

The First Epistle of Peter

19

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

We begin today reading Peter’s first letter. Peter’s main ministry was as “an apostle to the Jews” (**Galatians 2:7-8**), although the readers of this letter were “God’s elect” – both Jew and Gentile – scattered throughout the Roman empire.

Peter probably wrote this letter from Rome, during the great persecution of Christians under the emperor Nero. In fact, not long after this letter, Peter was to face execution by crucifixion (note **John 21:18-19**). His readers were also suffering this great persecution, so it is no wonder that Peter writes a great deal about suffering in his letter.

It is also important to note how Peter’s introduction to his letter, in **1:1**, sets the pace for the rest of the letter. He calls his readers “strangers in the world,” and this theme runs right throughout his letter (see **1:17; 2:11**).

The letter divides into four broad sections:

- Attitude toward suffering – **1:1-2:10**
- Conduct in suffering (I) – **2:11-3:22**
- Conduct in suffering (II) – **4:1-19**
- Grace in suffering – **5:1-14**

Now we are ready to read through the whole of Peter’s first letter in one sitting. Note Peter’s particular emphases on:

- The great salvation that is ours in Christ
- The glory that follows suffering
- The importance of submission to God and to man
- The grace that is available to the humble

Pull up a comfortable chair and begin to read through the letter, taking time to join with Peter’s original readers to hear what God was saying to them – and to you also.

Memory Verse

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!