

# 1 Peter 1:1,2 Intro

8-4-21

## *Living An Authentic Christian Life*

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2 Both **GriefShare** (loss of loved one) & **Divorce Care** are starting up. You can register online under our Hope Ministries page.
- B. Slide3 **Men's Grill and Chill** - Tues Aug 10 at 6:30pm. Grilling **hot dogs** and there will be **worship** & I both **Greg Fischer & I** will share a little it.
- C. Slide4 **Ladies** - Our fall study is beginning August 16. 14-week study thru Neh. Meeting at Church on **Mon nights** (no childcare). **And** on **Tuesday mornings** (limited childcare available). **Format:** worship, short teaching, & small groups to discuss the homework. **Register online under our women's ministry page.**
- D. Slide5 **Prayer:**

### II. Slide6a **Intro:** *Living An Authentic Christian Life* [1st Pete is for today!]

- A. *The Brian Bell I want to be, is the Brian Bell of this book!*
  1. When I read **the type of person** Peter is calling us to be, in **all** these **relationships** ... citizen relationships, work relationships, marriage relationships, Church relationships. **It's clear ... I'm definitely not there yet!**
- B. Slide6b *This is a résumé of the Christian faith and of the conduct it inspires.<sup>1</sup>*
- C. Let me ask ...
  1. What are believers **suffering** with/through today? Peter answers this.
  2. What are some areas that Christians have a hard time **remaining holy in** today? Peter answers this.
  3. What causes us as believers to lose **Hope** today? Peter answers this.
  4. What are people **suffering with** today? Peter answers this.
  5. What challenges us to lose **Trust in God** today? Peter answers this.

<sup>1</sup> Edmund Clowney, quoting Ceslas Spicq who begins his commentary this way, pg.11

6. What challenges us to **Live Obediently** today? Peter answers this.

### III. Slide7a **BACK TO THE EARLY 60'S** (a.d.)

- A. Peter is writing from **Babylon** (5:13) - this was a code for *the church in Rome*, so as not to endanger them). Actually penned by Silvanus (5:12). [China 1986]
- B. The Emperor Nero *burned Rome* in July and began a *terrible persecution* of Christians in October, a.d. 64.
1. It was most severe in Rome itself, where Nero even burned Christians alive to illuminate his gardens at night.
  2. Peter knew that the *fiery trial* (4:12) would spread from Rome to the Roman provinces (*exiles of the dispersion*), and he wanted to encourage the saints there.
    - a) These believers had already been faced with **local, personal persecutions**, but Peter wanted them to be ready for *the severe trials* now on the way.
    - b) **Today** our world is *looking more & more like* Peter's world of the early 60 ad.
  3. Peter wrote these 2 letters, inspired by the Spirit, to the churches **Paul had founded in Asia Minor**.
    - a) Peter is writing a letter to a scattered and persecuted group of Jewish & Gentile Christians in the 1st century.
    - b) The Apostle Peter in writing them, was continuing to fulfill the commandment Christ gave him to **feed His sheep/lambs**.
- C. **Slide7b** It's interesting since **Ephesians** which was also written to the saints in Asia Minor, it shows more than **100 parallels** in **teaching** and **wording**.
- D. Peter's primary message is to **trust** the Lord, **live obediently** no matter what your circumstances, and keep your **hope** fixed on God's ultimate promise of deliverance<sup>2</sup>

### IV. Slide8 **GOD TO OUR RESCUE** (1:2)

A. (1,2) **Some glorious facts concerning the Source of our Salvation.**

<sup>2</sup> Intro to 1 Peter, in the ESV Bible.

1. Your **Father** knew you, and chose you.
2. The **Holy Spirit** continues to sanctify you (make you holy) for obedience sake.
3. *And as a result*, we obey & are cleansed by **Jesus**. *Trinity to the rescue!*

## V. Slide9 **PETER (1:1)**

A. What is the 1st word in our text? **Peter**.

1. Shimon/Simon. Cephas/Κηφᾶς (Aramaic, name change when confessed Jesus was the Messiah). Rock (Eng) - Petros/Πέτρος (Gk) Peter.

B. Peter's testimony about *the life of Jesus* is reflected in Mark's Gospel.

1. In **this letter** Peter shows us what that story means for us, *as Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow him*.

## VI. Slide10a **WHY LISTEN TO PETER?**

A. **Ask:** What comes to mind when you think of Peter? [*story, comment, blunder, success*]

B. **Peter, the guy who** Jesus wants called Satan. Who walked on water and started sinking. The guy who denied Jesus 3 times, who fell asleep in the garden, and cut off a guys ear. He didn't want Jesus to wash his feet.

C. **Or, Peter the guy who** was listed 1st in the list of the apostles in Mt., Mark, and Luke because he was a leader. He preached a sermon at Pentecost and 3000 people get saved. He did walk on water, he was in the inner-circle, he got to witness the transfiguration, and claimed to have left everything to follow Jesus. He ran to the tomb to discover it was empty.

D. **Yes Peter was impulsive but also exciting.** He hauled in fish because of Jesus. He was restored & reinstated because of Jesus. [*he's the apostle of Hope*]

E. **Slide10b Think about this:** Peter lived in close proximity to Jesus Christ for more than 3 yrs.

1. Jesus provided the apostle Peter the best possible example of what it looked like to **live in holiness** amid a **hostile world**.
2. We receive the benefit of his *close brush ups* with **Jesus**.

## VII. Slide 1a **WHAT DOES PETER WANT TO COMMUNICATE TO US?**

A. Peter's primary message is to: **Trust** the Lord. Live **obediently** no matter what your circumstances. Keep your **hope** fixed on God's ultimate promise of deliverance. **Suffering** is to be expected, but it is temporary and yields great blessings for those who remain steadfast. And living **Holy** lives.

1. He grounds our hope in the reality of what God has done, and will yet do for us, through Christ.

B. As Peter is writing to the scattered Jewish & Gentiles believers, he borrows so many texts and images from the **OT Jewish**. [Ps.34 quoted twice: 2:3; 3:10-12]

1. Being **chosen**. From the family of **Abraham**. They were **like the Israelites who left Egypt**. They are the people of **the New Exodus**, **redeemed** by the **blood of Jesus** the ultimate *passover lamb*. They were wandering exiles awaiting their new home in the promised land. They too should gird up their loins, and leave behind their former life, on their way to a new future. They also are the Holy people of God. They are the **new covenant people**. They are the **new temple** built on the foundation of Jesus Himself. They are **a kingdom of priests** as representatives to the nations.

a) **Slide 1b** They are a **new family**. Have a **new identity**. And a **new Hope**.

C. **Slide 12a** 1st Peter is about **pursuing holiness** *while enduring suffering*.

1. **Ch. 1** has both of these themes. See vs.6,7 & 15,16.
2. These themes continue to **rotate** through the next 4 chapters.
3. **Hear Peter's heart for the hurting & the broken**. A ministry to the suffering. A ministry to the suffering ... **on the brink of hopelessness**.

- D. **Holiness:** Holiness as a nation, holiness in your marriage, in church leadership, *even holiness* in suffering ... *the other key Theme*.
- E. **Suffering:** Christians were rapidly becoming *the enemies of the Roman empire*.
1. Many were being persecuted and killed. Peter also answers the why question to suffering in 3:18 *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.*
  2. **Suffering** results in *holiness* the other key theme. 4:1,2 *Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.* [no christian avoids suffering]
- F. **Slide12b 5:10** is the **Key Verse**. *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*
1. God doesn't delegate those jobs, He does it himself! **He** will restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you.
- G. **Slide13** It's important to know also that as Peter is writing this, he would continue to **suffer** for his own faith and not give up.
1. According to tradition Peter was murdered/martyred for his faith. [prophesied by Christ]
  2. **Crucified upside down**, because he *wasn't worthy* of his Lord's death.
    - a) *\*Peter endured **suffering** and remained **holy**. He lived out his own letter *in his death*. [preached 37 years, died at 70 yrs old]*
    - b) **Peter how did you do it?** Read John 21:18-22. *Peter followed Him.*
      - (1) **What are we supposed to do?** ... **follow Him!**
- H. Keywords: authentic, Peter, Trinity, suffering, hope, holiness, trust, obey.