

Saint Pauls Cathedral, Melbourne
Bible Study, Sunday 24th May 2020
1 Peter

Chapter One

Reminder from last week: IN A NUTSHELL

In chapter 1 Peter greets God's chosen people, calling them to praise God. Although you are experiencing trials of great pain, he told them, through Christ you have new life. These temporary detours of suffering will actually strengthen your commitment to Christ and your testimony for him. Don't allow the trauma of the present to blur your vision of your glorious future with Christ in heaven. Don't allow the trials of the moment to distract you from living a life of obedience to God. Demonstrate this life by reaching out to one another in love.

⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

***1Pet. 1:10** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, ¹¹ inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!*

***1Pet. 1:13** Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. ¹⁴ Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵ Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ¹⁶ for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

***1Pet. 1:17** If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.*

Read: 1 Peter 8 - 19

1. Recall from last week that in the verses prior to verses 8 and 9, Peter has been talking about suffering. How do verses 8 and 9 suggest that the Christians to whom Peter was writing could face their suffering? What did they choose to do?

2. (a) What does it mean to “believe in Him” (Verse 8)? (Note the Greek word translated “believe” here is actually a present participle – “you go on believing in Him” would perhaps be a more accurate translation.)
 - (b) How are “belief” and “faith” related? What is the difference (if any) between the two terms?
 - (c) What is the result of this belief? (verses 8 and 9)
 - (d) What is the nature of the “glorious and indescribable joy” of which Peter speaks in verse 8?

3. Verses 10 – 12 attempt to increase our appreciation for the great Salvation we enjoy in Jesus Christ. The spiritual blessings believers now experience are greater than anything the Old Testament prophets or even the Angels imagined. The prophets longed to participate in this Salvation and coming period of grace they thought about it; they searched the subject out as best they could - all in an effort to comprehend more clearly what we seem to take for granted.
 - (a) What do you think the “things into which angels long to look” are? (v12)

4. **Re again verses 13 to 16.**
 - (a) Verse 13 begins with “therefore”, what is the significance of the “therefore” here? What is the “therefore” there for?
 - (b) How does Peter say we should prepare our minds for action?
 - (c) What is this “action” do you think?
 - (d) What do you think he means when he refers to the “desires that your formerly had in ignorance”? (verse 14)

5. What does it mean to be “holy”? (verse 15). How do we achieve holiness?

6. What aspect of God’s nature does Peter remind his readers of in verse 17?
 - (a) Is this something that the Christian should be afraid of?
 - (b) What does it mean to live in “reverent fear”? (verse 17)? Is this the same kind of fear we might feel when we are afraid?

7. Discuss verses 18 and 19. What do they mean? Compare verse 19 with verse 2.

Pray together.