

## Teaching through 1 and 2 Peter

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic and Chapter</u>
1.	The New Birth Brings Many Benefits (1 Peter 1)
2.	Christ is the Cornerstone of Holy Living (1 Peter 2)
3.	Submission and Suffering Are Keys to Holiness (1 Peter 3)
4.	Suffering and Persecution Produce Purity and power (1 Peter 4)
5.	Lead in Love and Resist the Devil (1 Peter 5)
6.	Grow in Faith to Fruitfulness (2 Peter 1)
7.	False Prophets Are Doomed to Destruction (2 Peter 2)
8.	God's Promises Are Sure (2 Peter 3)

Lesson 1:        The New Birth Brings Many Benefits (1 Peter 1:1-25)

Key Verse:        "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)

Introduction:     In preparation for an emphasis on holiness and purity, Peter laid the benefits of the new birth as a foundation. The new birth provides benefits that produce joy in trials, an awesome respect for God, and the motivation for love with a pure heart.

Prologue:        Peter addressed Jewish believers in the Dispersion (1:1-2)

- I. The New Birth Provides Eternal Benefits (1:3-5)
  - A. The new birth produces praise for God (3)
  - B. The new birth provides a living hope (3)
  - C. The new birth promises an incorruptible inheritance (4)
  - D. The new birth preserves us by God's power (5)
  
- II. The New Birth Produces Rejoicing in Trials (1:6-9)
  - A. The truth of the new birth produces rejoicing (6)
  - B. Rejoicing persists through temporary trials (6-9)
    1. Trials prove genuine faith (6-7)
    2. Genuine faith praises Jesus Christ (7-9)
  
- III. The New Birth Aroused the Curiosity of Prophets and Angels (1:10-12)
  - A. The prophets diligently studied the new birth (10-12)
    1. They searched the time of Christ's suffering and glory (10-11)
    2. They ministered to us, not themselves (12)
  - B. The angels also desire to study these things (12)
  
- IV. The New Birth Demands Awesome Respect for God (1:13-21)
  - A. The new birth demands full rest in God's grace (13)
  - B. The new birth demands full obedience as God's children (14)
  - C. The new birth demands holiness like God's holiness (15-16)
  - D. The new birth demands fear of God's just judgment (17-21)
    1. God judges impartially (17)
    2. God redeems by the blood of Christ (18-19)
    3. Christ was foreordained as the Redeemer (20-21)
  
- V. The New Birth Demands Love with a Pure Heart (1:22-25)
  - A. Love because your souls have been purified (22)
  - B. Love because you have been born again through the Word of God (23-25)
    1. God's Word is incorruptible (23)
    2. God's Word lives forever (23-25)
    3. The Gospel is God's Word (25)

Conclusion:        Christians should appreciate the many benefits of the new birth, and through awesome respect for God, determine to be holy and to love with a pure heart.

Lesson 2:        Christ Is the Cornerstone of Holy Living (1 Peter 2:1-25)

Key Verse:        "Wherefore also it is contained in the Scriptures, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded."  
(1 Peter 2:6)

Introduction:      God desires holiness in His people. His Word provides the spiritual nourishment to grow in holiness. His people are living stones being built into a spiritual house in which He is worshiped and praised through Christ the Chief Cornerstone.

I. God's Word Is the Key to Holy Living (2:1-3)

- A. Lay aside unholy living (1)
- B. Grow in holy living by God's Word (2-3)

II. Christ Is the Cornerstone of the House of God (2:4-8)

- A. Christ is the Living Stone to Whom we come (4)
- B. Christians are living stones built into God's house (5)
  - 1. It is a spiritual house
  - 2. Believers are a royal priesthood
  - 3. God is worshiped through Christ
- C. Christ is the Chief Cornerstone (6-8)
  - 1. He is chosen and precious to God (4, 6) (Isaiah 28:16)
  - 2. He is rejected by unbelievers (4, 7) (Psalm 118:22)
  - 3. He is a rock of stumbling and offense to unbelievers (8) (Isaiah 8:14)

III. Christ Is the Praise of the People of God (2:9-10)

- A. Christians are the people of God (9-10)
  - 1. They are a chosen generation
  - 2. They are a royal priesthood
  - 3. They are a holy nation
  - 4. They are a special people
- B. God's people proclaim the praise of Christ (9)

IV. Therefore Christians Should Be a Holy People (2:11-25)

- A. They should abstain from fleshly lusts (11)
- B. They should have honorable conduct (12)
- C. They should be good citizens (13-17)
- D. Servants should be submissive to masters (18-25)
  - 1. Willingly suffer wrong treatment (18-20)
  - 2. It is God's will (21)
  - 3. Christ set the example (21-23)
  - 4. Christ bore our sins that we might live righteously (24-25)

Conclusion:        The Word of God, the Cornerstone of the Church, the unique relationship with God, and the sufferings of Christ all should motivate us to holy living.

Lesson 3:        Submission and Suffering Are Keys to Holiness (1 Peter 3:1-22)

Key Verse:        "For Christ also hath once suffered for our sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."  
(1 Peter 3:18)

Introduction:     Holiness is evidenced by mutual submission between husbands and wives, and between believers in general. Holiness may bring suffering, but it will result in ultimate blessing, just as Christ's suffering made holiness possible for believers in the first place.

I. Submission Is Vital to Holiness (3:1-12)

- A. Wives should be submissive to husbands (1-6)
  - 1. Chaste conduct should accompany submission (1-2)
  - 2. Spiritual adornment should accompany submission (3-4)
  - 3. Godly women of the past were good examples (5-6)
- B. Husbands should be submissive to wives (7)
  - 1. Give wives understanding
  - 2. Give wives honor
    - a. Honor her as the weaker vessel
    - b. Honor her as joint-heir of grace
  - 3. Failure hinders prayers
- C. Church members should be submissive to one another (8-9)
  - 1. Have oneness of mind (8)
  - 2. Have love for one another (8)
  - 3. Respond to evil with blessing (9)
- D. These are Scriptural principles (10-12) (Psalm 34:12-16)

II. Suffering Is Valuable for Holiness (3:13-22)

- A. Suffering may accompany holiness (13-17)
  - 1. Goodness seldom is repaid with evil (13)
  - 2. But suffering for righteousness is blessed (14)
  - 3. Noble suffering shames the critic (14-16)
    - a. Do not be fearful or troubled (14)
    - b. Sanctify the Lord in the heart (15)
    - c. Be ready to give a reason for hope (15-16)
  - 4. Suffering in God's will is preferable to evil (17)
- B. Christ's suffering provided for holiness (18-22)
  - 1. Christ suffered to bring us to God (18)
  - 2. Christ died and rose again (18)
  - 3. Christ preached to imprisoned spirits (19-21)
    - a. They were disobedient in Noah's day (20)
    - b. Noah's family was saved through water (20)
    - c. Baptism is an antitype (21)
  - 4. Christ ascended to the right hand of God (22)
  - 5. Spiritual powers are subject to Christ (22)

Conclusion:        Christians should cultivate a submissive spirit, and learn to suffer graciously for Christ's sake.

Lesson 4:        Suffering and Persecution Produce Purity and Power (1 Peter 4:1-19)

Key Verse:        "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm ourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." (1 Peter 4:1)

Introduction:     God permits suffering and persecution to come into the believer's life in order to purify and empower him for holy living. Persecution may result in injustices but these will be resolved in the judgment.

I. Be Holy Because of Christ's Suffering (4:1-2)

- A. Christ suffered that we might be holy (1)
- B. Christ's mind should be our armor (1-2)
  - 1. This mind learns from suffering (1)
  - 2. This mind ceases from sin (1)
  - 3. This mind lives for the will of God (2)

II. Be Holy Because of Past Shame (4:3-6)

- A. We should be through doing the will of the Gentiles (3)
- B. They think holiness is strange (4)
- C. But the judgment will resolve the difference (5-6)

III. Be Holy Because the End Is Near (4:7-11)

- A. Be serious in thought (7)
- B. Be watchful in prayer (7)
- C. Be fervent in love (8)
- D. Be cheerful in hospitality (9)
- E. Be trustworthy in service (10-11)

IV. Be Holy in Spite of Persecution (4:12-19)

- A. Do not think trials are strange (12-14)
  - 1. Rejoice to partake of Christ's sufferings (13)
  - 2. Such persecution brings blessing (14)
- B. Do not attract suffering by evil deeds (15)
- C. Do not be ashamed of suffering for Christ (16-18)
  - 1. Glorify God in such suffering (16)
  - 2. The judgment will rectify injustices (17-18)
- D. Commit the soul to God in holiness (19)

Conclusion:        Believers should endeavor to profit from suffering and persecution and allow this to produce purity and holiness.

Lesson 5:        Lead in Love and Resist the Devil (1 Peter 5:1-14)

Key Verse:        "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." (1 Peter 5:2)

Introduction:     Peter urged church leaders to tend God's flock as a loving shepherd. Believers were to be mutually submissive in humility and dependence on God. Those who were suffering were urged not to succumb to the devil's vicious attacks on their faith.

I. Elders Are to Lead in Love (5:1-4)

- A. They are to be shepherds of God's flock (2)
- B. They are to serve as overseers (2)
- C. They are to serve willingly, not by constraint (2)
- D. They are to serve eagerly, not for gain (2)
- E. They are to be examples, not lords (3)
- F. They will be rewarded by the Chief Shepherd (4)

II. Believers Are to Be Humbly Submissive (5:5-7)

- A. The young should be submissive to their elders (5)
- B. Believers should be submissive to one another (5)
- C. Believers should be humble, not proud (5)
- D. Believers should be submissive to God's will (6-7)
  - 1. God will exalt the submissive (6)
  - 2. God cares for the submissive (7)

III. Sufferers Are to Resist the Devil (5:8-11)

- A. Beware of the devil's attacks (8)
  - 1. Be sober and vigilant
  - 2. The devil is an adversary
  - 3. The devil is as ferocious as a lion
- B. Resist the devil's attacks (9-11)
  - 1. Resist with unwavering faith (9)
  - 2. Understand the common basis of suffering (9)
  - 3. Understand God's gracious purpose for suffering (10-11)

Farewell Benedictions (5:12-14)

Conclusion:        Love leads where tyranny cannot drive. Humble submission rises to heights unreachd by pride. Faith lays hold of God's gracious purposes in suffering which the devil desires to destroy.

Lesson 6:        Grow in Faith to Fruitfulness (2 Peter 1:1-21)

Key Verse:        "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." (2 Peter 1:5-7)

Introduction:     Spiritual growth is founded on the sure promises of God's Word. Peter encouraged believers to grow spiritually by adding successive godly characteristics to their faith, thus making fruitfulness possible. The exceedingly great and precious promises of God's prophetic word provide the nourishment necessary for spiritual growth.

Prologue:        Peter greeted those of like precious faith (1:1-4)  
1. They have all things pertaining to life and godliness (3)  
2. They have exceedingly great and precious promises (4)

I. Spiritual Growth Is Necessary for Fruitfulness (1:5-11)

- A. Be diligent about spiritual growth (5-7)
  - 1. Add virtue to faith (5)
  - 2. Add knowledge to virtue (5)
  - 3. Add self-control to knowledge (6)
  - 4. Add perseverance to self-control (6)
  - 5. Add godliness to perseverance (6)
  - 6. Add brotherly kindness to godliness (7)
  - 7. Add love to brotherly kindness (7)
- B. Such spiritual growth produces fruitfulness (8)
- C. Lack of spiritual growth raises doubts (9)
- D. Therefore make your calling and election sure (10-11)

II. Reminders Are Necessary for Spiritual Growth (1:12-15)

- A. Believers need reminding of what they already know (12)
- B. His impending departure urged Peter to be a reminder (13-14)
- C. Peter provided a perpetual reminder (15)

III. Reliable Revelation Is Necessary for Spiritual Growth (1:16-21)

- A. The prophetic word is wholly reliable (16-18)
  - 1. Peter gave eyewitness reports, not fables (16)
  - 2. Peter was an eyewitness of Christ's glory (17-18)
- B. The prophetic word is made more certain (19-21)
  - 1. Christ makes prophecy more certain (19)
  - 2. Prophecy is not of private interpretation (20)
  - 3. Prophecy came from the Holy Spirit (21)

Conclusion:        Christians should follow Peter's recipe for spiritual growth and fruitfulness.

Lesson 7:        False Prophets Are Doomed to Destruction (2 Peter 2:1-22)

Key Verse:        "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." (2 Peter 2:1)

Introduction:     Although God's desire is for Christians to grow spiritually, Satan's plan is to send false prophets to lure the unsuspecting into false doctrine. But God knows how to deliver the godly from temptation and how to bring false prophets to judgment.

I. False Prophets Will Deceive Many (2:1-3)

- A. False prophets will arise as in the past (1)
- B. Many will follow their false doctrine (2)
- C. They will cause truth to be blasphemed (2)
- D. They will exploit people with covetousness (3)
- E. Their judgment is certain (3)

II. God Spares the Godly But Will Punish the Ungodly (2:4-11)

- A. God did not spare the sinful angels (4)
- B. God did not spare the antediluvians, except Noah (5)
- C. God did not spare Sodom and Gomorrah, except Lot (6-8)
- D. God knows how to spare the godly (9)
- E. God reserves the ungodly for punishment (9)
- F. This is especially true for those like the false prophets (10-11)

III. False Prophets Will Receive Certain Punishment (2:12-22)

- A. False prophets will perish and be punished (12-13)
  - 1. They are like brute beasts (12)
  - 2. They speak evil of things not understood (12)
  - 3. They will perish and be punished (12-13)
- B. False prophets are doomed to the gloom of darkness (13-17)
  - 1. They are spots and blemishes (13)
  - 2. They fellowship deceptively (13)
  - 3. They are insatiably immoral (14)
  - 4. They are confirmed coveters (14)
  - 5. They follow the way of Balaam (15-16)
  - 6. They are empty and unstable (17)
  - 7. They are doomed to darkness (17)
- C. False prophets merit greater judgment (18-22)
  - 1. They speak empty words (18)
  - 2. They allure through lusts (18)
  - 3. They promise liberty but produce bondage (19)
  - 4. Their apostasy merits greater judgment (20-22)

Conclusion:        Christians should know sound doctrine and be alert to false prophets. The church should guard against the intrusion of false prophets.



Lesson 8:        God's Promises Are Sure (2 Peter 3:1-18)

Key Verse:        "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Introduction:     Peter reminded the believers that the LORD foretold the scoffing of false prophets. They would question God's prophetic promises because of His delay. But God's delays are due to His grace, not slackness. His promised judgments are certain; His promise of salvation is sure.

I.    God's Promises Are Sure in Spite of Scoffers (3:1-9)

- A. God foretold the scoffing of false prophets (1-4)
  - 1. They would deny the promise of Christ's coming (4)
  - 2. They would deny God's interaction with history (4)
- B. Scoffers are willfully ignorant of history (5-7)
  - 1. They are ignorant of creation (5)
  - 2. They are ignorant of the Flood (6)
  - 3. They are ignorant of promised judgment by fire (7)
- C. But God's delays are due to His grace, not slackness (8-9)
  - 1. God is not limited by man's measure of time (8)
  - 2. God is not slack concerning His promises (9)
  - 3. God's delays are due to His grace (9)
    - a. He does not want anyone to perish
    - b. He wants everyone to be saved

II.   Sure Promises Should Produce Spiritual Growth (3:10-18)

- A. The Day of the Lord will certainly come (10, 13)
  - 1. It will come as a thief in the night (10)
  - 2. It will bring total destruction (10)
    - a. The heavens will pass away
    - b. The elements will melt
    - c. The earth will burn up
  - 3. It will bring new heavens and a new earth (13)
- B. This expectation should encourage spiritual growth (11-18)
  - 1. Christians should have a holy expectation (11-13)
    - a. They should be holy and godly (11)
    - b. They should look for the Day of the Lord (12)
    - c. They should look for new heavens and earth (13)
  - 2. Christians should have a holy diligence (14-18)
    - a. They should be diligent to be found in Christ (14)
    - b. They should regard God's longsuffering as salvation (15-16)
    - c. They should beware of falling from steadfastness (17)
    - d. They should grow in grace and knowledge (18)

Conclusion:        God's certain judgments and sure promises should encourage Christians to diligent spiritual growth.