2 -- 1 Peter 1:13-25

I. Living Obediently: 1 Peter 1:13-21

A. have hope: 1 Peter 1:13

1. "gird up the loins of your mind"
 - a. they were to eat the Passover with their loins girded and ready to go: Exodus 12:11
 - b. having our "loins girded with truth" is part of the armor of God: Ephesians 6:13-18
 - c. we're to prepare our minds for action, and that's to be based on truth
2. "be sober"
 - a. "sober" = not drunk; to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect
 - b. "let us watch and be *calm*" -- 1 Thessalonians 5:6
 - c. "But let us, who are of the day, be *calm*, having put on the breastplate of faith and love and the hope of salvation for a helmet." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:8
 - d. "Be *sensible* and vigilant, because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone he may devour" -- 1 Peter 5:8
3. "place your hope fully on the grace of Jesus Christ"
 - a. "the hope of salvation" -- 1 Thessalonians 5:8
 - b. we're to keep the proper perspective: looking to Jesus only
 - c. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" -- Hebrews 12:2

B. be holy: 1 Peter 1:14-17

1. we're to leave our former lusts behind: 1 Peter 1:14
 - a. we're not to *fashion* ourselves or *conform* ourselves to the world and its lusts
 - (i) "do not be *conformed* to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" -- Romans 12:2
 - b. we're to repent from our former lifestyle, turn ourselves to a new direction
 - c. "in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience; among whom we also had our way of life in times past, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." -- Ephesians 2:2-3
 - d. "For you ought to put off the old man (according to your way of living before) who is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" -- Ephesians 4:22
2. our former lifestyle was done out of ignorance: 1 Peter 1:14
 - a. "Truly, then, God overlooking the times of ignorance, now He strictly commands all men everywhere to repent" -- Acts 17:30
 - b. "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should not walk from now on as other nations walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. For they, being past feeling, have given themselves up to lust, to work all uncleanness with greediness." -- Ephesians 4:17-19
 - c. "But also if our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those being lost, in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving ones, so that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ (who is the image of God) should not dawn on them." -- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
 - d. "The path of the just is like a shining light, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble." -- Proverbs 4:18-19
3. we're to be as holy as God: 1 Peter 1:15-16
 - a. quotes Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7
 - b. "Can two walk together unless they are agreed?" -- Amos 3:3
 - c. "in all conduct"
 - (i) "having your conduct honest among the nations" -- 1 Peter 2:12
 - (ii) "Who is wise and knowing among you? Let him show his works by his good conduct with meekness of wisdom." -- James 3:13
4. if we call ourselves a Christian, then we're to live like one: 1 Peter 1:17
 - a. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above... be mindful of things above, not on things on the earth." -- Colossians 3:1-2

- b. God does not show favoritism
 - (i) everyone is on the same level
 - (ii) no one can earn anything to change their sinful status
 - it's all through the grace of God and the finished work of Jesus Christ
 - (iii) Romans 2:11
 - (iv) Galatians 2:6
 - (v) Ephesians 6:9
 - (vi) Colossians 3:25
- c. "judges according to the work of each one"
 - (i) this is not salvation by works, but rewards that can be earned
 - (ii) "each one shall receive his own reward according to his own labor" -- 1 Corinthians 3:8
 - (iii) "For any other foundation can no one lay than the one being laid, who is Jesus Christ. And if anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, each one's work shall be revealed. For the Day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try each one's work as to what kind it is. If anyone's work which he built remains, he shall receive a reward. If anyone's work shall be burned up, he shall suffer loss. But he shall be saved, yet so as by fire." -- 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
 - (iv) the Christian's judgment does not end in eternal death
 - "For all shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ." -- Romans 14:10
 - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive the things done through the body, according to that which he has done, whether good or bad." -- 2 Corinthians 5:10
- d. "earthly residence" = foreign residence, sojourning as strangers; dwelling in a strange land
 - (i) "For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which also we are looking for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" -- Philippians 3:20
 - (ii) "These all died by way of faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off. And they were persuaded of them and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." -- Hebrews 11:13
 - (iii) this word used in LXX, "O that my ways were fixed to keep Your Precepts!" -- Psalm 119:5
- e. "in fear"
 - (i) "fear" = fear, dread, terror; reverence, respect for authority, rank, dignity
 - (ii) a healthy respect for God; the opposite of being pompous and proud before Him
 - (iii) "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." -- Proverbs 1:7
 - (iv) "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" -- Hebrews 12:28
 - (v) "Therefore, my beloved... cultivate your own salvation with fear and trembling." -- Philippians 2:12
- C. our redemption did not come from earthly means: 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - 1. we did not pay for it; we did not redeem ourselves
 - a. they're being reminded of the half-shekel atonement tax (Exodus 30:12-16)
 - 2. the precious blood of Jesus Christ redeemed us: 1 Peter 1:19
 - a. they're being reminded of the unblemished requirements of the sacrificial lambs (Exodus 12:5)
 - b. "The next day John sees Jesus coming to him and says, 'Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" -- John 1:29
 - c. "...Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us" -- 1 Corinthians 5:7
 - d. Hebrews 9:11-14
 - 3. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit in you, whom you have of God? And you are not your own, for you are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." -- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - 4. "You are bought with a price, do not be the slaves of men." -- 1 Corinthians 7:23
- D. the plan of redemption was planned out before the universe began: 1 Peter 1:20
 - 1. "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..." -- Ephesians 1:4
 - 2. "according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" -- Ephesians 3:11
 - 3. "[God] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the eternal times" -- 2 Timothy 1:9

4. "eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the eternal times" -- Titus 1:2
 5. "...the Lamb slain, from the foundation of the world" -- Revelation 13:8
 6. Ephesians 3:9
 7. Colossians 1:26
 - E. we believe in and have access to God through Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1:21
 1. Jesus said, "He who believes on Me does not believe on Me but on Him who sent Me" -- John 12:44
 2. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me.'" -- John 14:6
- II. Salvation Through The Eternal Word Of God: 1 Peter 1:22-25
- A. we're purified by obeying the truth through the Spirit: 1 Peter 1:22a
 - B. we should demonstrate our pure hearts by having sincere love for each other: 1 Peter 1:22b
 1. it should be fervently, intently, and without hypocrisy
 2. "love" = ("agapao") to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly
 - a. it's the kind of love that results in a decision
 - b. "And this is the condemnation, that the Light has come into the world, and men *loved* darkness rather than the Light, because their deeds were evil." -- John 3:19
 - C. "born again" -- 1 Peter 1:23
 1. "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" -- John 3:3
 2. "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'you must be born again.'" -- John 3:7
 - D. "not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible" -- 1 Peter 1:23
 1. not through any earthly means
 2. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." -- John 3:6
 3. "It is the Spirit that makes alive, the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and are life." -- John 6:63
 - E. "through the living Word of God" -- 1 Peter 1:23
 1. "For the Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword... and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." -- Hebrews 4:12
 2. "With what shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word." -- Psalm 119:9
 3. Jesus is the Word of God
 - a. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." -- John 1:1-2
 - b. "And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and of truth." -- John 1:14
 4. "Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.'" -- John 3:5
 - a. water is an idiom of the Word of God
 - F. God's Word abides forever -- 1 Peter 1:23b-25a
 1. quotes Isaiah 40:6-8
 2. "The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away." -- Matthew 24:35
 3. His Word doesn't change
 4. His requirements do not change just because people and society do
 5. when everything is said and done, what God said He was going to do, He did
 6. He says what He means, and means what He says
 7. "God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent. Has He said, and shall He not do it? Or has He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" -- Numbers 23:19
 8. "I will not break My covenant, nor change the thing that has gone out of My lips." -- Psalm 89:34
 9. "My Word... shall accomplish what I please, and it shall certainly do what I sent it to do" -- Isaiah 55:10-11
 - G. this is what was preached to them: 1 Peter 1:25b
 1. "gospel" = to bring good news, to announce glad tidings
 - a. it's from where we get the word "evangelize"
 2. "he who has My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully" -- Jeremiah 23:28
 3. the written Word of God is better and more trustworthy than experiences: 2 Peter 1:19

Lesson 3 -- 1 Peter 2:1-10

- I. Our Attitudes Towards Others: 1 Peter 2:1
 - A. "laying aside" = is a call to repentance, a call for a change
 - B. "all"
 - 1. not just some
 - 2. God does not want us to compromise
 - 3. He wants us to be fully devoted to Him
 - C. "malice" = malignity, ill-will, desire to injure
 - D. "guile" = deceit
 - E. "hypocrisies" = the acting of a stage player; acting like someone you're not; playacting
 - F. "envyings" = jealousy, spite; ill-will
 - G. "evil speakings" = defamation, backbiting; slander
 - H. dealing with others inappropriately can hinder our relationship with God
 - I. how we deal with others, including our spouse, can be an indication of what our relationship with God is
 - J. "But now also put off all these things: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, shameful speech out of your mouth." -- Colossians 3:8
 - K. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings out good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings out evil things." -- Matthew 12:34-35 (Luke 6:45)
- II. The Word Of God Will Cause Us To Grow: 1 Peter 2:2-3
 - A. we're to crave the Word of God like a baby does milk: 1 Peter 2:2
 - 1. it's nourishment
 - 2. it's a necessity for life and growth
 - 3. it should be a natural desire
 - 4. there should be eager anticipation
 - 5. we all know how a baby gets when they're not fed
 - B. the Word of God is "sincere": 1 Peter 2:2
 - 1. "sincere" = undeceitful; the negated word used for "guile"
 - 2. it's true and trustworthy
 - 3. "For the Word of the Lord is right; and all His works are in truth." -- Psalm 33:4
 - 4. Jesus prayed to the Father, "Sanctify them through Your truth. Your Word is truth." -- John 17:17
 - 5. "not walking in craftiness, nor adulterating the Word of God, but by the revelation of the truth..." -- 2 Corinthians 4:2
 - 6. "in the Word of Truth, in the power of God..." -- 2 Corinthians 6:7
 - 7. "hearing the Word of Truth, the gospel of our salvation" -- Ephesians 1:13
 - 8. "in the Word of the truth of the gospel" -- Colossians 1:5
 - 9. "Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." -- 2 Timothy 2:15
 - 10. Psalm 119:43
 - 11. John 1:14
 - 12. James 1:18
 - C. desire for growth should be a natural result of being saved: 1 Peter 2:3
 - 1. "tasted" = to experience and to eat
 - a. the word implies a total experience in Hebrews 2:9, "Jesus... taste death"
 - 2. "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him." -- Psalm 34:8
 - 3. "...tasted of the heavenly gift... tasted the good Word of God" -- Hebrews 6:4-5
- III. Jesus Is The Living Stone: 1 Peter 2:4-8
 - A. Peter will clarify what Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "on this rock I will build My church"
 - 1. Peter understood what He meant
 - 2. Jesus is the rock, not Peter!

- B. we have been "drawn to Him": 1 Peter 2:4
 - 1. the language indicates a close and habitual approach, and an intimate association
 - 2. it's a continual action
 - 3. it's God that calls us, He draws us to Him, He does all the work
 - a. God the Father
 - (i) John 6:44
 - (ii) Romans 8:28-30
 - (iii) 1 Corinthians 1:9
 - (iv) 2 Timothy 1:9
 - (v) 1 Peter 1:15-16
 - b. Jesus Christ
 - (i) "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." -- Luke 19:10
 - (ii) John 12:32
 - c. the Holy Spirit
 - (i) Ephesians 1:18; 4:1, 4
- C. He is living: 1 Peter 2:5
 - 1. a dead savior is useless
- D. we're all living stones, too: 1 Peter 2:5
- E. we're all being built up together: 1 Peter 2:5
 - 1. "Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom every building having been fitly framed together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a dwelling place of God through the Spirit." -- Ephesians 2:19-22
 - 2. "But Christ was faithful as a Son over his own house; whose house we are, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end" -- Hebrews 3:6
- F. believers are a "holy priesthood": 1 Peter 2:5
 - 1. we no longer need human representation
 - 2. we do not need anyone else to approach God for us
 - a. "For God is one, and there is one Mediator of God and of men, the Man Christ Jesus" -- 1 Timothy 2:5
 - 3. "Therefore let us come boldly to the throne of grace" -- Hebrews 4:16
 - 4. "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." -- Ephesians 2:18
 - 5. 1 Peter 2:5, 9
 - 6. Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6
- G. we're to offer spiritual sacrifices: 1 Peter 2:5
 - 1. it's praise to God and good works: Hebrews 13:15-16
 - 2. Romans 12:1
- H. "acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" -- 1 Peter 2:5
 - 1. Jesus Christ is the key point
- I. Peter quotes three OT prophecies about the Christ being the Stone: 1 Peter 2:6-8
 - 1. Isaiah 28:16
 - 2. Psalm 118:22
 - 3. Isaiah 8:14
 - 4. Christ is the foundation of what God is doing
 - 5. Christ is the foundation of the Church, not Peter
 - 6. Jesus might have been pointing to Himself when He said, "on this rock I will build My Church" (Matthew 16:18)
 - 7. Peter understood what Jesus meant
 - 8. even Jesus quoted Psalm 118:22 (in Matthew 21:42) in response to the rejection by the chief priests and Pharisees
 - 9. to those who disobey the Word, it's appointed that the Rock will be their punishment: 1 Peter 2:8
 - a. to believe is to obey the Word; not believing is to disobey
 - (i) Acts 6:7
 - (ii) Romans 2:8
 - (iii) 1 Peter 1:22

IV. Believers Are A Special People: 1 Peter 2:9-10

- A. "a chosen generation"
 - 1. He's chosen us
- B. "a royal priesthood"
 - 1. "royal" refers to kingship
 - 2. kings and priests were always kept separate during the time of the Mosaic Law
 - a. kings always came from the tribe of Judah, the house of David
 - b. priests always came from the tribe of Levi, the house of Aaron
 - 3. Jesus is a priest "after the order of Melchizedek": Hebrews 5:6
 - a. Melchizedek was a king and priest: Genesis 14:18-19
 - b. Jesus' priesthood is not according to the order of Aaron
 - (i) the priesthood of Aaron spoke of sacrifice
 - (ii) Jesus fulfilled and ended that priesthood by His perfect sacrifice
 - 4. the Church is referred to as "kings and priests": Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6
- C. "a holy nation"
 - 1. we're called to be holy: 1 Peter 1:14-17
- D. "a people for possession"
 - 1. "possession" = purchased; obtain a possession; preservation
 - a. "For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to *obtain* salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" -- 1 Thessalonians 5:9
 - b. speaking of the Holy Spirit, "who is the earnest of our inheritance, to the redemption of the *purchased possession*, to the praise of His glory" -- Ephesians 1:14
 - c. "But we are not of those withdrawing to destruction, but of those who believe to the *preserving* of the soul." -- Hebrews 10:39
 - 2. believers have been "bought with a price": 1 Corinthians 7:23
 - 3. "...the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood" -- Acts 20:28
 - 4. "who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify to Himself a special people, zealous of good works" -- Titus 2:14
- E. our purpose is to praise Him to others: 1 Peter 2:9
 - 1. Psalms 18:49; 35:18; 57:9; 105:1; 108:3; 109:30; 111:1
- F. He called us "out of darkness into His marvelous light": 1 Peter 2:9
 - 1. He does all the work
 - 2. "who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the eternal times" -- 2 Timothy 1:9
 - 3. "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light... have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." -- Ephesians 5:8-11
 - 4. "But you, brothers, are not in darkness, that the Day should overtake you like a thief. You are all the sons of light and the sons of the day. We are not of the night, or of darkness." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5
 - 5. "The path of the just is like a shining light, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble." -- Proverbs 4:18-19
- G. this special relationship He has with us is something new and hadn't always been around: 1 Peter 2:10
 - 1. it was all a "mystery" never fully revealed until Jesus came: Ephesians 3
 - 2. we're a "new creation"
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - b. Galatians 6:15
 - 3. our position "then and now" is discussed in Ephesians 2

Lesson 4 -- 1 Peter 2:11-25

I. Living Before The World: 1 Peter 2:11-12

- A. since we're not to consider this world as our home, we're not to get entangled in its lusts: 1 Peter 2:11
 - 1. regarding this world we're "strangers" and "pilgrims"
 - a. "stranger" = having a home nearby; a foreigner
 - (i) believers used to be "*strangers*" to God: Ephesians 2:19
 - b. "pilgrim" = alien; a resident foreigner; someone living in a place not their own
 - (i) 1 Peter 1:1
 - c. "For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which also we are looking for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" -- Philippians 3:20
 - 2. "abstain" = to hold one's self off, refrain
 - a. we're to "keep abstaining from"
 - b. "*Abstain* from every appearance of evil." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:22
 - 3. "lust" = desire, craving, longing
 - a. "as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts" -- 1 Peter 1:14
 - b. "all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world... the world passes away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever" -- 1 John 2:16-17
 - c. "we also had our way of life in times past, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature the children of wrath" -- Ephesians 2:3
 - d. "do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts" -- Romans 6:12
 - e. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that having denied ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live discreetly, righteously and godly, in this present world, looking for the blessed hope, and the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" -- Titus 2:11-13
 - f. Galatians 5:16-21
- B. "lusts... war against the soul": 1 Peter 2:11
 - 1. "war" = to make a military expedition, to lead soldiers to war or to battle; to do military duty, be on active service, be a soldier; to fight
 - 2. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places." -- Ephesians 6:12
 - 3. "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. And these are contrary to one another" -- Galatians 5:17
 - 4. "the cares of this world, and the deceit of riches, and the lust about other things... choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful" -- Mark 4:19
 - 5. "From where do wars and fightings among you come? Is it not from this, from your lusts which war in your members?" -- James 4:1
- C. our conduct is to be beyond reproach: 1 Peter 2:12
 - 1. it's to be "honest"
 - a. "honest" = beautiful, handsome, good, excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable; beautiful to look at, shapely, magnificent; excellent in its nature and characteristics; genuine, approved; precious
 - 2. the world should not be able to prove that we did anything wrong
 - a. "In all things having shown yourself a pattern of good works: in the doctrine, purity, sensibleness, without corruption, in sound speech that cannot be condemned, that he who is opposed may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." -- Titus 2:7-8
 - b. "Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me." -- Acts 24:13
 - c. "the Jews who came down from Jerusalem stood around and brought many charges against Paul, which they could not prove" -- Acts 25:7

3. our "good life" should result in "good works"
 - a. a Christian's lifestyle should convict the world
 - b. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven." -- Matthew 5:16
 - c. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them." -- Ephesians 2:10
 - d. 1 Corinthians 14:25
 - e. Titus 3:8
 - f. James 2:18
4. this can only come from discipline, the discipline that results from our devotion to Him
 - a. we're to be as holy and perfect as God
 - (i) "but according to the Holy One who has called you, you also become holy in all conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'" -- 1 Peter 1:15-16
5. "they may glorify God in the day of visitation" -- 1 Peter 2:12
 - a. "visitation" = investigation, inspection, visitation; oversight
 - (i) "And they will tear you down, and your children within you, and will not leave a stone on a stone because you did not know the time of your visitation." -- Luke 19:44
 - (ii) "If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." -- 1 Timothy 3:1
 - b. might refer to the point in time that a person becomes saved
 - (i) our good lives served as a good example to others
 - (ii) "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven." -- Matthew 5:16
 - c. "For you were as sheep going astray, but now you are turned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." -- 1 Peter 2:25

II. Living As Citizens: 1 Peter 2:13-17

- A. we're to obey the government
 1. Romans 13:1-7
 2. Titus 3:1
- B. an organized system of law and order is beneficial to mankind
 1. "the authorities that exist are ordained by God" -- Romans 13:1
 2. "For the rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the bad." -- Romans 13:3
- C. however, we should obey God instead of inappropriate rules of the government
 1. "But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right before God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.'" -- Acts 4:19
 2. "And Peter and the apostles answered and said, 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'" -- Acts 5:29
 3. "But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved alive the male children." -- Exodus 1:17
- D. our lives should silence ("muzzle") the foolish acting out of their ignorance: 1 Peter 2:15
 1. this is the will of God
 2. what we do in obedience and service to the Lord should convict and rebuke those involved in worldly activities
 3. the world should never be able to accuse and convict us of wrongdoing
 4. "foolish" = mindless; without reason; senseless, foolish, stupid; without reflection or intelligence, acting rashly
 5. "The path of the just is like a shining light, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble." -- Proverbs 4:18-19
- E. we're to be free from the bondage of sin and the religious Law: 1 Peter 2:16
 1. but we must not let our freedom lead us astray
 - a. the concepts of right and wrong haven't changed
 - b. we're given principles, not details
 - c. just because it's legal doesn't make it right
 2. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free, and do not again be held with the yoke of bondage." -- Galatians 5:1
 3. "For, brothers, you were called to liberty. Only do not use the liberty for an opening to the flesh, but by love serve one another." -- Galatians 5:13

4. "For all the Law is fulfilled in one word, even in this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" -- Galatians 5:14
5. "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law." -- Galatians 5:18
- F. four points of citizenship: 1 Peter 2:17
 1. honor all
 - a. "honor" = to prize; fix a value on
 - b. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves." -- Philippians 2:3
 2. love the brotherhood
 - a. "love" = agapao; the love that causes us to make a decision
 - b. "brotherhood" = brethren; a family of brothers; our brothers and sisters in Christ
 - (i) used only here and in 1 Peter 5:9
 - c. "By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love toward one another." -- John 13:35
 - d. "through the Spirit in sincere love of the brothers, love one another fervently out of a pure heart" -- 1 Peter 1:22
 - e. "Let brotherly love continue." -- Hebrews 13:1
 - f. "let us work good toward all, especially toward those of the household of faith" -- Galatians 6:10
 3. fear God
 - a. this is the awe and reverence that leads to obedience
 - b. we need to give God the respect He deserves
 - c. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep His commandments. For this is the whole duty of man." -- Ecclesiastes 12:13
 - d. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction." -- Proverbs 1:7
 - e. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." -- Proverbs 9:10
 - f. "Do not let your heart envy sinners; but be in the fear of the Lord all the day long." -- Proverbs 23:17
 - g. "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom! And to depart from evil is understanding!" -- Job 28:28
 - h. "The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him; and He will show them His covenant." -- Psalm 25:14
 - i. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all practicing them have good understanding; His praise stands forever." -- Psalm 111:10
 - j. "Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His Commandments." -- Psalm 112:1
 - k. "And you shall not oppress one another. But you shall fear your God." -- Leviticus 25:17
 4. honor the king
 - a. "honor" = to prize; fix a value on
 - b. we should be grateful for having such a wonderful government
 - c. our leaders need our prayers to be able to make the right decisions

III. Living As Employees: 1 Peter 2:18-25

- A. servants are to obey their masters: 1 Peter 2:18
 1. "servant" = a fellow resident; the domestic or household servant
 2. in today's economy it's the concept of the employee and the employer
 3. Ephesians 6:5-9
 4. they're to respect their master even if they're harsh or perverse
 - a. "perverse" = crooked; from where we get the medical term "scoliosis"
- B. obedience to authority honors God: 1 Peter 2:19-20
 1. it is commendable to suffer for doing what is right
 - a. persecution may have just been starting
 2. if we suffer for doing wrong then we're getting what we deserve

3. "Blessed are they who have been persecuted for righteousness sake! For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all kinds of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward in Heaven is great. For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." -- Matthew 5:10-12
- C. even Jesus was obedient when He suffered unjustly: 1 Peter 2:21-24
 1. we should expect persecution: 1 Peter 2:21a
 - a. "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'The servant is not greater than his master.' If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they have kept My saying, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me." -- John 15:18-21
 - b. "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" -- 2 Timothy 3:12
 2. Jesus gave us a good example to follow: 1 Peter 2:21b-24
 - a. this is the ultimate example of suffering unjustly
 - b. Jesus was executed for a crime He didn't commit
 - c. 1 Peter 2:22 quotes Isaiah 53:9
 - d. Jesus submitted Himself to the Father who would vindicate Him in His timing: 1 Peter 2:23
 - e. He took our sins onto His own body: 1 Peter 2:24
 - (i) we were dead to sins, but what Jesus did gave us life
 - (ii) "by whose stripes you were healed" quotes Isaiah 53:5
 - the verb's past tense indicates completed action
 - refers to salvation, not physical healing
- D. He gives us guidance and protection: 1 Peter 2:25
 1. everyone was going astray
 - a. Romans 3:10-18
 - (i) "there is none that seeks after God... they are all gone out of the way..." -- Romans 3:11-12
 - b. it's God that reached out to us
 2. the idiom of sheep and a shepherd is very common
 - a. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, each one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." -- Isaiah 53:6
 - b. "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..." -- Psalm 23
 - c. Isaiah 40:11
 - d. Ezekiel 34:11-16; 34:23-24; 37:24
 - (i) "For so says the Lord God: 'Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out...'" -- Ezekiel 34:11
 - e. Matthew 9:36
 - f. Matthew 18:12 = Luke 15:4-6
 - g. John 10:11-16
 - h. Hebrews 13:20
 3. Jesus is our Elder or Overseer

Lesson 5 -- 1 Peter 3:1-12

- I. Living As Husbands And Wives: 1 Peter 3:1-7
 - A. Ephesians 5:21-33
 - 1. "submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God" -- Ephesians 5:21
 - 2. marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and His Church
 - B. Colossians 3:18-19
 - C. 1 Timothy 2:9-15
 - D. Titus 2:3-8
 - E. message to wives: 1 Peter 3:1-6
 - 1. "likewise" -- 1 Peter 3:1a
 - a. refers to how we're to be submissive to others
 - (i) the government: 1 Peter 2:13-16
 - (ii) as citizens in general: 1 Peter 2:17
 - (iii) our employer: 1 Peter 2:18
 - (iv) suffering unjustly for doing right: 1 Peter 2:19-25
 - 2. "be submissive to your own husbands" -- 1 Peter 3:1a
 - a. "submit" = to arrange under, be subordinate to, be subject to
 - b. has to do with order and authority
 - (i) such as in a combat unit(!)
 - (ii) such as in a company's organizational chart
 - (iii) "Let all things be done decently and in order." -- 1 Corinthians 14:40
 - c. has nothing to do with value or ability
 - d. God's order exemplified by the creation: 1 Timothy 2:13; 1 Corinthians 11:1-12
 - (i) God's creative order was Adam first, then Eve
 - not because Adam was better
 - priority does not mean superiority
 - (ii) God established her role as part of His original creation
 - e. "chaste" = clean; innocent, modest, perfect, chaste, pure
 - f. the wife's proper conduct will be a witness to an unbelieving husband: 1 Peter 3:1b-2
 - (i) "having observed your pure conduct with respect" -- 1 Peter 3:2 (Analytical-Literal Translation)
 - (ii) again emphasizes the importance of our proper conduct in front of unbelievers
 - 1 Peter 2:11-12
 - (iii) their lives will speak louder than words
 - (iv) "train the young women to love their husbands... subject to their own husbands, that the Word of God may not be blasphemed" -- Titus 2:4-5
 - g. it can be difficult being married to an unbeliever
 - (i) "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship does righteousness have with lawlessness? And what partnership does light have with darkness? And what agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?" -- 2 Corinthians 6:14-15
 - (ii) there is to be submission unless the husband wants conduct that violates God's Word, or if she is "afraid with any terror" (1 Peter 3:6)
 - a woman must get out of a dangerous situation
 - 3. their inward condition is more important than their outward beauty: 1 Peter 3:3-4
 - a. it's not wrong to dress nicely or wear jewelry, but it should not take the place of what is real beauty
 - b. her inward condition relative to what God wants of her is far more important
 - c. glamour is external; godliness is internal
 - (i) "Beauty is only skin-deep; ugliness goes clear to the bone!"
 - d. woman should never feel as if they're part of a fashion show or forced into a competition
 - (i) the world preaches just the opposite

- e. the true, inward beauty of a godly life is more important
 - (i) "the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit... is precious in the sight of God" -- 1 Peter 3:4 (NASB)
 - (ii) this applies to everyone!
- f. their female ancestors adorned themselves, but submitted to their husbands: 1 Peter 3:5-6a
 - (i) Sarah called Abraham her "lord": Genesis 18:12
- g. "doing good... feeling no terror": 1 Peter 3:6b
 - (i) the Septuagint uses the same Greek word for "terror" in Proverbs 3:25, "Do not be afraid of sudden fear"
 - (ii) may refer to not having to fear for doing what is right
 - 1 Peter 2:14; 3:13
 - Romans 13:3
 - (iii) could it refer to Sarah being forced to support Abraham's half-truth that she was his sister?: Genesis 12:11-13; 20:2-18
 - the truth is that she was his half-sister and his wife
- h. we're not to make determinations from outward appearances: James 2:1-4
- i. the virtuous wife: Proverbs 31:10-31
 - (i) "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised." -- Proverbs 31:30
- F. message to husbands: 1 Peter 3:7
 - 1. "likewise"
 - a. just like the message to the wives started: 1 Peter 3:1
 - b. refers to how we're to be submissive to others
 - (i) the government: 1 Peter 2:13-16
 - (ii) as citizens in general: 1 Peter 2:17
 - (iii) our employer: 1 Peter 2:18
 - (iv) suffering unjustly for doing right: 1 Peter 2:19-25
 - 2. "live together"
 - a. being and working together as one unit
 - b. no mention is made as to whether the wife is a believer or not
 - (i) no basis for automatically dismissing an unbelieving wife
 - 3. "according to knowledge"
 - a. the relationship should be based on the Truth of God's Word
 - b. the roles of each other should be based on the Truth
 - c. having an intelligent recognition of the nature of the marriage relationship
 - d. understand, support, and nurture the differences between men and women
 - 4. "giving honor to the wife"
 - a. "honor" = to prize; fix a value on
 - b. many (most?) religions and cultures around the world, "christian" or otherwise do not give women the respect, honor, and dignity they deserve, and that God expects
 - 5. "as to the weaker vessel"
 - a. women are generally physically weaker than men
 - b. women may require special considerations, and men are to respect and cater to those needs as required
 - 6. "being co-heirs together of the grace of life"
 - a. men and women are equal in the sight of God
 - (i) "There cannot be Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is no male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." -- Galatians 3:28
 - b. "we are children... heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ" -- Romans 8:17
 - c. women are not spiritually a "weaker vessel"
 - (i) to the shame of men they're frequently superior!
 - 7. "not cutting off your prayers"
 - a. a poor marital relationship can interfere with our relationship with God
 - b. our relationship with our spouse can reflect what our relationship with God is

II. How To Have A Blessed Life: 1 Peter 3:8-12

- A. "finally"
 - 1. sums up the previous discussion
- B. five qualities of how we're to live: 1 Peter 3:8
 - 1. "be of one mind"
 - a. "they were all with one accord in one place" -- Acts 2:1
 - b. "And the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul." -- Acts 4:32
 - c. "stand fast in one spirit, striving together with one mind for the faith of the gospel" -- Philippians 1:27
 - d. "fulfill my joy, that you may be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind" -- Philippians 2:2
 - e. Romans 12:16; 15:5-6
 - f. 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - g. Philippians 3:15-16
 - 2. "having compassion on one another"
 - a. "having compassion" = "having a fellow feeling"; suffering or feeling the like with another, sympathetic
 - b. "Rejoice with rejoicing ones, and weep with weeping ones" -- Romans 12:15
 - c. "And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it." -- 1 Corinthians 12:26
 - 3. "loving the brothers"
 - a. "...unfeigned love of the brothers" -- 1 Peter 1:22
 - b. "Love the brotherhood." -- 1 Peter 2:17
 - c. "let us work good toward all, especially toward those of the household of faith" -- Galatians 6:10
 - 4. "tenderhearted"
 - a. "tenderhearted" = well compassioned, sympathetic
 - b. "And be kind to one another, *tenderhearted*, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." -- Ephesians 4:32
 - c. "you have seen... that the Lord is full of pity and of tender mercy" -- James 5:11
 - d. "The Lord is good to all; and His tender mercies are over all His works." -- Psalm 145:9
 - 5. "friendly"
 - a. "friendly" = "friendly of mind"; kind, courteous
 - b. "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender feelings of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering" -- Colossians 3:12
- C. bless people instead of seeking revenge: 1 Peter 3:9
 - 1. "blessing" = speak well of
 - 2. we'll be blessed as a result
 - 3. "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" -- Matthew 5:44 (Luke 6:27-28)
 - 4. "Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse." -- Romans 12:14
 - 5. "Repay no one evil for evil." -- Romans 12:17
 - 6. Romans 12:19-21
- D. "turn away from evil... seek peace": 1 Peter 3:10-12
 - 1. quotes Psalm 34:12-16a
 - a. does not quote the rest of Psalm 34:16, "...to cut off the memory of them from the earth."
 - (i) this is yet future
 - (ii) there is now time and space for repentance
 - "The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness, but is long-suffering toward us, not purposing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." -- 2 Peter 3:9
 - 2. not speaking evil and deceit will help us enjoy life: 1 Peter 3:10
 - a. "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" -- Romans 8:6
 - 3. we're to repent from evil and do good: 1 Peter 3:11a

4. we're to seek and pursue peace: 1 Peter 3:11b
 - a. "If it is possible, as far as is in you, being in peace with all men." -- Romans 12:18
 - b. "So then let us pursue the things of peace, and the things for building up one another."
-- Romans 14:19
 - c. "See that none gives evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue the good, both towards one another and towards all." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:15
 - d. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." -- John 14:27
5. God sees everything: 1 Peter 3:12
 - a. a person's prayers can be hindered by sin
 - b. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." -- Proverbs 15:3
 - c. "The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous." -- Proverbs 15:29
 - d. "But we know that God does not hear sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him." -- John 9:31
 - e. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous one avails much." -- James 5:16b

Lesson 6 -- 1 Peter 3:13-22

- I. Being Persecuted For Righteousness: 1 Peter 3:13-22
 - A. if we suffer for righteousness' sake: 1 Peter 3:13-17
 - 1. repeats the previous encouragement of 1 Peter 2:19-20
 - 2. no one should harm us if we follow what is good: 1 Peter 3:13
 - 3. but we're blessed if we suffer for the sake of righteousness: 1 Peter 3:14a
 - a. "Blessed are they who have been persecuted for righteousness sake! For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all kinds of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward in Heaven is great. For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." -- Matthew 5:10-12
 - b. Matthew 10:18-22
 - c. Luke 6:22-23
 - 4. we're not to be afraid of their threats: 1 Peter 3:14b-15a
 - a. quotes Isaiah 8:12-13
 - b. "sanctify" = to make holy; to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow; to separate from profane things and dedicate to God
 - c. if Jesus has the proper place in our hearts then we'll have the proper, eternal viewpoint
 - 5. we're to be prepared to defend our hope: 1 Peter 3:15b
 - a. even when we're persecuted!
 - b. we should be ready to "give an answer"
 - (i) "answer" = plea; answer, defense
 - from where we get the word "apologetics"
 - (ii) we should know what we believe and why
 - c. we should communicate the Gospel with "meekness and fear"
 - (i) not with pride and hostility
 - d. "Let your speech be always with grace, having been seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." -- Colossians 4:6
 - e. "in meekness instructing those who oppose" -- 2 Timothy 2:25
 - 6. we should be beyond reproach: 1 Peter 3:16
 - a. repeats the exhortation of 1 Peter 2:12
 - b. no one should be able to convict us of anything
 - c. our Christian conduct should cause them shame if they speak against us
 - (i) our actions should speak louder than words
 - d. we should always have a good conscience
 - (i) "And in this I exercise myself, always to have a blameless conscience toward God and men." -- Acts 24:16
 - (ii) "holding faith and a good conscience, which some have put away and made shipwreck as to faith" -- 1 Timothy 1:19
 - if we reject the truth we will suffer shipwreck
 - (iii) Romans 9:1
 - (iv) 2 Corinthians 1:12; 4:2
 - (v) 1 Timothy 1:5
 - (vi) 2 Timothy 1:3
 - (vii) Hebrews 9:14; 13:18
 - 7. it's better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong: 1 Peter 3:17
 - a. repeats the encouragement 1 Peter 2:20
 - b. "Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls in well-doing, as to a faithful Creator." -- 1 Peter 4:19
 - B. Jesus suffered for righteousness' sake: 1 Peter 3:18
 - 1. repeats the previous encouragement of 1 Peter 2:21-24
 - 2. this is the ultimate example of suffering unjustly
 - 3. His suffering and physical death brought us to God
 - 4. He suffered "once"

5. Jesus came in the flesh; He was not here as some spirit, projection, or manifestation
 - a. Colossians 1:22
 - b. 1 Timothy 3:16
 - c. Hebrews 5:7
 - d. 1 Peter 3:18; 4:1
 - e. 1 John 4:2-3
 - f. 2 John 1:7
6. the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead: 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 8:11
 - a. but so did the Father: Hebrews 13:20; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 1:3
 - b. and so did Jesus: John 2:19-21; 10:17-18
7. His death, burial, and resurrection is what the Gospel is all about: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- C. "He" preached to "the spirits": 1 Peter 3:19-20a
 1. there are various viewpoints as to the meaning of this passage
 2. there may be a verse break at the wrong location
 3. "He" refers to Jesus
 4. it is commonly believed that after Jesus died, but before the resurrection, He brought the spirits of the Old Testament believers to heaven
 - a. Ephesians 4:8-10
 - (i) quotes Psalm 68:18
 - b. Colossians 2:15
 - c. the believers were kept in "Abraham's bosom": Luke 16:22
 - d. this passage could be referring to that
 5. He preached to "spirits"
 - a. He preached through the power of the Holy Spirit
 - b. "preached" = to herald, proclaim, publish
 - (i) Jesus proclaimed His victory to them
 - (ii) it certainly was not a salvation message because there are no second chances
 - c. "spirits" can apply to either human or supernatural spirits
 - d. they were apparently disobedient prior to the Flood
 - e. these spirits are in "prison"
 - (i) "prison" = a place where captives are kept and guarded
 6. could it refer to the fallen angels?: Genesis 6:1-4; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6
 - a. no specific reference to Hades
 - b. were these individuals disobedient in a special way?
 7. "God did not spare sinning angels, but thrust them down into Tartarus, and delivered them into chains of darkness, being reserved to judgment." -- 2 Peter 2:4
 - a. "Tartarus" is a pagan term that referred to the place for the wicked dead
 - (i) Peter is using this term to differentiate it from Hades (the present place of dead unbelievers) and Gehenna (the future place of dead unbelievers, the "lake of fire")
 8. "Divine longsuffering" refers to the 120 years God waited before bringing the flood in the days of Noah
 - a. Genesis 6:3
 - b. "The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness, but is long-suffering toward us, not purposing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." -- 2 Peter 3:9
- D. Jesus is our "Noah's ark": 1 Peter 3:20b-21
 1. Noah suffered unjust persecution
 - a. Noah was a "preacher of righteousness": 2 Peter 2:5
 - (i) no one but Noah's family paid attention and were prepared
 - (ii) only a total of 8 people were saved
 2. the ancient idea of "baptism" had to do with immersing a fabric in a dye to change its identity
 3. "baptism" as it is used here may not be referring to a believer's water baptism
 - a. water baptism is a symbol of our salvation
 - (i) it pictures our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection
 - (ii) the resurrection of Jesus Christ is very important

- b. just as the water didn't save Noah and his family, water baptism does not save us
 - (i) we're saved by Jesus' finished work, not by a physical act by us
 - 4. "baptism" is a general term and speaks of our identification with Jesus Christ
 - a. we're "in Him"
 - (i) 1 Corinthians 8:6
 - (ii) Galatians 3:27
 - (iii) Ephesians 1:4
 - (iv) 1 John 2:5-6, 27-28; 3:6, 24; 4:13, 15-16; 5:20
 - b. we're buried with Him
 - (i) Romans 6:1-6
 - (ii) Colossians 2:12
 - c. we've been washed by the blood of Jesus
 - (i) 1 John 1:7
 - (ii) Revelation 1:5; 7:14
 - 5. "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" -- Titus 3:5
- E. Jesus is at the "right hand of God": 1 Peter 3:22a
 - 1. is Peter recalling the ascension of Jesus?
 - a. Mark 16:19
 - b. Luke 24:50-51
 - c. Acts 1:9
 - 2. Jesus sat down at the "right hand of God" and "with My Father in His throne"
 - a. Mark 16:19
 - b. Acts 7:55
 - c. Romans 8:34
 - d. Ephesians 1:20
 - e. Colossians 3:1
 - f. Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2
 - g. 1 Peter 3:22
 - h. Revelation 3:21
 - i. Jesus is not yet on His throne, the Throne of David: that is yet future
 - 3. the right hand represents strength and power: Exodus 15:6, 12; Psalms 16:8; 17:7; 18:35; 20:6; 44:3; 60:5; 91:7; 110:5; 118:15-16; 138:7
 - 4. the right hand is the position of honor: 1 Kings 2:19
- F. Jesus has been given authority over everything: 1 Peter 3:22b
 - 1. He's done all the work, He gets the victory
 - 2. Jesus said, "All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth." -- Matthew 28:18
 - 3. "...the surpassing greatness of His power toward us, the ones believing according to the working of His mighty strength which He worked in Christ in raising Him from the dead, and He seated Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, far above all principality and authority and power and dominion, and every name being named, not only in this world, but also in the coming age. And He has put all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church" -- Ephesians 1:19-22
 - 4. "Therefore God has highly exalted Him, and has given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of heavenly ones, and of earthly ones, and of ones under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." -- Philippians 2:9-11
 - 5. "And you are complete in Him, who is the Head of all principality and power" -- Colossians 2:10

Lesson 7 -- 1 Peter 4:1-11

- I. We Should Have The Mind Of Christ: 1 Peter 4:1-6
 - A. continues the thought of suffering unjustly for living a godly life
 - B. we should be willing to suffer unjustly just as Jesus did: 1 Peter 4:1
 - 1. 1 Peter 3:18
 - 2. we should have the same humble attitude
 - 3. "suffered" should be considered to mean the same as earlier in the verse: death
 - a. being persecuted or subjecting ourselves to asceticism does nothing to purify us
 - 4. the worst that could happen is to be martyred for the sake of Christ
 - a. our death is actually a graduation, a blessing, a promotion to something far better
 - 5. those who die are released from the curse, the sting, and experience of sin
 - a. "For he who died has been freed from sin." -- Romans 6:7
 - 6. "For let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" -- Philippians 2:5
 - 7. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." -- Romans 13:12
 - 8. "For consider Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest you be weary and faint in your minds." -- Hebrews 12:3
 - C. we should live for the Lord: 1 Peter 4:2
 - 1. we should not live to fulfill the lusts of the flesh
 - 2. our lives should be changed
 - 3. our viewpoint should now be to follow the will of God
 - a. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God." -- Romans 12:2
 - b. "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." -- Ephesians 5:17
 - c. "not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart" -- Ephesians 6:6
 - d. "since the day we heard, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" -- Colossians 1:9
 - e. "the world passes away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever" -- 1 John 2:17
 - 4. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Be mindful of things above, not on things on the earth." -- Colossians 3:1-2
 - 5. Titus 3:3-8
 - D. the old way of life: 1 Peter 4:3
 - 1. lasciviousness
 - a. unbridled lust, unbridled sensuality, shamelessness, licentiousness, wantonness
 - b. Galatians 5:17-21
 - c. "For certain men crept in secretly... ungodly ones perverting the grace of our God for *unbridled lust*..." -- Jude 1:4
 - d. "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they lure through the lusts of the flesh, by *unbridled lust*..." -- 2 Peter 2:18
 - e. "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, *lasciviousness*, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness" -- Mark 7:21-22
 - 2. lusts
 - a. a longing or desire for what is forbidden
 - b. "Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the *lusts* of the flesh." -- Galatians 5:16
 - c. "all that is in the world, the *lust* of the flesh, and the *lust* of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world... the world passes away, and the *lust* of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever" -- 1 John 2:16-17
 - d. "they lure through the *lusts* of the flesh..." -- 2 Peter 2:18
 - e. "sin... worked in me all kinds of *lust*" -- Romans 7:8

3. excess of wine
 - a. drunkenness
 - b. we may have different viewpoints about the casual use of alcohol, but we should all agree about the excessive use of it
 - c. "do not be drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit" -- Ephesians 5:18
 - d. "Woe to those who rise up early in the morning to go after strong drink; tarrying in the twilight while wine inflames them!" -- Isaiah 5:11
 - e. Proverbs 23:29-35
4. parties
 - a. carousal, as in letting loose; reveling, rioting
 - b. a nocturnal and riotous procession of half drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honour of Bacchus or some other deity, and sing and play before houses of male and female friends; hence used generally of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry -- Thayer's Greek Definitions
 - c. "Let us walk becomingly, as in the day; not in *carousings* and drinking; not in co-habitation and lustful acts; not in strife and envy." -- Romans 13:13
 - d. Galatians 5:21
5. carousings
 - a. a drinking bout or carousal; a drinking party
6. abominable idolatries
 - a. following anyone or anything other than the one, true, living God
 - b. idolatry is always considered to be "abominable" in Scripture
 - c. "You shall have no other gods besides Me." -- Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7
 - d. covetousness is idolatry: Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5
7. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day; not in carousings and drinking; not in co-habitation and lustful acts; not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not take thought beforehand for the lusts of the flesh." -- Romans 13:12-14
8. "He has made you alive, who were once dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience; among whom we also had our way of life in times past, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." -- Ephesians 2:1-3
- E. our changed lives should be evident to others: 1 Peter 4:4
 1. our former companions should see an obvious difference in our lives
 2. we don't get involved in an "excess of riot" anymore
 - a. "excess of riot" or "flood of dissipation" = "pouring forth of wastefulness"
 - (i) "do not be drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit" -- Ephesians 5:18
 - (ii) "...having faithful children not accused of *riot*..." -- Titus 1:6
 - (iii) "And not many days afterward, the younger son gathered all together and went away into a far country. And there he wasted his property, living dissolutely." -- Luke 15:13
 3. because of their sin they will speak evil of you
- F. the ungodly will face judgment: 1 Peter 4:5
 1. their disobedience will result in punishment
 2. whether they're living now, or have already died, judgment is certain
 3. "But I say to you that every idle word, whatever men may speak, they shall give account of it in the day of judgment." -- Matthew 12:36
 4. "So then each one of us will give account concerning himself to God." -- Romans 14:12
 5. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." -- Hebrews 10:31
- G. the way of escape was made known to them: 1 Peter 4:6
 1. the Gospel was preached to them
 2. mankind judged the righteous according to their sinful flesh, but the believers are living according to the will of God through the power of the Holy Spirit

- II. We Should Be Ready For Jesus' Imminent Return: 1 Peter 4:7-11
- A. "the end of all things has drawn near": 1 Peter 4:7
 - 1. "end" = the point aimed at as a limit, the conclusion of an act or state; result, purpose, aim
 - 2. we're to be looking forward to Jesus' coming
 - a. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" -- Titus 2:13
 - b. He's not coming back to judge the believers: He's coming to take us home
 - 3. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." -- Romans 13:12
 - 4. "Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand." -- Philippians 4:5
 - 5. "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" -- Hebrews 10:25
 - 6. James 5:7-8
 - B. we're to have a "sound mind": 1 Peter 4:7
 - 1. to be in one's right mind; to exercise self control; to curb one's passions
 - 2. "And they came to Jesus and saw him who had been demon-possessed, and had the legion, sitting and clothed and *right-minded*, the one who had the legion." -- Mark 5:15
 - 3. "Young men likewise exhort to be *sober minded*." -- Titus 2:6
 - C. we're to "watch unto prayer": 1 Peter 4:7
 - 1. "watch" = to be sober, to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect
 - 2. we're to treat our prayer life very seriously
 - 3. "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be *sober*." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:6
 - 4. "But you *watch* in all things, endure afflictions..." -- 2 Timothy 4:5
 - 5. we should pray for His return: Matthew 6:10
 - D. His imminent return should prompt us to action and spur us to change
 - 1. prophetic studies should affect our lives; there should be application
 - 2. it causes us to be sincere, serious, alert, faithful, busy, prepared
 - 3. "And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, even as that One is pure." -- 1 John 3:3
 - 4. it's the cure for hypocrisy, covetousness, and worry: Matthew 6:31-34; Luke 12:29-31
 - 5. we should not have unfinished business
 - 6. we should not be ashamed when He comes: we should be busy with His work
 - 7. Parable of the Expectant Steward: Luke 12:35-40
 - 8. Parable of the Faithful Steward: Matthew 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-48
 - E. we should have "fervent love" for each other: 1 Peter 4:8
 - 1. repeats the exhortation of 1 Peter 1:22
 - 2. "fervent" = without ceasing, earnestly
 - a. from a word that means "to stretch out" or "to extend"
 - 3. "And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness." -- Colossians 3:14
 - 4. "Let love be without hypocrisy... loving fervently" -- Romans 12:9-10
 - 5. having love for each other will cause us to look past the imperfections that we all have
 - a. quotes Proverbs 10:12, "Hatred stirs up fights, but love covers all sins."
 - b. "He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends." -- Proverbs 17:9
 - c. "[love] quietly covers all things" -- 1 Corinthians 13:7
 - d. "know that he who turns back the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" -- James 5:20
 - e. this does not mean that we're to ignore sin within the fellowship that needs to be judged
 - (i) Matthew 18:15-17
 - (ii) 1 Corinthians 5
 - F. "be hospitable": 1 Peter 4:9
 - 1. not everyone is given the gift of hospitality, but we all must gladly meet the needs of others
 - 2. "distributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality" -- Romans 12:13
 - 3. "Do not be forgetful of hospitality, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." -- Hebrews 13:2
 - 4. the elders of a church are to be hospitable: 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8

- G. we're to share our blessings with others: 1 Peter 4:10
 - 1. we have a responsibility to share our spiritual and physical blessing with others
 - 2. "He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given."
-- Proverbs 19:17 (NKJV)
 - 3. "The soul who gives freely shall be made fat; and he who waters shall also be watered himself."
-- Proverbs 11:25
 - 4. Romans 12:4-8
 - 5. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- H. we must speak the words of God: 1 Peter 4:11
 - 1. not our opinions, traditions, or man-made dogma
 - 2. not what is politically-correct or the popular paradigm of the day
 - 3. God's standards do not change
 - 4. we're to faithfully use our abilities that God gives us
 - a. if you have the talent or ability, then come and do the work: Exodus 35:10-19
 - (i) "All who are gifted... shall come and make...": Exodus 35:10
 - b. it's the call to bring themselves
 - 5. it's all to be for God's glory and through Jesus Christ
 - 6. "Now He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for eating, may He supply and multiply your seed, and increase the fruits of your righteousness" -- 2 Corinthians 9:10

Lesson 8 -- 1 Peter 4:12-19

- I. Suffering For Living Godly: 1 Peter 4:12-14
 - A. we're not to be surprised if we have difficulties from the world when we live a godly life
 - 1. we're not to think it's strange
 - 2. "Yea, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." -- 2 Timothy 3:12
 - 3. "Blessed are they who have been persecuted for righteousness sake! For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all kinds of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward in Heaven is great. For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." -- Matthew 5:10-12
 - 4. Matthew 10:18-22
 - 5. Luke 6:22-23
 - B. we're to expect it
 - 1. "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, the servant is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they have kept My saying, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me." -- John 15:18-21
 - C. "fiery trials" may indicate the level of the persecution that's beginning
 - D. we're to be glad about it: 1 Peter 4:13a
 - 1. because we're identifying with what Jesus went through
 - 2. not because of the mere persecution but because of the reason why: we're living a godly life
 - 3. "count it all joy" -- James 1:2
 - 4. Matthew 5:12
 - 5. Jesus looked beyond the temporary physical discomfort to the eternal benefit
 - a. "looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame" -- Hebrews 12:2
 - E. we'll rejoice even more when He comes for us: 1 Peter 4:13b
 - 1. "when His glory shall be revealed" refers to His 2nd coming
 - 2. no matter what we're going through now, later we'll be glad with "exceeding joy"
 - a. "exceeding joy" = "jump for joy"
 - F. those who are insulted or persecuted because of Jesus are blessed: 1 Peter 4:14
 - 1. "reviled" = taunted, insulted, defamed
 - 2. repeats what he said in 1 Peter 3:14, "if you also suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed"
 - 3. it means that the Spirit is guiding their lives
 - 4. the story of Stephen: Acts 6-7
 - 5. 2 Corinthians 12:10
 - 6. they're blaspheming Him
 - 7. we reap His glory and eternal benefits
- II. We're Not To Suffer For Doing Wrong: 1 Peter 4:15-16
 - A. if we suffer it should be for living a godly life and doing the will of the Lord
 - B. repeats the concept of 1 Peter 2:20; 3:17
 - C. our life should be perfect and beyond reproach: 1 Peter 2:12; 3:16
 - D. we're not to be subversives or troublemakers: 1 Peter 4:15
 - 1. murderer
 - 2. thief
 - 3. evildoer = criminal, malefactor
 - 4. a meddler in the affairs of others
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:11
 - b. 2 Thessalonians 3:11
 - c. 1 Timothy 5:13
 - d. includes gossip

- E. we should not be ashamed to suffer for being a Christian: 1 Peter 4:16a
 - 1. at one point Peter was ashamed of Jesus and even denied knowing Him
 - a. Matthew 26:69-75
 - b. Mark 14:66-72
 - c. Luke 22:55-62
 - 2. "For this cause I also suffer these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard My deposit unto that Day" -- 2 Timothy 1:12
 - a. the Apostle Paul is looking beyond the present difficulties and to the eternal
 - b. his eyes are on the Lord
 - 3. "they departed from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to be shamed for His name" -- Acts 5:41
 - 4. "And after laying on them many stripes, they threw them into prison... and toward midnight Paul and Silas prayed and praised God in a hymn. And the prisoners listened to them." -- Acts 16:23-25
 - 5. "Christian" = follower of Christ
 - a. used only 3 times in the New Testament
 - (i) Acts 11:26
 - "the disciples were first called Christian in Antioch"
 - (ii) Acts 26:28
 - (iii) 1 Peter 4:16
 - 6. "Through Him we also have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice on the hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we glory in afflictions also, knowing that afflictions work out patience, and patience works out experience, and experience works out hope. And hope does not make us ashamed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us." -- Romans 5:2-5
 - 7. "My brothers, count it all joy when you fall into different kinds of trials, knowing that the trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing." -- James 1:2-4
 - F. those who are suffering should continue to glorify God: 1 Peter 4:16b
 - 1. they should not loose heart and be discouraged
 - 2. they should not fall away and quit
 - 3. they should remain strong
- III. The Sinner Has No Hope Before God: 1 Peter 4:17-18
- A. purging, chastening, and purifying of the Church had begun: 1 Peter 4:17a
 - 1. the early church certainly wasn't perfect
 - 2. the believers were being allowed to undergo difficulties
 - a. they were to expect it, not thinking it strange that it happens
 - b. cleans out the fakes
 - c. strengthens the believers
 - 3. "...begin at My sanctuary" -- Ezekiel 9:6
 - 4. "For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by My name; and should you be found entirely without guilt?" -- Jeremiah 25:29
 - 5. "Hear this, O priests, and listen, house of Israel. And give ear, house of the king. For judgment is toward you, because you have been a snare..." -- Hosea 5:1
 - 6. "Behold, blessed is the man whom God corrects. Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty." -- Job 5:17
 - 7. "Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O Lord, to teach him out of Your Law" -- Psalms 94:12
 - 8. "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord; nor be weary with His correction" -- Proverbs 3:11
 - 9. "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him chastens him early." -- Proverbs 13:24
 - 10. "For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." -- 1 Corinthians 11:31-32
 - 11. "And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons, 'My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and He scourges every son whom He receives.' If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father does not chasten?" -- Hebrews 12:5-7

12. "Now chastening for the present does not seem to be joyous, but grievous. Nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who are exercised by it." -- Hebrews 12:11
 13. "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; therefore be zealous and repent." -- Revelation 3:19
 - B. the unbelievers have no chance before God's judgment: 1 Peter 4:17b-18
 1. at least the believers have hope
 2. quotes Proverbs 11:31 (LXX)
- IV. During Trials We're To Keep Our Minds On Christ: 1 Peter 4:19
- A. this only applies to those who face difficulties because of doing the will of God
 - B. we're to fully commit ourselves to Him during those times
 - C. we're to continue to be faithful
 - D. we're to trust that He knows what He's doing
 - E. we're to trust Him to carry us through it all
 - F. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." -- Romans 8:28

Lesson 9 -- 1 Peter 5:1-4

- I. Duties Of The Elders: 1 Peter 5:1-4
 - A. "I exhort": 1 Peter 5:1
 - 1. Peter is telling the elders of the churches what they need to be doing during persecution and troubles
 - 2. people need good leaders, caring individuals, and great encouragers
 - 3. applies to what they should be doing all the time, too
 - B. to the "elders among you": 1 Peter 5:1
 - 1. there is always more than one elder seen in a church
 - a. Acts 11:30; 14:23; 20:17
 - b. Titus 1:5
 - 2. you never see a church built around a single individual
 - a. is that a mark of a cult?
 - C. "I also an elder": 1 Peter 5:1
 - 1. Peter was on the same level as they
 - a. if he was the first Pope he didn't know it!
 - 2. there is no centralized ruling body over a bunch of churches
 - 3. there is no hierarchy beyond the local fellowship of believers
 - 4. only Christ is at the head
 - a. Ephesians 5:23
 - b. Colossians 1:18
 - D. "a witness of the sufferings of Christ": 1 Peter 5:1
 - 1. Peter witnessed what Jesus suffered
 - E. "a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed": 1 Peter 5:1
 - 1. Peter witnessed the glory of God at the Transfiguration
 - a. Matthew 17:1
 - b. Mark 9:2
 - c. Luke 9:28
 - 2. he's looking forward to the coming glory: the 2nd coming of Christ
 - 3. he's got his mind looking beyond the present circumstances and to the eternal
 - F. "feed the flock of God": 1 Peter 5:2
 - 1. "feed" = tend as a shepherd
 - a. this goes well beyond merely feeding
 - b. includes feeding, leading, guiding, protecting, disciplining, edification, training
 - c. this speaks of service
 - d. "...those who labor among you" -- 1 Thessalonians 5:12
 - (i) "labor" = fatiguing labor
 - (ii) "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who *labor* in Word and doctrine." -- 1 Timothy 5:17
 - (iii) "But by the grace of God I am what I am... but I *labored* more abundantly... yet not I, but the grace of God with me" -- 1 Corinthians 15:10
 - 2. Jesus told Peter to "feed My lambs... *tend* My sheep... feed My sheep": John 21:15-17
 - a. this is Peter being reinstated as a Disciple
 - b. the emphasis is initial growth, then training and edification, and then to continue to feed and nourish them towards maturity
 - 3. "Therefore take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to *feed* the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood." -- Acts 20:28
 - 4. it's "feed" not "fleece"
 - a. money is never to be the motive
 - 5. it's the "flock of God" not "their flock"
 - a. "...the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood" -- Acts 20:28
 - b. "My sheep... My flock... My flock... My flock... My flock... My flock... My flock... My flock... My sheep... My sheep... My flock... My flock... My flock... My flock... My flock..." -- Ezekiel 34

6. prestige and position should never be a motive
7. there is no room for selfishness here
 - a. "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you kill the fat ones, but you do not feed the flock." -- Ezekiel 34:2-3
8. there is no room for laziness here
 - a. "You have not made the weak strong, nor have you healed the sick, nor have you bound up the broken. You have not brought again those driven away, nor have you sought that which was lost; but you have ruled them with force and with cruelty." -- Ezekiel 34:4
- G. they're to "look upon" them: 1 Peter 5:2
 1. they're to carefully watch over them
 2. "*looking diligently* lest any fail of the grace of God, or lest any root of bitterness springing up disturb you, and by it many are defiled" -- Hebrews 12:15
- H. "not by compulsion": 1 Peter 5:2
 1. they should not feel obligated to do it
 2. they should not feel forced into it
 3. a sense of obligation should never be a motive
- I. they're to do it "voluntarily": 1 Peter 5:2
 1. of one's own accord
 2. it's to be their decision
 3. "For if we sin *willfully*..." -- Hebrews 10:26
- J. they should not be eager or greedy for "disgraceful gain": 1 Peter 5:2
 1. speaking of the oversight, "not *greedy of ill gain*" -- 1 Timothy 3:3
 2. "Likewise the deacons... not *greedy of ill gain*" -- 1 Timothy 3:8
 3. "For an overseer... not *greedy for ill gain*" -- Titus 1:7
 4. money should never be a motive
 5. "For everyone from the least of them even to the greatest of them cuts off a profit; and from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely." -- Jeremiah 6:13
 6. Jeremiah 8:10
 7. Micah 3:11
 8. 1 Timothy 6:9-11
 9. false teachers are motivated by greed
 - a. "...false prophets... false teachers... through covetousness they will use you for gain with well-turned words..." -- 2 Peter 2:1-3
 - (i) "make merchandise of you" (KJV)
- K. they should do it with a "forward heart" or "ready mind": 1 Peter 5:2
 1. it's more than just being willing to do it: they should be driven from their hearts
 2. there should be a cheerful willingness about it, an eagerness
 3. "git-r-done!"
- L. they should not "exercise dominion" over others: 1 Peter 5:3
 1. this speaks of having or wanting excessive control
 2. other Greek words are used to speak of the legitimate authority in the church
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5:12
 - b. 1 Timothy 5:17
 3. power should never be a motive
 - a. Ezekiel 34:4
- M. "those allotted": 1 Peter 5:3
 1. the Greek word refers to the "lot" or "die" that was involved when casting lots
 - a. "they gave forth their *lot*... the *lot* fell upon Matthias" -- Acts 1:26
 - b. "...that they may receive remission of sins and an *inheritance* among those who are sanctified by faith" -- Acts 26:18
 - c. "...to be partakers of the *inheritance* of the saints in light" -- Colossians 1:12
 - d. "For he was numbered with us and had obtained *part* of this ministry." -- Acts 1:17
 - e. "to take the *share* of this ministry and apostleship" -- Acts 1:25

- f. the Philippians and Thessalonians were so special to him that Paul considered them as his future reward
 - (i) "Therefore, my brothers, ones loved and longed for, my joy and crown..." -- Philippians 4:1
 - (ii) "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy." -- 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (NKJV)
 - 2. being a spiritual leader is very serious business: they will have to give account of the ministry that they've been given (allotted)
 - a. "Yield to those leading you... as those who must give account" -- Hebrews 13:17
 - b. "So says the Lord Jehovah: 'Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand'" -- Ezekiel 34:10
 - c. "Therefore take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood." -- Acts 20:28
 - d. Ezekiel 3:17-21; 33:1-11; 34:1-16
 - e. Malachi 2:7
 - f. Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:1-2
 - g. James 3:1
 - h. 1 Peter 5:1-3
 - 3. "...give an account of your stewardship..." -- Luke 16:2
- N. they should be "examples to the flock" -- 1 Peter 5:3
 - 1. "example" = the impression left by a stamp or die, such as when stamping out a coin
 - a. a pattern of conformity to which a thing must be made
 - b. implies an example to be imitated
 - c. "Brothers, be imitators together of me, and mark those who walk this way, for you have us for a *pattern*." -- Philippians 3:17
 - d. "unless I shall see the *print* of the nails in His hands, and put my finger into the *print* of the nails... I will not believe" -- John 20:25
 - (i) in the same way the world won't believe unless they can see and touch the impression of Jesus on our lives
 - 2. their lives are to be good impressions on others
 - 3. their lives are to be so good that they're to be imprinted on others
 - a. they will leave an impression, either good or bad!
 - 4. true spiritual leadership is by example
- O. the Chief Shepherd is coming: 1 Peter 5:4
 - 1. speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - a. "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." -- Psalm 23:1
 - b. "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those with young." -- Isaiah 40:11
 - c. "And I will set up one Shepherd over them, and He shall feed them, My servant David. He shall feed them, and He shall be their Shepherd." -- Ezekiel 34:23
 - d. "strike the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered" -- Zechariah 13:7
 - e. Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." -- John 10:11
 - 2. a comparison between the bad shepherds and the Good Shepherd is seen in Ezekiel 34:1-16
- P. good shepherds will be rewarded: 1 Peter 5:4
 - 1. they'll receive a "never-fading crown of glory"
 - 2. rewards are eternal
 - 3. "to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and unfading, reserved in Heaven for you" -- 1 Peter 1:4

II. Summary

- A. think of the qualifications of elders and shepherds as listed here, and in 1 Timothy, Titus, Ezekiel, etc., and how they apply to the churches we've attended and been a part of
 - 1. my first impression of elders and deacons has them sitting around a table in a meeting
 - 2. why then do they need some of these qualifications... ?!
 - a. temperate... sober... of good behavior
 - b. not violent... gentle... not quarrelsome
 - c. hospitable
 - d. able to teach
 - e. good testimony among those on the outside
 - f. be good examples
 - g. not motivated by money, power, position, prestige
 - h. being driven by an eager, cheerful heart to tend the sheep
 - 3. they need these qualifications because they're not supposed to be just sitting around a table in a meeting, but to be working out among the flock
 - a. opening their home to the homeless
 - b. teaching Bible studies, both in the church and outside of the church
 - c. visiting and getting to know the people of the church well
 - (i) the Greek word for "overseer" is translated "visitation" in Luke 19:44; 1 Peter 2:12
 - d. counseling
 - e. being an arbitrator
 - f. preaching
 - 4. by looking at this list of qualifications, I think they're to be very visible and working hard in the church and in the community!
 - a. a good assignment would be to list each qualification and come up with examples on how each of us could demonstrate each quality for God's kingdom
 - (i) we're all full-time workers
 - (ii) in some ways we're all to be acting as elders and deacons
 - deacons = men and women in the level of ministry just under the elders (not "table waiters" as commonly defined in today's churches)
 - (iii) we all should be able to qualify for these roles
- B. "serving as overseers... willingly... eagerly... being examples": 1 Peter 5:2 (NKJV)
 - 1. are we serving the Lord and others?
 - 2. are we doing it willingly and cheerfully?
 - 3. how eager are we in serving others and doing what is right?
 - 4. are we being good examples to others in the church and to those on the outside?
 - a. we're all examples, but are we good examples?!
 - b. can the Lord use us in His media campaign?

Lesson 10 -- 1 Peter 5:5-14

- I. Importance Of Humility: 1 Peter 5:5-7
 - A. "likewise": 1 Peter 5:5
 - 1. a connecting word, referring to the previous discussion
 - 2. the previous discussion had to do with commitment, responsibility, and stewardship
 - B. "younger ones, be subject to older ones": 1 Peter 5:5
 - 1. I think this refers to age and not to the Elders of the church
 - a. this word can refer to age
 - (i) "Do not sharply rebuke an *elder*, but exhort as a father, and the younger ones as brothers, *older women* as mothers, the younger as sisters in all purity." -- 1 Timothy 5:1
 - b. this word can refer to the Elders of a church
 - (i) "Let the *elders* who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in Word and doctrine." -- 1 Timothy 5:17
 - (ii) 1 Peter 5:1
 - 2. younger people are to learn from older people
 - a. look for mentors
 - b. learn from their experiences
 - c. use them as examples
 - C. "all being subject to one another": 1 Peter 5:5
 - 1. don't try to lord yourselves over others
 - a. the Elders were just warned about this: 1 Peter 5:3
 - 2. we're all to work together with each other as a family, and as one body
 - 3. "submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God" -- Ephesians 5:21
 - D. "be clothed with humility": 1 Peter 5:5
 - 1. "be clothed" = to dress oneself for labor, such as a servant's apron being worn as a token of deference; knot or band by which two things are fastened together
 - 2. "humility" = humiliation of mind; the having a humble opinion of one's self; a deep sense of one's littleness; modesty, humility, lowliness of mind
 - 3. we're to firmly tie humility onto ourselves
 - 4. humility is to be our working clothes
 - 5. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Do not let each man look upon his own things, but each man also on the things of others." -- Philippians 2:3-4
 - 6. Jesus' example of washing the Disciples' feet: John 13:3-17
 - E. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble: 1 Peter 5:5
 - 1. quotes Proverbs 3:34 (LXX)
 - a. "humble" = depressed in mind or circumstances; needy, especially saintly; poor, weak and afflicted; humble, lowly, meek
 - 2. also quoted in James 4:6
 - 3. "resist" = to range oneself against, to oppose; to range in battle against
 - 4. "proud" = trying to conspicuously appear above others; overestimating one's merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughty
 - 5. "grace" = that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness; having favor
 - 6. "humble" = depressed, that is, humiliated in circumstances or disposition; not rising far from the ground
 - 7. the seven things that the Lord hates and are hateful to his soul: Proverbs 6:16-19
 - a. a proud look
 - b. a lying tongue
 - c. hands that shed innocent blood
 - d. a heart that plots wicked plans
 - e. feet hurrying to run to evil
 - f. a false witness who speaks lies
 - g. he who causes fighting among brothers

8. "For so says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity; whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, even with the contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." -- Isaiah 57:15
9. pride is a barrier to spiritual maturity
10. "So let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." -- 1 Corinthians 10:12
11. the original sin was pride
 - a. out of pride Satan/Lucifer made five "I will" statements: Isaiah 14:9-21 ±
 - b. additional passage about Satan/Lucifer is Ezekiel 28:11-19 ±
- F. "be humbled under the mighty hand of God": 1 Peter 5:6
 1. we are to voluntarily put ourselves under God's protection and control
 2. we're not to think we don't need it
 3. we're to believe that God knows what He is doing, that He can take care of us, and take us through the problems we're having
 4. "And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand." -- Exodus 3:19
 5. "O, Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness, and Your mighty hand. For what God is there in heaven or in earth who can do according to Your works, and according to Your might?" -- Deuteronomy 3:24
 6. "As I live, says the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, I will reign over you." -- Ezekiel 20:33
- G. "so that He may exalt you in due time": 1 Peter 5:6
 1. everything will be done according to His timing
 - a. He knows best!
 2. He will not commend someone not doing His will
 3. "He has put down rulers from their seats and exalted the lowly" -- Luke 1:52
 4. "Therefore whoever shall humble himself like this little child, this one is the greater in the kingdom of Heaven." -- Matthew 18:4
 5. "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility." -- Proverbs 15:33
 6. "Before shattering, the heart of man is proud, and before honor is humility." -- Proverbs 18:12
 7. "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" -- Micah 6:8
- H. we're to "throw" our problems and concerns upon Him: 1 Peter 5:7
 1. "casting" = to throw upon
 2. we're not to think that we can do it all ourselves
- I. because "He cares for you": 1 Peter 5:7
 1. "cares" = to be of interest to; to be concerned about
 2. He wants to help us with our problems because He's interested in us and concerned about us
- II. The Devil Wants To Devour Us: 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - A. we're to be sensible: 1 Peter 5:8
 1. "sensible" = not drunk; to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect
 2. "Therefore girding up the loins of your mind, being *sober*..." -- 1 Peter 1:13
 3. "watch unto prayer": 1 Peter 4:7
 4. "let us watch and be *calm*" -- 1 Thessalonians 5:6
 5. "But let us, who are of the day, be *calm*, having put on the breastplate of faith and love and the hope of salvation for a helmet." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:8
 6. "But you *watch* in all things, endure afflictions..." -- 2 Timothy 4:5
 - B. we're to be vigilant: 1 Peter 5:8
 1. "vigilant" = to keep awake, that is, watch
 2. "let us *watch* and be calm" -- 1 Thessalonians 5:6
 3. "Continue in prayer and *watch* in it with thanksgiving" -- Colossians 4:2
 4. "*Watch*! Stand fast in the faith! Be men! Be strong!" -- 1 Corinthians 16:13
 - C. the devil is roaming around like a roaring lion: 1 Peter 5:8
 1. "devil" = slanderer; false accuser
 2. he is not silent: we can hear his deceit
 3. he is not hiding: we can see his activity
 4. he is not unknown: we know who he is and how he works

- D. we're to "firmly resist" the devil: 1 Peter 5:9
 - 1. "firmly" = stiff, solid, stable; strong, firm, immovable, solid, hard, rigid
 - 2. "resist" = to stand against; to set one's self against, to withstand, resist, oppose
 - 3. "Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... take to yourselves the whole armor of God, that you may be able to *withstand* in the evil day, and having done all, to stand... Above all, take the shield of faith, with which you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." -- Ephesians 6:11-16
 - 4. "Therefore submit yourselves to God. *Resist* the devil, and he will flee from you." -- James 4:7
 - a. do not resist the devil without first submitting to God
 - (i) we get the victory only through Him and His power
 - (ii) we are not to mouth off to the Satan and his forces: Jude 1:8-9
 - E. every other Christian is going through the same sort of troubles: 1 Peter 5:9
 - 1. what we're going through is nothing unusual or unique to us
 - 2. so we should also lean on each other when we need to, and help each other when we can
 - 3. everything is "Father-filtered"
 - a. "No temptation has taken you but what is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able, but with the temptation also will make a way to escape, so that you may be able to bear it." -- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- III. Keep Our Focus On God: 1 Peter 5:10-11
- A. God is full of grace: 1 Peter 5:10
 - B. God does the calling: 1 Peter 5:10
 - 1. "God is faithful, by whom you were called to the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." -- 1 Corinthians 1:9
 - 2. "that you should walk worthy of God, who has called you to His kingdom and glory" -- 1 Thessalonians 2:12
 - C. we're going to partake of His glory for eternity: 1 Peter 5:10
 - 1. "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and will preserve me to His heavenly kingdom" -- 2 Timothy 4:18
 - D. it's all by Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 5:10
 - 1. Jesus did all the work and He should get all the credit
 - E. after our experience here we'll be better off: 1 Peter 5:10
 - 1. "suffered" = to experience a sensation or impression; usually refers to uncomfortable circumstances
 - 2. He will make us "complete"
 - a. "perfect" = complete thoroughly; repair or adjust; prepare, equip
 - (i) "...You have *prepared* a body for Me" -- Hebrews 10:5
 - (ii) "*Become complete*, encourage yourselves; mind the same thing; be at peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you." -- 2 Corinthians 13:11
 - (iii) "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone having been *fully trained* will be like his teacher." -- Luke 6:40
 - 3. He will "establish" us
 - a. "establish" = to turn resolutely in a certain direction; to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix; to strengthen, make firm; to render constant, confirm one's mind
 - b. we'll know the proper direction we should be going
 - c. "...to *establish* your hearts blameless in holiness before God" -- 1 Thessalonians 3:13
 - d. "the Lord is faithful, who shall *establish* you" -- 2 Thessalonians 3:3
 - e. "*Establish* your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." -- James 5:8
 - 4. He will "strengthen" us
 - a. this word is used only here in the New Testament
 - b. may refer to our spiritual knowledge and vigor
 - 5. He will "settle" us
 - a. "settle" = lay a basis for; lay a foundation
 - b. "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and *grounded* in love" -- Ephesians 3:17

- c. "having made peace through the blood of His cross, it pleased the Father to reconcile all things to Himself through Him... He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish, and without charge in His sight, if indeed you continue in the faith *grounded* and settled (immoveable)" -- Colossians 1:20-23
 - d. "Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established" -- Hebrews 13:9
 - (i) "established" = stabilized; have a good footing
 - F. He deserves all the glory and He will reign forever: 1 Peter 5:11
 - 1. "...so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory, and the might forever and ever. Amen." -- 1 Peter 4:11
 - 2. "to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." -- Revelation 1:6
 - 3. "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and will preserve me to His heavenly kingdom, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." -- 2 Timothy 4:18
- IV. Closing Remarks: 1 Peter 5:12-14
- A. Silvanus wrote this for Peter: 1 Peter 5:12
 - 1. this may be Silas, the Apostle Paul's traveling companion and co-worker
 - 2. he may have even delivered it to them personally
 - B. Peter wrote this to assure them that what they're believing is the truth
 - 1. he's trying to encourage them
 - C. it's written from "Babylon": 1 Peter 5:13
 - 1. some say that "Babylon" is used as an idiom for Rome to protect Peter's location
 - 2. however, there is archeological evidence that Peter was in Babylon at one time
 - D. Mark is with Peter, too: 1 Peter 5:13
 - 1. this is John Mark
 - 2. the Gospel of Mark is named after this John Mark
 - a. it may really be Peter's account that John Mark helped him write
 - E. "Greet one another with a kiss of holy love.": 1 Peter 5:14
 - 1. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." -- Romans 16:16
 - 2. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." -- 1 Corinthians 16:20
 - 3. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." -- 2 Corinthians 13:12
 - 4. "Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:26
 - F. "Peace be to you": 1 Peter 5:14
 - 1. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." -- John 14:27
 - 2. only those in Christ Jesus knows true peace, especially when we enter eternity

Lesson 11 -- Introduction + 2 Peter 1:1-4

I. Introduction

A. the 2nd letter of Peter

1. it's well-accepted that it's written by Peter, the Disciple and Apostle
2. generally believed to have been written shortly after his previous letter, around 64-65 A.D.
 - a. Peter said that all of Paul's letters were in circulation at the time of this writing: 2 Peter 3:15-16
 - b. Paul was probably dead at this time
 - c. written shortly before Peter's death: 2 Peter 1:14
 - (i) Jesus told Peter how he would die: John 21:18-19
 - many assume this refers to crucifixion
3. Greek styles differ between 1 Peter and 2 Peter
 - a. 1 Peter more classical and sophisticated than 2 Peter
 - (i) 1 Peter written through Silas (and John Mark?): 1 Peter 5:12-13
 - (ii) Peter may have written 2 Peter himself just before his death
 - b. this difference in styles caused 2 Peter to be more slowly accepted as being divinely inspired than other books of the Bible
 - (i) it was generally accepted by the 4th century
4. some conjecture that this letter might have been the cover letter for Mark's Gospel
5. the purpose of this letter is to warn believers of error, false teachers, and false doctrine
 - a. he is warning believers of what we today would call "liberal Christianity"
 - b. Peter probably didn't know of this problem at the time of the first letter otherwise he might have said something about it in his first letter
 - c. this is Peter's last opportunity to write something to other believers, and he used it to warn others
 - d. Paul also used last opportunities to warn others
 - (i) to the Ephesians: Acts 20:17-38
 - "For I did not keep back from declaring to you all the counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also men shall arise from your own selves, speaking perverse things in order to draw disciples away after them. Therefore watch and remember that for the time of three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears." -- Acts 20:27-31
 - (ii) to Timothy: 2 Timothy
 - "hold fast the pattern of sound words" -- 2 Timothy 1:13
 - "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth... shun profane, vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness... their word will eat like a gangrene... who have erred concerning the truth... and who overthrow the faith of some" -- 2 Timothy 2:15-18
 - "Know this also, that in the last days grievous times will be at hand." -- 2 Timothy 3:1
 - "For of these are those who creep into houses" -- 2 Timothy 3:6
 - "But evil men and seducers will go forward to worse, deceiving and being deceived." -- 2 Timothy 3:13
 - "For a time will be when they will not endure sound doctrine, but they will heap up teachers to themselves according to their own lusts, tickling the ear. And they will turn away their ears from the truth and will be turned to myths." -- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - e. Jude "found it necessary" to write his letter to warn his readers: Jude 1:3

B. Peter, the person

1. brother of Andrew
 - a. Matthew 4:18; 10:2
 - b. Mark 1:16
 - c. Luke 6:14
 - d. John 1:40; 6:8

2. a fisherman
 - a. Matthew 4:18
 - b. Mark 1:16
3. he was married
 - a. Matthew 8:14
 - b. Mark 1:29-31
 - c. Luke 4:38
 - d. his wife apparently went with him on missionary trips: 1 Corinthians 9:5
4. Andrew, his brother introduced him to Jesus: John 1:40-42
 - a. Andrew also introduced a lad (John 6:8-9) and some Greeks (John 12:20-22) to Jesus
5. originally known as Simon: Mark 1:16; John 1:40-41
 - a. Jesus changed his name to Peter (Greek) or Cephas (Aramaic)
 - (i) Mark 3:16
 - (ii) Luke 6:14
 - (iii) John 1:42
 - b. Jesus called him "Simon" after he denied Jesus: John 21:15-17
 - (i) Peter was being reinstated as a Disciple in this passage
6. seems to be at least the spokesman of the Disciples
 - a. he was always very bold to speak out
 - b. with this boldness he failed to acknowledge Christ, but denied Him instead
 - (i) Matthew 26:69-75
 - (ii) Mark 14:66-72
 - (iii) Luke 22:55-62
 - (iv) John 18:15-18, 25-27
7. always named first in the list of Disciples
 - a. Matthew 10:2-4
 - b. Mark 3:16-19
 - c. Luke 6:13-16
 - d. Acts 1:13
8. part of Jesus' "inner circle," being chosen by Jesus with 2 or 3 others for special occasions
 - a. when Jairus' daughter was raised from the dead: Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51
 - b. at the Transfiguration: Matthew 17:1; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28
 - c. for a prophetic teaching: Mark 13:3
 - d. to go further into the Garden of Gethsemane for prayer: Matthew 26:37; Mark 14:33
9. Peter became a great teacher and preacher after the coming of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2-12
 - a. he gave two great sermons: Acts 2:14-36; 3:11-26
 - b. he became the Apostle to the Jews
 - c. opened the door to the Samaritans: Acts 8
 - d. opened the door to the Gentiles: Acts 10
 - (i) he was given a special vision regarding the acceptance of the Gentiles: Acts 10:9-16
 - (ii) the Apostle Paul became the Apostle to the Gentiles
 - Acts 9:15; 22:21; 26:17-20
 - Romans 11:13; 15:16
 - Galatians 1:16; 2:2, 7-9
 - Ephesians 3:8
 - 1 Timothy 2:7
 - 2 Timothy 1:11
10. according to tradition he and his wife were crucified somewhere around 66-68 A.D.

II. Salutation: 2 Peter 1:1

- A. Peter was a "servant" of Jesus Christ: 2 Peter 1:1
 1. "servant" or "bondservant" = (Greek, 'doulos') a willing lifetime servant to a household
 - a. not unwilling slave
 - b. more than just a mere servant or slave
 - c. a respected position
 - d. the same seen in Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1; James 1:1; Jude 1:1

2. he's a servant just like the rest of us
3. there is absolutely no Biblical reason to elevate Peter's office or position above others
 - a. if he was the first Pope he didn't know it!
- B. Peter was an "apostle": 2 Peter 1:1
 1. "apostle" = delegate, ambassador, messenger, one sent with orders
 2. all believers are ambassadors
 - a. "As My Father has sent Me, even so I send you." -- John 20:21
 - b. Matthew 28:18-20
 - c. Mark 16:15-18
 - d. Luke 24:46-53
 - e. John 17:18
 - f. Acts 1:4-9
- C. Peter was an apostle of Jesus Christ: 2 Peter 1:1
 1. not of any particular church or denomination
 - a. there is no centralized ruling body over a bunch of churches
 - b. there is no hierarchy beyond the local fellowship of believers
 2. Jesus Christ is always to be the center and reason for everything
 - a. our allegiance should not be to an earthly organization instead of Jesus Christ
 - b. "He is the Head of the body, the church, who is the Beginning, the First-born from the dead, that He may be pre-eminent in all things." -- Colossians 1:18
 - c. "...as Christ is the head of the church" -- Ephesians 5:23
- D. written to those that have "like precious faith with us": 2 Peter 1:1
 1. this refers to all believers
 2. "like precious" = of equal value or honor; equally precious, equally honored, to be esteemed equal to
 3. his faith was the same as their faith
 4. there are not different faiths, or objects of our faith that are acceptable
 5. there are no different levels of faith or knowledge
 6. there is no "special knowledge" or "special revelation" that is available only to certain people
 7. "There is one body and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in you all." -- Ephesians 4:4-6
- E. "through the righteousness of our God and our Savior Jesus Christ": 2 Peter 1:1
 1. certainly not our righteousness
 2. "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" -- Isaiah 64:6 (KJV)
 3. "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" -- Titus 3:5
 4. "For He has made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." -- 2 Corinthians 5:21
 5. "not having my own righteousness... but through the faith of Christ, the righteousness of God by faith" -- Philippians 3:9
 6. Jesus = God
 - a. "looking for the blessed hope, and the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" -- Titus 2:13
 - b. "the Christ... He being God over all, blessed forever" -- Romans 9:5
 - c. "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." -- Colossians 2:9

III. God's Divine Power And Promises: 2 Peter 1:2-4

- A. "Grace and peace be multiplied to you...": 2 Peter 1:2
 1. "multiply" = to increase
 2. "May grace and peace be multiplied to you." -- 1 Peter 1:2
 3. "Mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you." -- Jude 1:2
- B. "...through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord": 2 Peter 1:2
 1. "knowledge" = recognition, that is, full discernment; precise and correct knowledge
 2. grace and peace increases through the knowledge of God and Jesus
 3. not just mere knowledge or a passing acknowledgment, but a full recognition of who He is and what He did

4. "...they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the *full knowledge* of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." -- 2 Peter 2:20
5. there is a connection between the Word of God and understanding
 - a. "The entrance of Your words... gives understanding." -- Psalm 119:130
 - b. "Give me understanding according to Your word." -- Psalm 119:169
 - c. in the parable of the Four Soils the "good soil" had understanding (Matthew 13:23), but the "wayside soil" had no understanding (Matthew 13:19)
6. "Then faith is of hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." -- Romans 10:17
7. "All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfected, thoroughly furnished to every good work." -- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- C. Who is missing in 2 Peter 1:1-2?
 1. God and Jesus are seen, but where is the Holy Spirit?
 2. He is always working behind the scenes to lead, help, and teach us
 3. He is always working to bring glory to God and to bring our attention to Him
- D. He's given us everything we need for eternal life and godliness: 2 Peter 1:3
 1. it all comes from His power
 2. we get it from "knowledge" of Him
 - a. not just mere, superficial knowledge
 - b. same word as used in 2 Peter 1:2, referring to full discernment, precise and correct knowledge
 - c. we can have victorious Christian living from "knowing" Him
 - d. we can know Him only by knowing the Word of God
 3. He's given us everything we need
 4. we're not to be looking for new power or new revelations
 - a. what we need is better insight into the revelation we already have!
- E. He has called us: 2 Peter 1:3
 1. He does the calling
 2. "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain" -- John 15:16
 3. "God is faithful, by whom you were called to the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." -- 1 Corinthians 1:9
 4. "For you see your calling, brothers, that not many wise men according to the flesh are called, not many mighty, not many noble." -- 1 Corinthians 1:26
 5. "walk worthy of the calling with which you are called" -- Ephesians 4:1
 6. "you should walk worthy of God, who has called you to His kingdom and glory" -- 1 Thessalonians 2:12
 7. "...God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" -- 2 Thessalonians 2:12-14
 8. "But the God of all grace, He calling us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus" -- 1 Peter 5:10
 9. "Today if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts... Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts..." -- Hebrews 3:7-19
- F. He has called us to "glory and virtue": 2 Peter 1:3
 1. the preposition is uncertain
 - a. could be "to glory and virtue" or "by [His] glory and virtue"
 2. Peter has said earlier that we're called to His glory, "But the God of all grace, He calling us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus" -- 1 Peter 5:10
 3. "virtue" = excellence; an honorable course of thought, feeling and action; virtue, moral goodness; any particular moral excellence
 - a. "Finally, my brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are right, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any *virtue* and if there is any praise, think on these things." -- Philippians 4:8
 - b. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for possession, so that you might speak of the *praises* of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" -- 1 Peter 2:9

- c. "But also in this very thing, bringing in all diligence, filling out your faith with *virtue*, and with *virtue*, knowledge" -- 2 Peter 1:5
- G. He's given us the "greatest" and the "most precious" promises: 2 Peter 1:4
 - 1. it can mean that it's from His glory and virtue
 - 2. the promise of eternal life
 - 3. the promise of being part of the "body of Christ"
 - 4. the promise of being a "new creation"
 - 5. the promise of having the Holy Spirit within us
 - 6. the promise of having His peace
 - 7. the promise of the freedom from the power and bondage of sin
 - 8. the promise of having access to God through prayer
 - 9. the promise that He will never leave us or forget about us
 - 10. the promise of Jesus coming again and taking us to heaven with Him
 - 11. the list of promises is virtually endless
- H. we're to be partakers of His divine nature: 2 Peter 1:4
 - 1. "partaker" = partner, associate, a sharer
 - 2. we are to become like Christ here on the earth; we will become just like Christ when we get to the other side
 - 3. "So that if any one is in Christ, that one is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." -- 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - 4. "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. But we know that when He shall be revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." -- 1 John 3:2
- I. we've escaped the worldly corruption: 2 Peter 1:4
 - 1. "escape" = to flee from
 - a. only Peter uses this word
 - b. "...the ones who were *escaping* from those who live in error" -- 2 Peter 2:18
 - c. "...they have *escaped* the pollutions of the world through the full knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." -- 2 Peter 2:20
 - 2. "Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever." -- 1 John 2:15-17
 - 3. "For he sowing to his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh. But he sowing to the Spirit will reap life everlasting from the Spirit." -- Galatians 6:8
 - 4. lust is a key ingredient of the worldly system
 - a. "For you ought to put off the old man (according to your way of living before) who is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" -- Ephesians 4:22
 - b. "teaching us that having denied ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live discreetly, righteously, and godly in this present world" -- Titus 2:12
 - c. "For a time will be when they will not endure sound doctrine, but they will heap up teachers to themselves according to their own lusts, tickling the ear. And they will turn away their ears from the truth and will be turned to myths." -- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - d. "and the cares of this world, and the deceit of riches, and the lust about other things entering in, choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful" -- Mark 4:19
 - e. "Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh." -- Galatians 5:16
 - 5. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God." -- Romans 12:2
 - 6. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Be mindful of things above, not on things on the earth." -- Colossians 3:1-2

Lesson 12 -- 2 Peter 1:5-11

I. How We're To Grow Our Faith: 2 Peter 1:5-9

A. we're to do it diligently: 2 Peter 1:5

1. "bringing" = introduce simultaneously; bringing alongside; to contribute besides to something
2. "diligence" = speed, eagerness; interest oneself most earnestly
 - a. related to the word used in 2 Timothy 2:15, "*Give diligence* to present yourself approved to God, a workman unashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." (LITV)
 - b. there is a sense of urgency here

B. we're to nurture and grow our faith: 2 Peter 1:5-7

1. we're to go beyond having just faith: we're to grow to maturity and be fruitful
2. "filling" = ("epi-choregeo") to supply, furnish, present; minister to
 - a. we're literally to be a "dance leader" or to choreograph our faith with all the other assets listed
 - b. we're to direct positive influences into our lives
 - c. we're to accompany our beliefs with good qualities
 - d. "For so an entrance shall be *ministered* to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." -- 2 Peter 1:11
 - e. empty or immature faith is useless
 - (i) "...faith without works is dead" -- James 2:20, 26
 - (ii) "I will show you my faith from my works" -- James 2:18
 - (iii) "Do you see how faith worked with his works, and from the works faith was made complete?" -- James 2:22
3. "virtue" = moral excellence; a sense of manly strength
 - a. "Finally, my brothers, whatever things are true... honest... right... pure... lovely... of good report; if there is any *virtue* and if there is any praise, think on these things." -- Philippians 4:8
 - b. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for possession, so that you might speak of the *praises* of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" -- 1 Peter 2:9
 - c. "...who has called us to glory and *virtue*" -- 2 Peter 1:3
4. "knowledge"
 - a. "But grow in grace and in *knowledge* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." -- 2 Peter 3:18
5. "self-control" = mastering our desires and passions
 - a. it's a fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23
 - b. "And everyone who strives for the mastery is temperate in all things." -- 1 Corinthians 9:25
 - c. Titus 1:8
6. "patience" = cheerful or hopeful endurance; patient continuance; steadfastness
 - a. from the Parable of the Sower (or the 4 Soils), "But those on the good ground are the ones who, in an honest and good heart, having heard the Word, keep it and bring forth fruit with *patience*." -- Luke 8:15
 - b. "but we glory in afflictions also, knowing that afflictions work out *patience*, and *patience* works out experience, and experience works out hope." -- Romans 5:3-4
 - c. "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, so that we through *patience* and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. And may the God of *patience* and consolation grant you to be like minded toward one another according to Christ Jesus" -- Romans 15:4-5
7. "godliness" = piety towards God; reverence, respect
 - a. "according as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and *godliness*, through the knowledge of Him who has called us to glory and virtue" -- 2 Peter 1:3
 - b. "O man of God... follow after righteousness, *godliness*, faith, love, patience, and meekness." -- 1 Timothy 6:11
 - c. "...exercise yourself to *godliness*. For bodily exercise profits a little, but *godliness* is profitable to all things, having promise of the present life, and of that which is to come." -- 1 Timothy 4:7-8
 - d. 1 Timothy 2:2; 3:16; 6:3, 5-6
 - e. 2 Timothy 3:5
 - f. Titus 1:1

- g. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above... be mindful of things above, not on things on the earth." -- Colossians 3:1-2
- h. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God." -- Romans 12:2
- 8. "brotherly kindness" = love of the brothers and sisters; "philadelphia"
 - a. "Purifying your souls in the obedience of the truth through the Spirit to unfeigned *love of the brothers*, love one another fervently out of a pure heart" -- 1 Peter 1:22
 - b. "Let *brotherly love* continue." -- Hebrews 13:1
 - c. "Let love be without hypocrisy... in *brotherly love* to one another, loving fervently" -- Romans 12:9-10
 - d. we demonstrate our pure hearts by having sincere love for each other: 1 Peter 1:22b
- 9. "love" = "agape"; the love that causes us to make a decision
 - a. "...faith working through *love*" -- Galatians 5:6
 - b. "For God so loved ("agapao") the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." -- John 3:16
 - c. "And this is the condemnation, that the Light has come into the world, and men *loved* ("agapao") darkness rather than the Light, because their deeds were evil." -- John 3:19
 - d. "By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have *love* toward one another." -- John 13:35
 - e. "This is My commandment, that you love ("agapao") one another as I have loved ("agapao") you. No one has greater *love* ("agape") than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." -- John 15:12-13
- C. these qualities will cause us to be fruitful: 2 Peter 1:8
 - 1. "abound" = "super-abound"; to exist in abundance
 - 2. we won't be "idle" and "unfruitful"
 - a. we'll be too busy with the work of the Lord to be sitting around idle
 - b. "idle" = useless, lazy, unemployed; unused such as a fallow field
 - c. "unfruitful" = barren, without fruit
 - (i) from the Parable of the Sower (or of the 4 soils), the seed on the thorny soil was unfruitful: Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:18-19; Luke 8:14
 - "hears the Word... cares/anxiety/distractions of this world... the lust about other things... deceit of riches... pleasures of life... choke the Word and it becomes unfruitful"
 - 3. "knowledge" = "full-knowledge"
 - a. same word as used in 2 Peter 1:2-3, referring to full discernment, precise and correct knowledge
 - b. we can know Him only by knowing the Word of God
 - 4. there is a connection between fruitfulness and the Word of God
 - a. from the Parable of the Sower (or of the 4 soils), the seed on the good soil was fruitful: Matthew 13:23; Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15
 - (i) "hear it... understand it... accept it... with a noble and good heart... keep it... bear fruit"
 - (ii) hearing the word and bearing fruit is common in each account
 - bearing fruit is always the result
 - (iii) the ROI ("return-on-investment"), "30... 60... 100": Mark 4:20
 - (iv) "...bring forth fruit with patience": Luke 8:15
 - "patience" = cheerful or hopeful endurance, constancy; continuance; perseverance; steadfastness
- D. the lack of these qualities results in willful spiritual blindness: 2 Peter 1:9
 - 1. "blind" = opaque
 - 2. "cannot see afar off" = "to shut the eyes"; myopic, nearsightedness
 - a. a sense of being an act of the will
 - 3. "has forgotten" = "to take" + "forgetfulness"
 - a. this is deliberate and willful
 - 4. we must never forget and never be ungrateful for the forgiveness of our sins, and who did it!
 - 5. "The path of the just is like a shining light, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble." -- Proverbs 4:18-19

6. "...in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened... because of the blindness of their heart" -- Ephesians 4:17-19
 7. "But also if our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those being lost, in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving ones, so that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ (who is the image of God) should not dawn on them." -- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
- II. We Are To Make Our Faith Stable And Firm: 2 Peter 1:10-11
- A. we're to be diligent about making our faith firm and steadfast: 2 Peter 1:10a
 1. the word for "diligent" is the same word used in 2 Timothy 2:15 and related to the word used before in 2 Peter 1:5
 - a. there is a sense of urgency here!
 2. "sure" = stable, firm, steadfast
 3. getting these qualities into our lives will make our faith firm and steadfast
 4. we're to be convinced of our salvation by what we're doing with our faith
 - a. but it must all be in accordance to Scripture!
 - (i) we're not to be looking for experiences, special knowledge, etc.
 - b. having these qualities in our lives will result in a changed life
 - c. seeing fruit develop from our life is a good indication of our inward condition
 5. this has nothing to do with a works-based salvation
 6. "Do not be carried about with different and strange doctrines, for it is good for the heart to be established with grace" -- Hebrews 13:9
 - a. "established" = stabilized; have a good footing
 7. "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding ("super-abound") in it with thanksgiving." -- Colossians 2:6-7
 - B. if our faith is firm and steadfast we will never "fall": 2 Peter 1:10b
 1. "fall" = to trip or stumble; to err; to sin
 2. this has nothing to do with losing our salvation!
 - C. He will abundantly welcome us into His kingdom: 2 Peter 1:11
 1. whatever is needed for us to get into His kingdom will be "richly supplied"
 2. "...the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us *abundantly* through Jesus Christ our Savior" -- Titus 3:5-6
 3. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you *richly* in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." -- Colossians 3:16

Lesson 13 -- 2 Peter 1:12-21

- I. We Need To Be Reminded: 2 Peter 1:12-15
 - A. Peter thought he would be negligent if he didn't remind them of the truth of God: 2 Peter 1:12
 - 1. even though they're "established" they still need reminders
 - a. "establish" = to turn resolutely in a certain direction; to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix; to strengthen, make firm; to render constant, confirm one's mind
 - b. we are very forgetful
 - c. prevents us from being too casual, stagnant, ungrateful
 - d. helps to keep our minds on the Lord
 - 2. "present truth" = "the truth at hand"; the truth of God that they've believed and that Peter has been talking about
 - a. doesn't imply different truths, past, present, or future
 - 3. an old adage to help ensure good communications: "Tell 'em. Tell 'em again. Then tell 'em what you told 'em."
 - B. Peter wanted to remind them in order to "stir" them up about this: 2 Peter 1:13
 - 1. "stir" = to wake fully; to arouse from sleep
 - 2. also said in 2 Peter 3:1-2, "Beloved, I now write this second letter to you, in which I stir up your pure mind by reminder to remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of the Lord and Savior by us, the apostles."
 - 3. "let us consider one another to provoke to love and to good works" -- Hebrews 10:24
 - 4. Peter compares his physical body or life to a "tabernacle" or "tent" to emphasize its frailty and how temporary it is
 - a. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our dwelling-place out of Heaven... for we who are in this tabernacle groan... that the mortal might be swallowed up by the life" -- 2 Corinthians 5:1-4
 - C. Peter knew he would be dying soon: 2 Peter 1:14
 - 1. he uses the idiom of the tent again
 - 2. about 30 years earlier Jesus told him how he was going to die: John 21:18-19
 - 3. this was his last chance; this was his last message; this was very important to him
 - D. again, he wants to ensure that they'll be reminded of these things: 2 Peter 1:15
 - 1. his reminder certainly refers to this letter
 - 2. may refer to the Gospel of Mark
 - a. the Gospel of Mark may really be Peter's Gospel that John Mark helped write for Peter
 - 3. "departure" = "exodus"; exit, departure
 - a. same word used to describe what Jesus was talking about to Moses and Elijah during the Transfiguration
 - (i) "two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His *exodus*, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem" -- Luke 9:30-31
 - b. merely leaving one place to go to another
 - c. emphasizes that death is not a cessation or extermination of being
 - 4. fruitful growth combats false doctrines
 - a. growth that is in accordance to the truth in the Word of God is the only thing that is worthwhile
 - b. warnings about false doctrine is the subject of this letter and will be brought up in the next chapter
 - E. the Apostle Paul reminded others, too
 - 1. "I remind you to inflame anew the gift of God, which is in you..." -- 2 Timothy 1:6
 - 2. Romans 15:14-15
 - 3. 2 Timothy 2:14
 - F. so did Jude
 - 1. "But I intend to remind you, you once knowing these things..." -- Jude 1:5
 - G. "...keep my words... store up my commandments within you... bind them upon your fingers; write them upon the tablet of your heart" -- Proverbs 7:1-3

- H. "...these words which I command you this day shall be in your heart... you shall carefully teach them to your sons, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up... and you shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes... you shall write them upon the posts of your house, and on your gates"
-- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- I. Deuteronomy 11:18-20
- II. The Trustworthy Word Of God: 2 Peter 1:16-21
- A. he didn't teach them fables, myths, or deceptive man-made stories about the coming of the Lord Jesus: 2 Peter 1:16
1. "cunningly devised" = "sophism"; a plausible but fallacious or deceptive argument; to continue plausible error
 2. it came from their eyewitness testimony of what happened and what they heard during the Transfiguration
 - a. Matthew 17:1-9
 - b. Mark 9:2-9
 - c. Luke 9:28-36
 3. Peter is associating the Transfiguration with Jesus' second coming
 - a. Jesus' second coming may have been the topic of conversation with Moses and Elijah
 4. all the other times this word for "fable" is used it is to Spiritual leaders
 - a. "nor to give heed to *fables*" -- 1 Timothy 1:4
 - b. "refuse profane and old-womanish *tales*, and exercise yourself to godliness" -- 1 Timothy 4:7
 - c. "they will turn away their ears from the truth and will be turned to *myths*" -- 2 Timothy 4:4
 - d. "not giving heed to Jewish *myths* and commandments of men, turning away from the truth" -- Titus 1:14
 5. "not walking in craftiness, nor adulterating the Word of God" -- 2 Corinthians 4:1
- B. they heard the voice of God from Heaven giving honor to Jesus: 2 Peter 1:17-18
1. the same thing was said at Jesus' baptism
 - a. Matthew 3:17
 - b. Mark 1:11
 - c. Luke 3:22
 2. a cloud is often associated with the glory of God
 - a. Exodus 16:10; 24:16; 40:34-35
 - b. Numbers 16:42
 - c. 1 Kings 8:11
 - d. 2 Chronicles 5:14
 - e. Isaiah 4:5
 - f. Ezekiel 10:4
 - g. Luke 21:27
 3. he's calling the mountain where the Transfiguration happened the "holy mountain"
 - a. not that it is to be venerated or worshiped
 - b. a number of places in Scripture are called "holy" just because of what happened there
- C. the written Word is "more sure" than the experience they had: 2 Peter 1:19
1. "more sure" = stable, fast, firm
 2. Peter ranks Scripture higher than experiences, visions, or even eyewitness accounts
 3. "Moses and the prophets" are to be believed more than miracles: Luke 16:31
 4. miracles and experiences can be faked
 - a. Exodus 7:11-12, 22; 8:7, 18
 - b. Matthew 24:24
 - c. Mark 13:22
 - d. 2 Thessalonians 2:9
 - e. Revelation 13:13-15; 16:14; 19:20
 5. "You have magnified Your Word above all Your name." -- Psalm 138:2
 6. people "do well to take heed" to it
 - a. everyone needs to pay attention to it and take it seriously
 - b. the importance of the Word of God cannot be overemphasized

- c. "All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfected, thoroughly furnished to every good work." -- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- D. Scripture is "a light that shines in a dark place": 2 Peter 1:19
 1. "The Precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the Commandments of the Lord are pure, giving light to the eyes." -- Psalm 19:8
 2. "Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." -- Psalm 119:105
 3. "The entrance of Your Words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." -- Psalm 119:130
 4. "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light" -- Proverbs 6:23
 5. "The path of the just is like a shining light, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble." -- Proverbs 4:18-19
 6. "we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor adulterating the Word of God... if our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those being lost, in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving ones, so that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ (who is the image of God) should not dawn on them" -- 2 Corinthians 4:1-4
 7. Jesus is Light
 - a. "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it." -- John 1:4-5
 - b. "He was the true Light; He enlightens every man coming into the world." -- John 1:9
 - c. "Then Jesus spoke again to them, saying, 'I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.'" -- John 8:12
 - d. "I have come as a Light into the world, so that whoever believes on Me should not remain in darkness." -- John 12:46
 - e. "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" -- 1 John 1:5
 - f. "...the darkness is passing away, and the true Light now shines" -- 1 John 2:8
 - g. "the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving ones, so that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ (who is the image of God) should not dawn on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is God who said, 'Out of darkness Light shall shine;' who shone in our hearts to give the brightness of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." -- 2 Corinthians 4:4-6
- E. "until the day dawns": 2 Peter 1:19
 1. "day star" = "phosphorus"; light-bearer, bringing light; morning star
 - a. Jesus is the morning star
 - (i) Revelation 2:28; 22:16
 - (ii) "There shall come a Star out of Jacob" -- Numbers 24:17
 2. in contrast, Jesus will return as the "Sun of Righteousness" to the Jews: Malachi 4:2
 - a. the context is the Day of the Lord, "burning like an oven" (Malachi 4:1)
 3. we're looking for Jesus coming for us before He comes in judgment
 - a. the morning star rises before the sun
 - b. "looking for the blessed hope, and the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" -- Titus 2:13
 - c. "But we know that when He shall be revealed, we shall be like Him" -- 1 John 3:2
- F. prophecy came from the Holy Spirit, not men: 2 Peter 1:20-21
 1. "interpretation" = a loosening, release; explanation
 2. it had nothing to do with the prophet's own feelings, desire, understanding, thoughts, agenda, will, wisdom
 3. the Holy Spirit "carried" them or they were "borne along" in what they were to say and write
 4. "All Scripture is God-breathed..." -- 2 Timothy 3:16
 5. "And for this cause we thank God without ceasing, that when you received the Word of hearing, of God, you welcomed it as the Word of God, not as a word of men, but as it is, truly the Word of God, which also effectually works in you who believe." -- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 6. speaking of false prophets, "So says the Lord of Hosts, 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you vain; they speak a vision from their own heart, not out of the mouth of the Lord.'" -- Jeremiah 23:16

Lesson 14 -- 2 Peter 2:1-11

- I. The Destructiveness Of False Teachers: 2 Peter 2:1-3a
 - A. they've been around before, and will be with us today: 2 Peter 2:1
 - B. they work secretly: 2 Peter 2:1
 - 1. they are subtle; they don't wear name tags
 - 2. their actions may be due to their ignorance or lack of knowledge of the Word of God
 - 3. they may be doing it deliberately because of their own agendas, denominational biases, prejudices
 - 4. "For certain men crept in secretly..." -- Jude 1:4
 - 5. "For of these are those who creep into houses..." -- 2 Timothy 3:6
 - C. their doctrines are destructive: 2 Peter 2:1
 - 1. one example of their heresy is the denial of the redemption of Jesus' blood
 - a. they promote a different way, such as baptism
 - 2. Jesus "bought" everyone: salvation is available to everyone, there is no "limited atonement"
 - 3. they will bring destruction upon themselves
 - 4. "For many are walking, of whom I have told you often and now tell you even weeping, as the enemies of the cross of Christ; whose end is *destruction*, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, those who mind earthly things." -- Philippians 3:18-19
 - D. many people will follow their destructive ways: 2 Peter 2:2
 - 1. "For a time will be when they will not endure sound doctrine, but they will heap up teachers to themselves according to their own lusts, tickling the ear. And they will turn away their ears from the truth and will be turned to myths." -- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - 2. they will be held accountable for leading people astray
 - E. those that fall will bring disgrace to the Body of Christ: 2 Peter 2:2
 - 1. "For the name of God is blasphemed among the nations because of you" -- Romans 2:24
 - 2. "For I speak to your shame... brother goes to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers..." -- 1 Corinthians 6:5-8
 - F. they'll do it because of covetousness: 2 Peter 2:3
 - 1. not just to make money, but power, prestige, recognition
 - a. they glory in having a multitude of followers
 - 2. their victims are their "emporium" or place of business
 - a. they will "make merchandise of you" (KJV)
 - b. they will exploit people
 - G. they'll do it with "well-turned words": 2 Peter 2:3a
 - 1. "well-turned" = molded or formed, such as clay or wax
 - 2. they will say whatever they need to say to mislead others
 - 3. they will say what they want to believe
 - 4. "For they who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches they deceive the hearts of the simple." -- Romans 16:18
 - 5. "And I say this that not anyone should beguile you with enticing words." -- Colossians 2:4
 - 6. "For not having followed fables having been cunningly devised..." -- 2 Peter 1:16
- II. The Punishment Of False Teachers Is Certain: 2 Peter 2:3b-6
 - A. they will be punished: 2 Peter 2:3b
 - 1. just because it's not immediate doesn't mean it won't come
 - 2. because of their destructiveness, they will be destroyed
 - 3. Peter will use 3 historical examples to demonstrate the certainty of God's judgment
 - a. "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning..." -- Romans 15:4
 - b. speaking of the nation of Israel, "And all these things happened to them as examples; and it is written for our warning" -- 1 Corinthians 10:11
 - B. the fallen angels were punished: 2 Peter 2:4
 - 1. their sin refers to when they generated a hybrid race of humans: Genesis 6:1-4
 - a. "...and also after that": Genesis 6:4
 - b. they tried to thwart God's plan of redemption: the Messiah had to be born of a human

- c. this was well-known prior to the 4th century A.D.
 - (i) Jude says that his readers knew about this: Jude 1:5
 - d. only Noah's gene pool was pure: Genesis 6:9
- 2. "And those angels not having kept their first place, but having deserted their *dwelling-place*, He has kept in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of a great Day" -- Jude 1:6
 - a. "dwelling-place" = "oiketerion"; their spiritual habitation or residence
 - b. "For indeed in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our *dwelling-place* out of Heaven" -- 2 Corinthians 5:2
 - c. they (permanently?) left what we earnestly long for!
- 3. they were thrown into "tartarus" with "chains of darkness" awaiting judgment
 - a. "tartarus" is a word used in Greek mythology to refer to a place lower than Hades reserved for the most wicked, whether human or spiritual
 - b. is this the "abyss" or "bottomless pit" of Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:1-2, 11; 17:8; 20:1, 3?
 - (i) "And they [the demons] begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the *abyss*." -- Luke 8:31
 - (ii) "And behold, they cried out, saying, 'What have we to do with You, Jesus, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?'" -- Matthew 8:29
 - (iii) "and cried with a loud voice, and said, 'What is to me and to You, Jesus, son of the Most High God? I adjure You by God not to torment me.'" -- Mark 5:7
- C. the ungodly world during the time of Noah was punished: 2 Peter 2:5
 - 1. only Noah's gene pool was pure: Genesis 6:9
 - 2. the godly were saved
 - 3. the ungodly were destroyed
 - 4. it was total
 - 5. it was certain
 - 6. there was plenty of time to repent; there were plenty of warnings
 - a. there was 120 years before God brought the flood: Genesis 6:3
 - b. "when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared (in which a few, that is, eight souls were saved through water)" -- 1 Peter 3:20
 - 7. Noah was a "preacher of righteousness"
 - a. he warned them through preaching
 - b. the presence of the ark was a warning, too
 - 8. this is a warning to us today
 - a. "But as the days of Noah were, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark. And they did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man." -- Matthew 24:37-39
 - b. "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it also shall be in the days of the Son of Man. They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark; and the flood came and destroyed them all." -- Luke 17:26-27
- D. Sodom and Gomorrah were punished: 2 Peter 2:6
 - 1. this is a warning to those "intending to live ungodly"
 - 2. Genesis 18:16-19:26
 - 3. "as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them, in like manner to these, committing fornication, and going away after other flesh, laid down an example before-times, undergoing vengeance of everlasting fire" -- Jude 1:7
 - 4. the lesson of sexual immorality is pretty clear
 - a. "Heterosexuals reproduce; homosexuals recruit."
 - b. "For this cause, God gave them up to dishonorable affections... women changed the natural use into that which is against nature... men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another; males with males working out shamefulfulness, and receiving in themselves the recompense which was fitting for their error" -- Romans 1:26-27

5. looking at the "whole counsel" of God, there is more to the story about the sin of Sodom: Ezekiel 16:49-50
 - a. pride
 - (i) arrogance or majesty; insolence; rude treatment of others; excessive self-esteem
 - (ii) the first sin: Isaiah 14:12-15
 - (iii) "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." -- Proverbs 16:18
 - (iv) "Before shattering, the heart of man is proud, and before honor is humility." -- Proverbs 18:12
 - b. fullness of bread
 - (i) before it was destroyed, Sodom was "well watered... like the garden of the Lord": Genesis 13:10
 - c. abundance of idleness
 - (i) "abundance" = security; quietness, ease, prosperity, peace
 - (ii) "idleness" = to be quiet, be tranquil, be at peace, be quiet, rest, lie still, be undisturbed
 - (iii) having things too easy leads to sloth, laziness, and idleness
 - d. did not help poor and needy
 - (i) they had plenty of goods and plenty of time to do it
 - (ii) "Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." -- Proverbs 21:13
 - e. haughty
 - (i) "haughty" = to soar, be lofty; having a high opinion of one's self resulting in contempt for others
 - f. committed abominations

III. The Righteous, Such As Lot Will Be Delivered: 2 Peter 2:7-9a

- A. Lot was a righteous man and was very troubled about the spiritual situation in Sodom: 2 Peter 2:7-8
 1. we commonly don't consider Lot as being a good example to us
 - a. Lot had chosen to live in Sodom because the land was appealing: Genesis 13:10-13
 - (i) "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord, exceedingly so." -- Genesis 13:13
 - b. Lot might have been a councilman of Sodom
 - (i) "Lot sat in the gate of Sodom." -- Genesis 19:1
 - c. Lot's sons-in-law didn't take him seriously: Genesis 19:14
 - (i) "the gospel is foolishness to those who are lost": 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 3:18-21a
 2. God is always looking for at least 1 righteous person, a witness, or a watchman
 - a. Jeremiah 5:1
 - b. Ezekiel 22:30-31; 33:1-9, 11-16
- B. the angel said to Lot, "Hurry and escape there! For I cannot do anything till you have come there." -- Genesis 19:22
 1. the Church is not appointed to wrath or judgment
 - a. "For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" -- 1 Thessalonians 5:9
- C. "So also as it was in the days of Lot... the day Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from the heaven and destroyed them all. Even so it shall be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed..." -- Luke 17:28-32
 1. "Remember Lot's wife." -- Luke 17:32
 - a. Lot's wife looked back and was turned into salt: Genesis 19:26
 - (i) "looked" = to scan, look intently at; by implication to regard with pleasure, favor, or care
 - (ii) Lot's wife looked back at Sodom with favorable regard
 - (iii) did she linger? did she actually go back?
 - b. "...brimstone... salt... Sodom and Gomorrah": Deuteronomy 29:23
 - (i) she got caught up in the judgment
 - c. "...looking back... not fit for the kingdom of God": Luke 9:62
 - (i) "...he who is in the field, let him not return to the things behind. Remember Lot's wife." -- Luke 17:31b-32

- D. the Lord will take us safely through tests, troubles, and trials: 2 Peter 2:9a
 - 1. "temptation" = a putting to proof; an experiment, trial, proving
 - a. not temptations to do evil
 - b. normal, daily tasks and events that will test our faith and commitment and its authenticity
 - c. not God's punishment because of His displeasure with us
 - 2. He doesn't want us to fail in our daily walk
 - 3. "Blessed is the man who endures *temptation*, because having been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." -- James 1:12
 - 4. "No *temptation* has taken you but what is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able, but with the *temptation* also will make a way to escape, so that you may be able to bear it." -- 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - a. everything is "Father-filtered"
 - 5. "My brothers, count it all joy when you fall into different kinds of *temptations*, knowing that the trying of your faith works patience." -- James 1:2-3
 - 6. "...grieving in manifold *temptations*... so that the trial of your faith... might be found to praise honor and glory" -- 1 Peter 1:6-7
- IV. The Unrighteous Will Be Punished: 2 Peter 2:9b-10a
 - A. punishment has been "reserved" for them: 2 Peter 2:9b
 - B. they walk after unclean lusts
 - C. they despise authority
 - 1. could refer to both civil and spiritual
 - 2. "Likewise, indeed, also these dreaming ones even defile flesh, and despise *rulership*" -- Jude 1:8
 - 3. they say, "We're not under the Law: we have the freedom in Christ to do anything we want!"
 - D. they are presumptuous
 - 1. literally, "darters"
 - E. they are self-willed, self-pleasing, arrogant
- V. They Demonstrate Their Arrogance And Presumption By Speaking Evil Of Spiritual Forces: 2 Peter 2:10b-11
 - A. "dignities" or "glories" speak of spiritual beings
 - 1. "Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places." -- Ephesians 6:11-12
 - B. "Likewise, indeed, also these dreaming ones... speak evil of *glories*" -- Jude 1:8
 - C. angels know better than to do that: 2 Peter 2:11
 - 1. "But Michael, the archangel, when contending with the Devil, he argued about the body of Moses, he dared not bring a judgment of blasphemy, but said, 'Let the Lord rebuke you!'" -- Jude 1:9
 - 2. we are not to be presumptuous about the Lord's protection from evil forces and other dangers
 - a. we are not to put ourselves into unnecessary danger
 - 3. we should never mouth off against the dark side
 - a. they are much more powerful than us
 - b. it's not our right
 - c. we're not in position to do that

How does a false teacher work?

- 1. start with the truth
- 2. gain a following
- 3. veer off a little

The Hybrid Races

- I. Nephilim: Genesis 6:1-4
- II. Anakim; Anak
 - A. part of Nephilim: Numbers 13:28, 33
 - B. "numerous": Deuteronomy 2:10
 - C. Joshua 11:21-22; 13:3
 - 1. Asdod was 1 of the 5 chief cities of the Philistines
 - 2. "a mixed (or mongrel) race shall dwell in Ashdod": Zechariah 9:6
 - D. Caleb went after them when he was 85 years old: Joshua 14:6-15
 - 1. he knew the significance, he knew the importance of their annihilation
 - 2. he had a different spirit: Numbers 14:24
- III. Rephaim
 - A. Chedorlaomer defeated them: Genesis 14:5
 - B. Deuteronomy 2:11, 20
 - C. are these the "departed spirits" mentioned in Isaiah 26:14?
- IV. Zuzim; Zamzummin
 - A. Deuteronomy 2:20
 - B. Genesis 14:5
- V. Emim
 - A. "numerous": Deuteronomy 2:10-11
 - B. Genesis 14:5

Understanding the concept of the Nephilim, et. al. of Genesis 6:1-4 gave me added insight to certain accounts; but your mileage may vary

- I. Noah's generations were pure: Genesis 6:9
 - A. clean bloodline
 - B. his gene pool wasn't polluted or corrupted by Satanic or demonic influences
 - C. it was an attempt to thwart God's plan of redemption
- II. genocide of certain tribes of Canaanites
- III. Caleb's request: Joshua 14:6-15
 - A. Caleb knew and understood the significance
 - B. he had spunk!
 - C. he had a different spirit: Numbers 14:24
- IV. David and Goliath: 1 Samuel 17:40
 - A. David knew and understood the significance
 - B. he took 5 stones, one each for Goliath and his family?: 2 Samuel 21:15-22
- V. Isaiah 26:14
 - A. are demons the disembodied spirits of the dead Nephilim/Rephaim?

Why does Satan want us confused about this?

- I. could they be coming back?!
 - A. "miry clay": Daniel 2:43
- II. are we being warned against genetic engineering?
- III. to cause us to underestimate Satan's power, capability, and involvements?

Lesson 15 -- 2 Peter 2:12-22

- I. Description Of False Teachers: 2 Peter 2:12-17
 - A. they're like "natural brute animals": 2 Peter 2:12a
 - 1. "brute" = irrational; destitute of reason, contrary to reason, absurd
 - 2. they follow their natural animalistic instincts
 - 3. they do not acknowledge that they're more than mere animals
 - a. this is the exact teaching of evolution
 - 4. animals were made to be used for man's purposes
 - B. they're willing to speak against ("blaspheme") things that they don't understand: 2 Peter 2:12b
 - 1. they did not try to gain understanding before speaking against certain subjects
 - 2. "But what things they do not know, they speak evil of. And what things they understand naturally, like the animals without reason, they are corrupted by these." -- Jude 1:10
 - C. they will come to an appropriate ending: 2 Peter 2:12c
 - 1. "as... animals having been born for capture and *corruption*... they will *utterly perish*..."
 - 2. they will come to an end just like the animals that they believe themselves to be
 - D. they will receive their just "reward" for their unrighteousness: 2 Peter 2:13a
 - 1. "Balaam... loved the *wages* of unrighteousness" -- 2 Peter 2:15
 - 2. "Woe to the wicked! For the evil doing of his hand will be done to him." -- Isaiah 3:11
 - 3. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that he also will reap. For he sowing to his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh. But he sowing to the Spirit will reap life everlasting from the Spirit." -- Galatians 6:7-8
 - 4. "Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin. And sin, when it is fully formed, brings forth death." -- James 1:15
 - 5. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." -- Romans 6:23
 - E. they are shameless about self-indulgence and luxurious living: 2 Peter 2:13b
 - 1. "pleasure" = "hedone"; sensual delight; desire, lust, pleasure; to please; from where we get the word hedonism
 - a. "For we ourselves also were once... slaving for various lusts and *pleasures*..." -- Titus 3:3
 - b. "And those which fell among thorns are the ones who, when they have heard, go forth and are choked with cares and riches and *pleasures* of life, and do not bear to maturity." -- Luke 8:14
 - F. they are "spots and blemishes" among us: 2 Peter 2:13c
 - 1. "spot" = stain, defect, soil
 - 2. "blemish" = blot, disgrace
 - 3. "...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without *blemish* and without *spot*" -- 1 Peter 1:19
 - 4. "that He might present it to Himself as the glorious church, without *spot* or wrinkle or any such things, but that it should be holy and without blemish." -- Ephesians 5:27
 - 5. they are "disgraceful defects" within the Body of Christ
 - a. they continue to be deceitful while with us
 - b. the false brothers are fellowshiping there with the church
 - c. the church doesn't know a hidden danger is among them
 - 6. "These are sunken rocks in your love feasts, feasting together with you; feeding themselves without fear" -- Jude 1:12
 - 7. "But evil men and seducers will go forward to worse, deceiving and being deceived." -- 2 Timothy 3:13
 - G. they have "eyes full of adultery": 2 Peter 2:14a
 - 1. literally "eyes full of adulteresses"
 - 2. they are sexually lusting after others
 - 3. "all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" -- 1 John 2:16
 - 4. "But I say to you that whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." -- Matthew 5:28
 - H. they can't stop from sinning: 2 Peter 2:14b

- I. they allure others to sin with them: 2 Peter 2:14c
 - 1. "allure" = to bait, catch by a bait
 - a. Peter was a fisherman
 - b. "they *lure* through the lusts of the flesh, by unbridled lust" -- 2 Peter 2:18
 - c. "each one is tempted by his lusts, being drawn away and *seduced*" -- James 1:14
 - 2. "if sinners lure you, do not be willing..." -- Proverbs 1:10-19
- J. they entice those who are unstable: 2 Peter 2:14d
 - 1. "unstable" = opposite of the word used for "establish"
 - a. "establish" = to turn resolutely in a certain direction; to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix; to strengthen, make firm; to render constant, confirm one's mind
 - (i) we should know the proper direction that we should be going in
 - (ii) "...to *establish* your hearts blameless in holiness before God" -- 1 Thessalonians 3:13
 - (iii) "*Establish* your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." -- James 5:8
 - (iv) "But the Lord is faithful, who shall *establish* you and guard you from the evil." -- 2 Thessalonians 3:3
 - b. "our beloved brother Paul also has written to you according to the wisdom given to him... which the unlearned and *unstable* pervert, as also they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction" -- 2 Peter 3:15-16
 - 2. "so that we no longer may be infants, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, in the dishonesty of men, in cunning craftiness, to the wiles of deceit" -- Ephesians 4:14
- K. their hearts are trained in covetousness: 2 Peter 2:14e
 - 1. "covetousness" = greedy desire to have more; fraudulency, extortion
 - 2. they even train and exercise themselves towards covetousness
 - 3. "But refuse profane and old-womanish tales, and *exercise* yourself to godliness." -- 1 Timothy 4:7
 - 4. "...have their senses *exercised* to discern both good and evil" -- Hebrews 5:14
- L. they are "cursed": 2 Peter 2:14f
 - 1. or "children of the curse"
 - 2. they haven't repented and are therefore still under the curse
- M. they follow the "way of Balaam": 2 Peter 2:15-16
 - 1. "Woe unto them! For they have run... greedily after the error of Balaam for reward" -- Jude 1:11
 - 2. the story of Balaam: Numbers 22-24, 31:8, 16
 - a. Balak, the king of Moab wanted to pay him to put a curse on the Israelites
 - (i) Balak knew that they could not win a physical battle with the Israelites
 - (ii) he knew that the battle was better fought on the spiritual level
 - b. God prevented Balaam from outwardly putting a curse on the Israelites
 - c. Balaam instead was able to compromise the Israelites through sexual immorality
 - (i) something happened between the end of Numbers 24 and the beginning of Numbers 25
 - (ii) Balaam apparently went back and taught them a way to hurt Israel
 - Numbers 31:16
 - Revelation 2:14
 - (iii) the account is in Numbers 25 and Psalm 106:28-31
 - (iv) "remember Baal-Peor" -- Deuteronomy 4:3
 - (v) "Baal-peor... a shameful thing... they became abominable" -- Hosea 9:10
 - (vi) a plague resulted, including executions
 - (vii) as part of the punishment Phinehas killed Zimri, a Simeonite: Numbers 25:11-13; Psalm 106:30-31
 - compare the population of the tribe of Simeon in the 2 censuses found in Numbers 1:22-23; 2:12-13; and 26:12-14
 - their population dropped
 - were the 24,000 killed (Numbers 25:9) mostly from the tribe of Simeon?!
 - Phinehas interceded for others "because he was zealous for his God": Numbers 25:11-13
 - d. Balaam apparently stayed with the Midianites and was killed
 - (i) Numbers 31:8
 - (ii) Joshua 13:22

3. Balaam "loved the reward of unrighteousness": 2 Peter 2:15
 - a. he was deceived into thinking that it would have paid off
 - b. he thought he could poke his finger in the eye of God (Zechariah 2:8) and get away with it
 4. his donkey, a "brute beast" corrected Balaam: 2 Peter 2:16
 - a. Numbers 22:22-33
 - b. it "held back the madness of the prophet"
 5. the "way of Balaam" (2 Peter 2:15), the "error of Balaam" (Jude 1:11), and the "doctrine of Balaam" (Revelation 2:14)
 - a. greed
 - b. looking for monetary gain from faith in God
 - c. not submitting to God's leading
 - d. deliberately misinterpreting God's Word
 - e. looking for the world's approval
 - f. compromise with the world
 - g. cause others to stumble
 - h. not respecting God's people
- N. they are without the fundamental requirement of "water": 2 Peter 2:17
1. "wells without water... clouds driven with a tempest"
 2. "waterless clouds being carried about by winds" -- Jude 1:12
 3. water is an idiom of the Word of God
 - a. "that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word" -- Ephesians 5:26
 4. our water can come without us having to do anything to get it (rain from the clouds)
 5. our water can come from us working to get it (drawing it from a well)
 6. these (false) spiritual leaders had neither avenue for the life-giving and life-sustaining water
 - a. they are form without substance
 7. people were looking to them to supply the needed water, but they had none
 - a. spiritual leaders should be useful, supplying the spiritual needs of others
 - b. they are not able to offer any real solutions to problems
 8. there is no stability: they go from doctrine to doctrine, fad to fad
 9. "Jesus answered and said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water shall thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.'" -- John 4:13-14
 10. "He who believes on Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'" -- John 7:38
 11. "And the Lord shall always guide you and satisfy your soul in dry places, and make your bones fat; and you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters fail not." -- Isaiah 58:11
 12. "They shall be satisfied with the fatness of Your house; and You shall make them drink of the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light." -- Psalm 36:8-9
 13. to those false teachers "the blackness of darkness is reserved forever"
- II. Deception Of False Teachers: 2 Peter 2:18-22
- A. "they speak great swelling words of vanity": 2 Peter 2:18a
1. "great swelling" = bulging over; overswollen, extravagant
 - a. "And their mouth speaks *proud* things, admiring faces for the sake of gain." -- Jude 1:16
 2. "vanity" = what is devoid of truth and appropriateness; perverseness, depravity; lack of utility, emptiness
 - a. "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should not walk from now on as other nations walk, in the *vanity* of their mind" -- Ephesians 4:17
 3. they sound smart and learned
 4. they tell people what they want to hear instead of the truth, instead of the Word of God
 - a. "this is a rebellious people, lying sons. They are sons who will not hear the Law of the Lord; who say to the seers, 'See not'; and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things, speak to us smooth things, prophesy falsehood'" -- Isaiah 30:9-10
 - b. "they bend their tongues like their bow for lies... they are not mighty for the truth on the earth" -- Jeremiah 9:3

- c. "preach the Word, be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For a time will be when they will not endure sound doctrine, but they will heap up teachers to themselves according to their own lusts, tickling the ear. And they will turn away their ears from the truth and will be turned to myths." -- 2 Timothy 4:2-4
 - B. "they lure through the lusts of the flesh, by unbridled lust": 2 Peter 2:18b
 - 1. "lure" = to bait, catch by a bait
 - a. same word as used in 2 Peter 2:14
 - 2. "unbridled lust" = unbridled sensuality, shamelessness, licentiousness, wantonness
 - a. "For the time of life which is past is enough for us to have worked out the will of the nations, having gone on in *lasciviousness*, lusts, excess of wine, parties, carousings, and abominable idolatries." -- 1 Peter 4:3
 - b. "And He delivered righteous Lot, oppressed with the *lustful behavior* of the lawless." -- 2 Peter 2:7
 - c. "For certain men crept in secretly... ungodly ones perverting the grace of our God for *unbridled lust*..." -- Jude 1:4
 - d. "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, *lasciviousness*, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness" -- Mark 7:21-22
 - e. Galatians 5:17-21
 - 3. they appeal to base instincts
 - a. promoting sexual immorality is an easy way to become popular
 - C. they're trying to lure back the ones who were escaping from them and their error: 2 Peter 2:18c
 - D. they promise liberty: 2 Peter 2:19
 - 1. they can't give anyone liberty because they don't have it themselves
 - a. they're enslaved by sin
 - b. "Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever practices sin is the slave of sin.'" -- John 8:34
 - c. Romans 6:12-22
 - 2. the followers of this false teacher are enslaving themselves to him
 - 3. the false teachers actually preach a liberty from the doctrines and requirements of God
 - a. God's righteous requirements have not changed since the days of the Old Testament
 - b. there is no "new freedom" in Christ to live contrary to the published requirements of God
 - 4. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free, and do not again be held with the yoke of bondage." -- Galatians 5:1
 - 5. "For, brothers, you were called to liberty. Only do not use the liberty for an opening to the flesh, but by love serve one another." -- Galatians 5:13
 - 6. "...not having freedom as a cover of evil, but as servants of God" -- 1 Peter 2:16
 - 7. we're free from the bondage of sin
 - E. warning about going back into the worldly system: 2 Peter 2:20-22
 - 1. escaping from the pollution of the world comes from the knowledge of Jesus Christ: 2 Peter 2:20a
 - 2. allowing oneself to again be entangled and overcome by the world will lead to an even worse situation: 2 Peter 2:20b-21
 - a. "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a man... he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more evil than himself... the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so it also shall be to this evil generation." -- Matthew 12:43-45 (Luke 11:24-26)
 - b. the "new creation" of being a Christian would prevent this
 - (i) the filling of the Holy Spirit would prevent a return of evil spirits
 - (ii) we cannot do it ourselves
 - c. this has nothing to do with losing salvation
 - 3. head knowledge of a system is different than the heart knowledge of a Savior
 - a. merely acknowledging doctrines is different than committing to them
 - b. professing to be a Christian is different than being a Christian
 - 4. it's just like a dog returning to its vomit, not knowing any better: 2 Peter 2:22a
 - a. quotes Proverbs 26:11
 - 5. the "natural man" returning to sin is just as natural as a clean pig returning to the mud: 2 Peter 2:22b

Lesson 16 -- 2 Peter 3

- I. Scoffers Will Come: 2 Peter 3:1-9
 - A. Peter tells us that this is his second letter: 2 Peter 3:1
 - B. he wants to "stir up" our pure minds
 - 1. "stir up" = to wake fully; to arouse from sleep
 - a. same as 2 Peter 1:13
 - 2. "pure minds" indicates that he's writing to Christians
 - a. he considered his readers to be Christians
 - b. non-Christians wouldn't understand any of this
 - (i) "For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those being lost, but to us being saved, it is the power of God." -- 1 Corinthians 1:18
 - (ii) "but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness" -- 1 Corinthians 1:23
 - (iii) "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." -- 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - 3. he wants to remind us
 - a. same as in 2 Peter 1:12-15
 - b. we're forgetful
 - c. it's written down for the record
 - d. it's to document the promises of God
 - e. it's to encourage us
 - f. things are written down so we can look them up
 - C. we're to remember and pay attention to what was written before: 2 Peter 3:2a
 - 1. he's referring to the Old Testament
 - 2. "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning..." -- Romans 15:4
 - 3. speaking of the nation of Israel, "And all these things happened to them as examples; and it is written for our warning" -- 1 Corinthians 10:11
 - D. we are to also pay attention to what he and the apostles are writing: 2 Peter 3:2b
 - 1. he puts his writings on the same level as the Old Testament
 - 2. he knew he was speaking the words of God
 - E. scoffers and unbelievers will come: 2 Peter 3:3
 - 1. they will poke fun at the judgment of God
 - 2. "they told you that at the last time there will be mockers according to their lusts, leading ungodly lives" -- Jude 1:18
 - 3. they want to live according to their lust
 - a. Peter spoke earlier about the predominance of lust: 2 Peter 2: 10, 14, 18
 - 4. they deny the need to live according to the righteous requirements of God
 - 5. "And they say to God, 'Depart from us; for we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways; what is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit should we have if we pray to Him?'" -- Job 21:14-15
 - 6. Job 22:17
 - 7. "So says the Lord, 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where the good way is, and walk in it, and you shall find rest for your souls.' But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' Also I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the ram's horn.' But they said, 'We will not listen.' Therefore... behold, I will bring evil on this people, the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not listened to My Words, nor to My Law, but have rejected it." -- Jeremiah 6:16-19
 - 8. "And even as they did not think fit to have God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do the things not right, being filled with all unrighteousness... who, knowing the righteous order of God, that those practicing such things are worthy of death, not only do them, but have pleasure in those practicing them" -- Romans 1:28-32

- F. they deny that God is working in the world: 2 Peter 3:4
 - 1. uniformitarianism = The theory that all geologic phenomena may be explained as the result of existing forces having operated uniformly from the origin of the earth to the present time. (The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition)
 - a. the present physical laws of nature have always consistently existed and will continue to exist
 - b. assumes that there are no outside influences
 - c. claims that global catastrophes cannot happen
 - d. the Magellan mission to Venus: 04 May 1989 - 13 October 1994
 - (i) its primary objective was to map the surface of Venus with a synthetic aperture radar (SAR)
 - (ii) it showed that the surface of Venus had recently been completely affected by a global catastrophe and the relatively new craters were distributed randomly over the surface
 - 2. if God isn't working in the world then there is no reason to worry about a coming judgment
- G. their unbelief is willful: 2 Peter 3:5-7
 - 1. they choose not to believe that the universe was created by the word of God: 2 Peter 3:5
 - a. "And God said..." -- Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26
 - 2. they choose not to believe that the universe is "*held together*" by the word of God: 2 Peter 3:5
 - a. "And He is before all things, and by Him all things *consist*." -- Colossians 1:17
 - 3. they choose not to believe God created the canopy of water above the earth: 2 Peter 3:5
 - a. Genesis 1:6-8
 - 4. they choose not to believe that the earth was destroyed by the judgment of a flood: 2 Peter 3:6
 - a. the canopy of water collapsed: Genesis 7:11-12
 - 5. the "present heavens and the earth" will be judged by fire: 2 Peter 3:7
 - a. and along with it the ungodly
 - b. God promised that He would not judge the world again by a flood: Genesis 8:20-22
 - (i) He will not affect the world's new environment for as long as the earth remains
 - c. the "present heavens and the earth" imply that they're different than "the world that then was" (2 Peter 3:6)
 - (i) lifespans
 - (ii) the climate
 - (iii) the environment
 - (iv) diet
 - (v) the animal kingdom
- H. God is not bound by time: 2 Peter 3:8
 - 1. this verse has been very misused
 - 2. time is a physical property that is part of our creation
 - 3. God has a completely different perspective than we do
 - 4. we're not to "forget", be "ignorant" of, or be "unaware" of this
 - 5. "For a thousand years in Your sight are as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night." -- Psalm 90:4
 - 6. "For so says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity..." -- Isaiah 57:15
 - 7. "declaring the end from the beginning, and from the past things which were not done, saying, 'My purpose shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure'" -- Isaiah 46:10
- I. God is being patient for our benefit: 2 Peter 3:9
 - 1. He is not being irresponsible for being patient
 - 2. He does not have to do things in a timeframe that we'd expect or want
 - 3. God does not have to answer to anyone!
 - 4. He is not bound by our timeframe
 - 5. God will carry out His promises exactly as He said and in accordance to His own timing
 - 6. "Or do you despise the riches of His kindness, and the forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" -- Romans 2:4
 - 7. His will is that all would become believers
 - a. refutes the "predestination" doctrine, that only a certain few are destined to be believers and all others are lost
 - b. Jesus paid for everyone's sin, there is no "limited atonement": 2 Peter 2:1
 - c. everyone has free will
 - d. "who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" -- 1 Timothy 2:4

II. The Day Of The Lord: 2 Peter 3:10-13

- A. it will come as a "thief in the night": 2 Peter 3:10a
 - 1. "For you yourselves know accurately that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night."
-- 1 Thessalonians 5:2
 - 2. Jesus is NOT coming for us like this because we are NOT of the night or of darkness:
1 Thessalonians 5:4-5
- B. the heavens will be destroyed with a "rushing noise": 2 Peter 3:10b
 - 1. "rushing noise" = (onomatopoeic) a whirl; whizzingly, that is, with a crash; whizzing sound of rapid motion
- C. "the elements will melt with fervent heat": 2 Peter 3:10c
 - 1. the basic building blocks of creation will be dissolved by fire
 - 2. everything that man has done will be "wholly consumed"
- D. knowing what will ultimately happen to the physical universe should affect us: 2 Peter 3:11-12
 - 1. our perspective should be on the eternal
 - 2. it should affect the way we live; it should impact our priorities
 - 3. "Therefore let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us watch and be calm." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:6
 - 4. "Therefore, my brothers, stand fast and hold the teachings which you have been taught, whether by word or by our letter." -- 2 Thessalonians 2:15
 - 5. we should be looking for and "earnestly desiring" the coming of Jesus: 2 Peter 3:12
 - a. the word for "hastening" can also mean "earnestly desiring"
 - b. can we hasten the Lord's coming by praying for it?
 - (i) "Our Father, who is in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come..."
-- Matthew 6:9-10; Luke 11:2
 - (ii) "Yes, come, Lord Jesus." -- Revelation 22:20
 - c. "looking for the blessed hope, and the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" -- Titus 2:13
 - d. "keep yourselves in the love of God, eagerly awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to everlasting life" -- Jude 1:21
 - e. "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. But we know that when He shall be revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope on him purifies himself, even as that One is pure." -- 1 John 3:2-3
- E. we're looking forward to new heavens and a new earth: 2 Peter 3:13
 - 1. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth. And the things before will not be remembered, nor come to mind." -- Isaiah 65:17
 - 2. Isaiah 66:22
 - 3. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."
-- Revelation 21:1

III. How We Then Should Live: 2 Peter 3:14-18

- A. diligent: 2 Peter 3:14
 - 1. to hasten, make haste; to exert one's self, endeavor, give diligence
 - 2. "Give diligence to present yourself approved to God, a workman unashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." -- 2 Timothy 2:15 (LITV)
 - 3. "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" -- Ephesians 4:3
 - 4. 2 Peter 1:5-10
- B. spotless: 2 Peter 3:14
 - 1. "But you, O man of God... follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. Fight the good fight of faith... I charge you before God... and Christ Jesus... that you keep the commandment *without spot* and without blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."
-- 1 Timothy 6:11-14
 - 2. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions, and to keep oneself *unspotted* from the world." -- James 1:27
- C. without blemish: 2 Peter 3:14
 - 1. literally, blameless, beyond reproach; morally without blemish
 - 2. "so that you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, *without rebuke*, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. Among these you shine as lights in the world" -- Philippians 2:15

- D. to be found by Him in peace: 2 Peter 3:14
 - 1. "Be at peace among yourselves." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:13
 - 2. "And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blamelessly at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - 3. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." -- John 14:27
 - 4. "...be at peace with one another" -- Mark 9:50
 - 5. "If it is possible, as far as is in you, being in peace with all men." -- Romans 12:18
 - 6. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." -- Philippians 4:6-7
 - 7. "Do those things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me. And the God of peace shall be with you." -- Philippians 4:9
 - 8. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you also are called in one body, and be thankful." -- Colossians 3:15
 - 9. "Finally, brothers, rejoice. Perfect yourselves; encourage yourselves; mind the same thing; be at peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you." -- 2 Corinthians 13:11
- E. God's patience in bringing judgment means salvation to others: 2 Peter 3:15a
 - 1. 2 Peter 3:9
 - 2. Romans 2:4
- F. the Apostle Paul also wrote of these things: 2 Peter 3:15b-16
 - 1. we may or may not specifically have what is being referred to here
 - a. some conjecture that it's the book of Hebrews
 - 2. some of the things he says are hard to understand: 2 Peter 3:16a
 - 3. the "unlearned and unstable pervert" Paul's writings and the rest of Scripture: 2 Peter 3:16b
 - a. they do it to their own destruction
- G. we've now been warned to beware of the perversion of Scripture: 2 Peter 3:17
 - 1. the error of the wicked must not be allowed to cause us to falter in our stability
 - 2. "so that we no longer may be infants, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, in the dishonesty of men, in cunning craftiness, to the wiles of deceit" -- Ephesians 4:14
 - 3. "Beware lest anyone rob you through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ." -- Colossians 2:8
- H. we're to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Peter 3:18a
 - 1. not knowledge of church traditions
 - 2. not knowledge of secular writings
- I. "To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." -- 2 Peter 3:18b
 - 1. no one else deserves the glory
 - 2. that's what we're waiting for: the day of eternity!!!