

### *1Pet 1.1—Peter, a testimony to God’s grace*

- The three main doctrines in this epistle are faith, obedience, and patience, as Peter aims to establish his readers in believing, direct them in doing, and comfort them in suffering.
- Peter has less interest in doctrinal exposition than Paul and therefore introduces doctrines strictly for the sake of their direct bearing on the regulation of our Christian life and conduct.
- Written around 65 AD, 2 yrs before Peter’s martyrdom under Nero.
- The three most important words are: conduct/way of life, subject (i.e. being subject to authority), and suffer.
- 1Peter is about keeping a right perspective, an eternal perspective. It’s about being reminded who and whose we are and then being exhorted to live in light of it.

#### Highlights from Peter’s life

- I. Peter’s initial contact with the supernatural in Jesus compelled him to pray, in shame, that Jesus depart from him, Lk 5.1-11
  - A. *Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*
- II. Peter walked on water only to begin sinking when he took his eyes off of Jesus and let the waves terrify him, Mt 14.28-31
  - A. *Lord save me!*
- III. Peter opposed Christ when He wanted to wash his feet, Jn 13.1-9
  - A. *You shall never wash my feet.*
- IV. Following his remarkable confession of Jesus as the Messiah of God, Peter rebuked Jesus and tried to stand in the way of His path to the cross, Mt 16.21-23
  - A. *Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you. –Only to have Christ rebuke him in those memorable words, Get behind me, Satan!*
- V. It was Peter’s foolish idea to build a tabernacle for Jesus to dwell in on the mount of transfiguration—which, again, would impede the progress to the cross, Mt 17.1-8
  - A. *Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.*
- VI. Peter arrogantly responded to the news of his denial of Christ by essentially saying, “Lord, you’re wrong about me; I would never do such a thing,” Lk 22.31-34
  - A. *Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.*

- B. But of course, Peter does deny Jesus, three times, within earshot and eyesight of his Lord, who looked over at him as the rooster crowed.

VII. When Jesus told Peter that he would one day show his professed love for Jesus by martyrdom, Peter immediately turned and asked whether John would be called to suffer as well, Jn 21.18-22

A. *Lord, what about this man?*

\*Was any disciple more unfit for the apostleship than Peter?

VIII. But of course, the most remarkable moment in Peter’s life is his restoration by Jesus, Mk 16.7; Lk 24.34; Jn 21.15-17

A. So, believe it or not, and against all human odds, it’s this Peter, Peter the Denier, who, by the sheer grace of God, became Peter the Apostle.

1. He was interceded for by the God of grace, Lk 22.31-32
2. He was granted repentance, Lk 22.61-62
3. He was sent an assurance or pardon by the risen Christ, Mk 16.7
4. He was verbally and publicly restored, Jn 21.15-17
5. He was established as a vital leader and voice in the early church, Acts 1-10
6. And he was commissioned by Christ to write two epistles for the strengthening of his brethren, Lk 22.32

#### Applications

- I. Admire the sovereign grace of God in salvation, Acts 1.25
  - A. From the perspective of what transpired from our point of view Peter wasn’t really all that different than Judas. And yet, Judas stumbled and fell and was never recovered; but when Peter fell, grace rescued him and brought him back and set him up again.
  - B. Just think of how many people you know, who have perished in their sins, while you were rescued, kept from falling into hell, and raised up to receive life in Christ. What grace! Zech 4.7
- II. See how far you might fall if God leaves you to yourself in a day of temptation, Rom 7.18, 24
  - A. None of us knows how bad he may be, or how badly he may fall, or what dreadful sins he may commit, if God leave us to ourselves. Let this be a lesson and a warning to you. You only stand by the grace and strength of God, 1Cor 10.12; Eph 6.10-18
- III. Take heart from Peter’s story that neither your failures, nor your inadequacies, nor your sins will keep you from being a vessel of mercy and testimony of grace in God’s hands if you repent.
- IV. Let all backsliders who desire to be restored look to Christ today and receive the forgiveness that He gives to all who desire it, 1Jn 1.9