

1 Peter 1:1-12

Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter wrote two of the New Testament "epistles" [letters].
2. In this lesson we are beginning a study of Peter's first letter (1:1-12).

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1a) THIS LETTER WAS FROM "*PETER, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST*"
 - A. Peter's letters must be carefully studied and properly applied because:
 1. the authority for his teaching was from heaven (Matthew 16:19)
 2. he was given the responsibility of:
 - a. strengthening his brethren (Luke 22:32)
 - b. feeding the Lord's lambs and sheep (John 21:15-17).
 - B. Peter wrote his first letter around 65 AD.
 - C. Silvanus (Silas) was also involved in writing or delivering this letter (5:12).
- II. (vs.1b-2) THIS LETTER WAS ADDRESSED TO CHRISTIANS
 - A. (vs.1b) It was specifically addressed to "*the strangers*" [pilgrims, sojourners] scattered throughout Asia Minor.
 1. People from this area were in Jerusalem on Pentecost (Acts 2:5, 9-11).
 2. They eventually scattered forth from Jerusalem (Acts 8:4), and congregations had been established in these regions.
 3. By this time the Gospel had spread throughout the world (Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:5-6).
 4. Peter indicated several times that Christians are pilgrims or sojourners on earth (1:17; 2:11).
 - B. (vs.2a) These "*strangers*":
 1. were among the "*elect*" [those chosen or selected by God] (Colossians 3:12)
 2. had been "sanctified" [purified, made holy] (1 Corinthians 6:11)
 3. had "obeyed" (Hebrews 5:9)
 4. had been cleansed by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 1:7).
 - C. (vs.2b) Peter desired for the readers of his letter to be blessed with "*grace*" and "*peace*."
- III. (vs.3-5) PETER PRAISED GOD FOR BLESSING HIS PEOPLE
 - A. (vs.3) Through His mercy, God has begotten His people unto a living hope by His Son's resurrection.
 - B. (vs.4) God has blessed His people with an incorruptible, undefiled, and everlasting inheritance reserved in heaven.
 - C. (vs.5) God will keep His people by His power until Jesus returns.
 - D. The people to whom Peter wrote needed to be reminded of these special blessings.
- IV. (vs.6-9) PETER WROTE TO CHRISTIANS WHO WERE FACING GREAT TRIALS
 - A. These trials are described as being:
 1. "*manifold*" (vs.6)
 2. fiery (vs.7; 4:12)
 3. a cause for "*heaviness*" [grief] (vs.6; Matthew 26:37-38)
 4. temporary (vs.6; 5:10).
 - B. (vs.6a) Despite trials, Christians are able to "*greatly rejoice*" (James 1:2-3; Matthew 5:10-12).
 - C. (vs.7b-9) The key to rejoicing while facing trials is staying focused on Jesus and the salvation He will provide when He returns (2:21-23; Hebrews 12:2-3).
 - D. Much of this letter relates to the proper conduct of Christians while facing trials (2:11-12).
- V. (vs.10-12) THE SALVATION THAT CHRIST WILL PROVIDE IS VERY SPECIAL
 - A. (vs.10-11) The prophets prophesied through the Spirit how Christ would make salvation available through His sufferings.
 - B. (vs.12a) Inspired men have shown how Christ has made salvation available (Hebrews 2:3-4).
 - C. (vs.12b) The blessings provided by Christ are so special that "*the angels desire to look into*" them.