

Gleanings of Grace

1 Peter 1

Lesson 21

1 Peter begins with some incredible affirmations, reminding the believer what God has done and secured for us, leading to an exhortation to respond by living a life that reflects what we *know*. May you find yourself rejoicing in the pilgrim life as you study this lesson.

OBSERVATION: Read 1 Peter 1

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God the Father*, *Jesus*, and the *Holy Spirit*.

Key Words: *God the Father*, *Jesus*, *Holy Spirit*, *love*, and *salvation/redeemed/born again*
3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* are used seven times in 1 Peter 1. Mark the word. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used in verse 13. Mark the word and record what the conclusion is based upon.

Background:

1. It is believed that Mark recorded much of his gospel after extensively interviewing Peter. As Peter authored the letter of 1 Peter, let's take a few minutes to look at this man and his calling to serve Jesus. Before being given the name *Peter*, he was called *Simon*. What do you learn from the account of Jesus calling *Simon* in Mark 1:16-18?
2. Jesus often permitted only *Peter, James, and John* to be with Him. Using the following verses, identify those times.

Mark 5:37 (verses 21-43)

Mark 9:2 (verses 1-13)

Mark 13:3 (verses 3,4)

Mark 14:33 (verses 32-42)

a. What are your thoughts when you consider the moments with Jesus that Peter was exposed to?
3. As you consider Peter's life with Jesus, what are some moments that stand out to you?

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2 - Greeting

1. Peter addressed this letter to *pilgrims*. What does this suggest to you about a believer's perspective toward this life?

a. Why do you think Peter chose this word?
2. 1 Peter 1:2 describes the believer as elect, identifying those who choose Jesus as Savior as chosen by Him. Ponder for a moment what it might be like to choose Jesus, but to be rejected by Him. Record some of your thoughts.

a. Choose a few phrases or words to express your gratitude that, as one who has chosen Him, you will never face His rejection.

3. Notice the reference to the Trinity in 1 Peter 1:2. Now note the phrase *according to*. Here we see the role of God in our salvation. How does it impact you that:
 - a. God has known you from the beginning.
 - b. You have been sanctified (set apart) for His purposes.
 - c. You have been saved so that you will (and can) obey Him.
 - d. You have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-12 – Rejoicing In Our Inheritance

1. *God, according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope* (to be regenerated; born again). Why is it important to understand that it is through God's *mercy* that we are born again?
 - a. Notice the word *abundant* which precedes the word *mercy*. What are some synonyms for this word?
 - b. How does knowing Christ was raised from the dead give you hope for your own resurrection?
2. Peter used some incredible words to describe the *inheritance* of the believer. Use synonyms or your personal response to define the impact of the following words/phrases:
 - a. *incorruptible*
 - b. *undefiled*
 - c. *does not fade away*
 - d. *reserved in heaven for you*
 - 1.) Describe the keeping power of God.
3. 1 Peter 1:6 has been described as going from ecstasy to agony. This is man's perspective, not God's. God intends the fruit of our trials to be good. What good is there in a trial?

4. Our trials are not without purpose. Read 1 Peter 1:7 and share God's purpose for trials.

a. How do trials give us an opportunity to express our faith?

5. Using 1 Peter 1:8, notice the three ways we can be victorious in the midst of a trial. Find the three verbs that reveal the believer's part and share why each of these are such important components when facing trials.

love

believe

rejoice

6. Ponder the words of 1 Peter 1:9. Our faith begins and ends with salvation – first being justified/being made right with God and then, one day, being glorified/new bodies and new hearts. After that, faith will no longer be necessary. We will be with Jesus. We will see Him as He is. What are some of your thoughts as you consider the end of your faith?

7. 1 Peter 1:12 states that the *angels desire to look into* things such as the gospel. What do you think were some of the things that might have baffled the angels concerning God's plan of salvation for man?

Read 1 Peter 1:13-21 – Resting in Grace

1. 1 Peter 1:13 begins with the term of conclusion, *therefore*. Because of our rich *inheritance*, a new behavior should follow. Consider each of the commands in this section and briefly record what you think the believer is being exhorted to do.

gird up the loins of your mind

be sober

rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

not conforming to the former lusts

be holy in all your conduct

conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear

2. Our new behavior is to be based, not only on the verses that precede verse 13, but on those that follow verse 17. According to verses 18-21, what are we to *know*?
 - a. Jesus was manifest in these last times for you (speaking of the believer) 1 Peter 1:20. Using Hebrews 1:2-4, describe Jesus.
 - 1.) List a few things the Word of God has revealed to you about Jesus.
3. Another important fact can be found in 1 Peter 1:21 - Jesus was *raised from the dead*. If that were not true, how would history have been different?
 - a. Why does the fact of Jesus being *raised from the dead* increase your faith and hope in God?

Read 1 Peter 1:22-25 - Hoping in the Word

1. In earlier verses of 1 Peter 1, believers are called to walk in hope and holiness. We find another instruction in verse 22. What is it?
 - a. Fill in the blanks which describe the way we are to love.

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in _____ love of the brethren, love one another _____ with a _____ heart.

 - 1.) List some synonyms for:

sincere:

fervent:

pure:
2. All believers are *born again*. Record what 1 Peter 1:23 teaches us about being born again.
 - a. Contrast the corruptible seed of the physical birth with the incorruptible seed of the spiritual birth.

3. Observe this by recording what 1 Peter 1:24,25 declares about:

the glory of man

the word of the LORD

- a. What lesson is there in this for us today?

4. Consider the words of 1 Peter 1:25 as you write them.

- a. What does this fact personally mean to you?

REVIEW: Read 1 Peter 1

1. 1 Peter was written to encourage a persecuted, suffering church. What are some truths contained in chapter 1 that would be helpful?
2. What are some things you appreciate about the keeping power of God?
3. What have you gleaned from your study in 1 Peter 1 that has increased your appreciation of your salvation?

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Observation Worksheet

1 Peter 1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into. ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, ²⁵ but the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.