

Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

Sermon Series in Peter

1 Peter 1:5 and following ~ Why Peter's Teaching?

January 15, 2017 A.D.

Pastor Matthew Diehl

(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

Who is this Peter who is so forthright with his letter?

- He was one of the first disciples. [Matthew 4:18](#)
- He witnessed the miracles of Jesus. [Matthew 4:23-25](#)
- He walked on water until he lost focus in his faith. [Matthew 14:26-32](#)
- He promised to never leave or deny Jesus. [Matthew 26:35](#)
- He turned violent and cut off a man's ear attempting to prevent Jesus' arrest. [John 18:10](#)
- He denied knowing Jesus three times. [Luke 22:60](#)
- He was restored by Jesus during the Resurrection. [John 20:14-17](#)
- He witnessed the empty tomb. [John 20:6](#)
- He was one of the first recorded in Acts
to preach in Jesus' name after the Ascension. [Acts 2:14ff](#)
- He made several missionary journeys recorded in the book of Acts.
- He healed people in Jesus' name. [Acts 3:1-12](#)
- He was threatened, arrested, jailed and miraculously released
for speaking in the name of Jesus. [Acts 5, 12](#)
- People lined up as Peter walked by so that his shadow would cover them, and they would be healed. [Acts 5:15](#)
- He struggled with his religious legal Jewish upbringing. [Galatians 2:11-21](#)
- Church writers ([Clement of Rome letter to Corinth](#)) and tradition tells us that he was crucified.
- He wrote two books on the New Testament, 1st and 2nd Peter.

Many people read the Bible and are unaware of or do not consider the writer through which the Lord worked to produce a letter that is in the New Testament. The Bible, particularly the New Testament, is the most published book of all time (for about 2000 years). Just think about it. If you were to plan right now, with the assistance of the best publisher on earth, you would not produce a document that would be read around the world for hundreds or thousands of years. God had to be behind this production. Man does not have the ability to do this. It is a God-conspiracy.

When we look specifically at Peter's life, we find a unique individual with one-of-a-kind life experiences. Peter represents all of us. He experiences success and failures. He accepts the truth at one point, and then denies Christ at another time. He works through life, and God does not give up on him. Peter grows in the Lord. God does not give up on Believers. God does not remove His Saving Holy Spirit from Believers. Believers go to the Lord with confession from a broken heart and are forgiven ([Psalm 51:17](#)). God may remove abilities to lead and prophecy by His Spirit like He did with King Saul ([1 Samuel 16:14](#)) or remove functions in life like He did with David and not allow him to build the Temple.

God only removes communication from those who are not Believers, who have exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corrupted man and corrupted creation ([Romans 1:23](#)). God gave them over to degrading passions; they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper ([Romans 1:28](#)). These people have no conscience of right and wrong as defined by God in His Word. Of course, God knew who they were/are from the foundation of the world, and He removed their names from His Book, that is The Lamb's Book of Life. God said He would do this to sinful people ([Exodus 32:33](#)). It is interesting to note that everyone starts out like Adam and Cain did and had every opportunity to remain in God's Book. However, people make choices against God that are life-long. They reject His Holy Spirit until death, and, by doing so, they never seek/have forgiveness ([Mark 3:28-29](#)). God is gracious and extends His forgiveness to all; but there are those who reject God

for a life-time, and God turns them over to their life of sin ([Romans 1:23-28](#)). Again, these reject God's Holy Spirit for a life-time. Remember that a Believer has God's Holy Spirit residing in their heart and without God's Holy Spirit setting up residency in a person's heart, they are not of Christ/God ([Romans 8:9](#)). God does not make them do this; He just affords all of us the ability to surrender to Him. God does not send anyone to Hell; they send themselves. The only people who will be in God's Heaven are those that want to be there. God will not make anyone go to His Heaven who does not want to be with Him.

Mark 3:28-29 ²⁸ "Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin

Reviewing 1 Peter 1:1-2

1 Peter, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as **aliens**, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are **chosen**

2 according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, by the **sanctifying work of the Spirit**, [[John 6:63](#)] that you may **obey** Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

The rest of 1 Peter 1 is possible, because of the truths that God referenced in the first two verses. We are therefore blessed, receive God's mercy and are eligible to be **born again**. We are all eligible due to God, as Jesus Christ, going to the Cross and defeating death and sin exemplified in the **Resurrection** ([1 Peter 1:3](#)). We Believers have a **Living Hope** and have obtained an **imperishable** inheritance **reserved** for us in Heaven. Why is this possible? As surrendered Believers to God's Holy Spirit conviction, He has put His Spirit in

us and causes us to walk in His statutes, and we are careful to obey His ordinances ([Ezekiel 36:27](#)). This is the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. God knows who we are from the foundation of the world. We are the ones that will overcome; we will not be the false followers of Jesus described in [John 6](#) who were never saved.

[John 6:64-71](#) ⁶⁴ "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

⁶⁵ And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father."

[He and the Father are One ~ [John 10:30](#), [John 1:1, 2, 10:38, 12:45, 14:7, 9, 16:15, 17:10, 21](#); [Matthew 11:27](#); [Luke 22:70](#)]

⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.

⁶⁷ Jesus said therefore to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?"

⁶⁸ **Simon Peter** answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

⁶⁹ "And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet **one of you is a devil?**"

⁷¹ Now He meant **Judas** *the son of Simon Iscariot*, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy **has caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to *obtain* an **inheritance which is imperishable**

and **undefiled** and will **not fade away**,
reserved in heaven for you,

We pick up in last week's Sermon and bring that lesson forward. It is obvious that Peter is directed to communicate to the recipients of his letter that their relationship with God through Jesus is sealed. God desires for the recipients to know that they will be with Him in His Heaven for eternity. We also read this in 1 John 5:13. Here is a text in the Bible that declares what every Believer should now know; through infallible Scripture, that their salvation is imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away and reserved for you in Heaven (1 Peter 1:3, 4). This is known from the foundation of the world, and your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life (Read sermon from Jan. 8th 2017).

In addition, and as added security, just for us to know, we are protected by our power? NO. **We are protected by God's power through faith (1 Peter 1:5; Jude 1:24)**. It was faith that saved us (Eph. 2:8). So many people hold on to the fearful idea that they had to earn their salvation, and they must continue to do good works to retain their salvation. This position begs the question: why the Cross then? This idea denies that the Cross of Christ is sufficient to pay the price for all your sin. Why would man think that another power could keep his salvation protected than the one power that saved him in the first place? Pride. Adam chose pride. Adam walked away from the power that created him and provided for him. People do the same thing today and throughout history. We are not justified to God by Satan's or man's power.

Hebrews 11 distinctly tells us that Abel and all the rest in the Hall of Faith are justified by their faith. Faith gained them approval, and their faith speaks today. The revealing of the truth of faith takes place in the last times (verse 5), because the reality of faith's saving power will have come to fruition. We have trials in this life that fog the end result, but Peter reminds them what happens at the end. So, we greatly rejoice through our challenges, because challenges will be our lot in this fallen world. We accept our situation-in-life and at the same time make ourselves ready to be with the Lord.

The proof of faith is in the outcome of faith. Overcoming.

Does faith have a value that one day will be seen? Yes.

When Jesus Christ is revealed (apokalupsis ~ apokolupsis).

Strong's 602 ἀποκάλυψις (apokalupsis) Origin: from Strong's 601

Meaning: an uncovering

Usage: revealed(1), revealing(1), revelation(13), Revelation(1), revelations(2).

Notes: ¹ Or, *genuineness* ² Lit., *perishes*

^a James 1:3 ^b 1 Corinthians 3:13 ^c Romans 2:7 ^d Luke 17:30; 1Pe 1:13; 1Pe 4:13

1 Peter 1:5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation, ready to be revealed [Greek ~ Apokolupsis] in the last time.

The book of **Revelation** or the Greek titled **Apokolupsis** is about **revealing**. It is the same Greek word in 1 Peter. The reality is that God as Jesus Christ is constantly revealing Himself all the time. The maximum effect of God's revealing will be fully felt and seen at the Second Coming of Jesus.

When is salvation fully revealed? Once again, we go to the Great White Throne Judgement (Revelation 20:11-15). The books of Deeds are opened, and the Lamb's Book of Life is opened. This is the last time of revealing for salvation. The next view in the Bible after the Great White Throne Judgement is the New Heaven and the New Earth (Revelation 21). The proof of our faith is recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life, because our names are recorded there from the foundation of the world (Read Sermon from Jan. 8, 2017).

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Revelation 20:11-15

Great White Throne Judgement

Books of Deeds ~ Book of Life ~ Lake of Fire

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.

¹⁴ And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

We of faith do not have to physically see God to love or believe in Him. This is because our lives in this fallen world live with God's glory inside of us. God's glory is the power within us. This is the glory that enables us to overcome our challenges in the life. We have no victory in our lives by our own power. We have victory in Jesus. We have an eternal salvation that is irrevocable. Some say and misquote out of context that a person can lose their salvation.

1 Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will *fall away* from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

However, Scripture explains Scripture. Here in Luke and Mark, we have an explanation of Scriptures like 1 Timothy 4:1.

Luke 8:13 "And those on the rocky *soil* are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no *firm* root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation *fall away*."

Mark. 4:16-17 ¹⁶ "And in a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky *places*, who, when they hear the word,

immediately receive it with joy; ¹⁷ and they have no *firm* root in themselves, but are *only* temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they **fall away**.

However, the weight of Scripture proving that a true believer is permanently saved is overwhelming. Again, read sermon from Jan 8, 2017 to observe the witness of Scripture regarding permanent salvation.

1 John 5:4-5 ⁴ For whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world; and this is the **victory** that has **overcome** the world-- our faith.

⁵ And who is the one who **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4, 5; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21, 21:7

Matthew 24:12 -13 ¹² "And because lawlessness is increased, **most people's love will grow cold**. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.

1 John 2:19-20

¹⁹ They went out from us, **but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.**

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

Jude 1:21-24

²¹ **keep yourselves in the love of God**, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

²² And have mercy on some, who are doubting;

²³ save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

²⁴ **Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling**, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

John 10:27-30

²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;
²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, **and they shall never perish**; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

²⁹ "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

³⁰ "I and the Father are one."

Romans 8:38-39

³⁸ **For I am convinced** that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to **separate us** from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ **For I am confident** of this very thing, that He who **began** a good work in you will **perfect** it until the day of Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:8-9

⁸ who shall also **confirm** you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

What Peter, and these Scriptures witness, is the simple truth that God's authority and power give out salvation. Salvation's gate is based upon a broken surrendering heart. It is God's power that keeps us saved, for His Holy Spirit resides in our hearts and does the work of sanctification, that we obviously participate. We are constantly maturing to the full nature and character of Christ that only ends with us passing through death's door to be renewed in Heaven for eternity. God has not delegated

His salvation authority to any man or institution. Matthew 16:18 simply states that the church is built upon faith which is what Peter had demonstrated. Some scholars believe that Jesus points to himself as the rock (Greek - *petra*) that the church is built upon, because Peter had already identified Him as the Messiah. It is true that the Apostles and all believers can loose and bind sin in that we witness the truth of God's salvation, forgiveness and judgement. God works through us to witness His authority over sin and death. We are not the power or authority.

Continue 1 Peter 1 verse 6

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

⁷ that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor **at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

AMEN