

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

1 Peter

1 PETER

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY

How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994.

Greek Word Study Tools

Commentaries on I Peter

(See commentary list below.)

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

BLUM, EDWIN A. & BARKER, GLENN W.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

WIERSBE, WARREN W.

Be Hopeful

Colorado Springs, Colorado: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1980.

GRUDEM, WAYNE

Tyndale New Testament Commentary

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988

LESSON ONE

Overview

THIS LESSON
INCORPORATES

Observation Worksheets of 1 Peter, located in the Appendix

Rome burned. Nero fiddled. Christians perished.

Why this suffering? Where was their God?

How could Christianity survive the flames that tried their faith?

First Peter had the answer for then . . . and for today.

“There is hardly any portion in the Word of God which has been more eagerly read than this Epistle . . . these words have been lovingly pondered and treasured, as a priceless heritage.”¹

Eagerly read! Pondered! Treasured! What is the message of 1 Peter that has entwined itself around the hearts of hundreds of generations? What has made it a book of living hope to men and women of all nations, tongues, and ages?

To search out the answer to these questions will be our goal; then, maybe the message of 1 Peter will become a priceless heritage to us also.

DAY
ONE

NOTE: As you do your homework, read through your lesson one day at a time. This is key so that you do not destroy the joy of discovering truth for yourself.

Your assignment for today is a simple but vital one.

1. Read through 1 Peter as you would eagerly read a letter from someone who was intimately acquainted with the Lord Jesus Christ. Get alone, shut off all extraneous

¹

F. B. Meyer, *Tried by Fire* (Fort Washington, Pennsylvania: Christian Literature Crusade, 1983), p.7.

1 Peter

Lesson 1, Overview

noise, and read through it without stopping. At this point don't stop to ponder what you do not understand. Give 1 Peter your full attention. Read it until you have finished. As you do, ask God to speak to you, to open the eyes of your understanding that you might behold wondrous things out of His Word.

In the Appendix of this workbook you will find a copy of 1 Peter in the form of an Observation Worksheet. Use these Observation Worksheets for your reading and working.

2. Read it again and look for who wrote it and why or what he said about "writing" it. Note your answers under the questions.
 - a. Who wrote it?
 - b. Why was it written?
3. Read 1 Peter again to identify the people it was written to. Note this below.
4. Do you think this book has anything to say to you personally?

DAY
TWO

An intimate familiarity with a book is key to the proper understanding of it. This is where so many fail in their study of the Word of God. The context of a passage is always key to understanding what the author means. Therefore, since the context must always rule our biblical interpretation, it will be our goal this week to become intimately familiar with 1 Peter as a whole. This, Beloved, will involve reading and rereading the text in purposeful ways. If you need further help, read "The Joy and Value of Inductive Study," "The Rule of Context—Contest Rules!" and "Getting the Big Picture" in *How to Study Your Bible*.

1. Using your Observation Worksheets, read through 1 Peter once again, this time noting on the 1 Peter Observations page what you learn about the following:

- a. The author. List your insights, noting the chapter and verse from which you glean your information. **What** do you learn about him?
- b. The recipients. List any clues into who the recipients of 1 Peter are. **Who** are they? Are they Jews, Gentiles, Christians? **Where** are they? **What** are their circumstances?

In other words, write out a profile of these recipients. Do not get too detailed; be as concise as possible. List chapter and verse next to each piece of information. Do not include what the author tells the recipients to do.

- c. The author's purpose. Note what you discovered yesterday about why "I have written to you...."
- d. **What** type of literature is 1 Peter?

2. Read through the book of 1 Peter again. This time look for and mark in a distinctive way **key words** which the author uses repeatedly throughout the text.
3. As you gathered information about Peter and the recipients, you probably noticed clues to the historical background or setting of this letter. Record these on the 1 Peter Observations page.

How are you doing? Does 1 Peter seem a little hard to put together? That's understandable. Others have found it difficult also, but hang in there. It will get better and better!

DAY
THREE

1. Read through 1 Peter. Do you see any other important (key) words that are repeated throughout the letter? If so, mark them on your Observation Worksheets. Also note on the 1 Peter Observations page any other new insights you have gleaned.
2. Read through the entire book of 1 Peter again using your Observation Worksheets. As you read, be sure that you have marked or colored each use of the word "suffering" (and its synonyms) and the word "glory" (and its synonyms) in a distinctive way.

3. If you have not yet identified Peter's purpose in writing his epistle, you will find it stated in chapter 5. When you find it, record his purpose on the "1 Peter At a Glance Chart," located at the end of this lesson.

DAY
FOUR
AND
DAY
FIVE

The At a Glance chart will help you discern the structure of 1 Peter. The structure of the book shows us how the author carries out his reason and/or purpose for writing.

Understanding the author's purpose and the structure of his work is essential to accurate understanding or interpretation of what the author is saying. All that the author says is determined by his purpose, be it one purpose or several purposes. Therefore, what we are about to do may, at this point, seem laborious, but will prove to be very valuable. So hangeth thou in there!

1. Peter clearly stated his reason for writing in 1 Peter 5:12. It is twofold:
 - to testify to the true grace of God, and
 - to exhort his readers to stand firm in that grace.

Therefore, in the light of his purpose, as we study 1 Peter, we need to see what Peter tells us of the true grace of God and how he exhorts us to stand firm in this grace. However, before we can do this, we need to understand what Peter means by "the true grace of God." And Peter does tell us!

- a. Using your Observation Worksheets, read through 1 Peter again. As you do, keep in mind Peter's purpose. Mark every use of the word "grace," and record on the 1 Peter Observations page a list that would help you define what Peter means by the true grace of God.
 - b. Also, observe and make a list on **how** Peter exhorts those to whom he has written to stand firm in that grace. (**What** are you to do in order to stand firm?) To exhort is to urge a person to pursue some course of conduct or to admonish him or to instruct him.
2. As you marked every use of the word "grace," what did you learn? What is Peter talking about when he uses the phrase "the true grace of God"? If you haven't yet seen it, do not be distressed. The word "salvation" is used 4 times in 1 Peter—1:5, 1:9, 1:10, and 2:2.
 - a. Mark each of these references to salvation on your Observation Worksheet with a distinctive color or symbol and then note what you learn about this salvation from each of its uses.

1) 1 Peter 1:5

2) 1 Peter 1:9

3) 1 Peter 1:10

4) 1 Peter 2:2

b. Now, what is Peter referring to when he talks about the true grace of God? First Peter 1:10 defines it. Write it out.

3. Perhaps if you are a new Christian, you still might not be convinced that the “true grace of God” is synonymous with salvation. Therefore, here are two other cross-references that will confirm this. Look up each and write them out.

a. John 1:17

b. Ephesians 2:8-9

4. Now we're going to complete the At a Glance chart.

Chapter and verse divisions are man-made and therefore are not always the best. Sometimes a chapter division comes right in the middle of a particular segment of truth. This is seen between chapters 2 and 3 where Peter is still exhorting us regarding our relationships. However, for the sake of remembering the main theme of each chapter, summarize the book by chapters. Record the chapter themes on the "1 Peter At a Glance" chart. Try to use words from the text for each chapter theme. Also record the main book theme at the top of the At a Glance chart.

5. Now then, in the spaces immediately to the right of the chapter themes, feel free to record any other segment divisions you might discern in the book. If you do not know what is meant by "segment divisions," read the section, "Getting the Big Picture" in *How to Study Your Bible*.

This part of this assignment is strictly optional and only for those who have adequate time and experience in doing segment divisions.

6. How has God spoken to you this week as you have read through 1 Peter these past five days? Did you learn anything about your salvation? Your relationship to God or to others? What about your lifestyle? What about trials?

Record how the Spirit of God dealt with you personally.

Oh, Beloved, we so rejoice in your determination and discipline in studying to show yourself approved unto God.

Do not let anything or anyone hinder you. You only have ten weeks to go, and they could be ten weeks that would enable you to stand firm in your salvation.

We pray our Father's richest blessings upon you as you hunger and thirst after righteousness.

1 PETER OBSERVATIONS

The author:

The recipients:

The author's purpose or why it was written:

Type of literature:

Key words:

Historical background or setting:

True grace:

Stand firm:

1 PETER AT A GLANCE

Book Theme

	Chapter Themes	Segment Divisions
Author	1	
Purpose	2	
	3	
Key Words	4	
	5	

1 P E T E R 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

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,

5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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.
- 10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful search and inquiry,
- 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.
- 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.
- 13 Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance,
- 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;
- 16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”
- 17 And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *upon earth*;
- 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
- 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.
- 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

21 who through Him are believers 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 in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and abiding word of God.

24 For,

“ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS,

AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS.

THE GRASS WITHERS,

AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,

25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ABIDES FOREVER.”

And this is the word which was preached to you.

1 P E T E R 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEREFORE, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and
envy and all slander,

2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may
grow in respect to salvation,

3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and
precious in the sight of God,

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy
priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus
Christ.

6 For *this* is contained in Scripture:

“BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*,
AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who
disbelieve,

“THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED,
THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,”

8 and,

“A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”;
for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this
doom they were also appointed.

- 9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.
- 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.
- 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.
- 13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,
- 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
- 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- 16 *Act* as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.
- 17 Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.
- 18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.
- 19 For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.
- 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

- 21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,
- 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;
- 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;
- 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.
- 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

1 P E T E R 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- I**N the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,
- 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.
- 3 And let not your adornment be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
- 4 but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.
- 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.
- 6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.
- 7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
- 8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;
- 9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

- 10 For,
 “LET HIM WHO MEANS TO LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS
 REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING
 GUILE.
- 11 “AND LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD;
 LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.
- 12 “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS,
 AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER,
 BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”
- 13 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?
- 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed.
 AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE
 TROUBLED,
- 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a
 defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is
 in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
- 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are
 slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to
 shame.
- 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is
 right rather than for doing what is wrong.
- 18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, in order that
 He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made
 alive in the spirit;
- 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits *now* in prison,
 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in
 the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that
 is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the* water.

- 21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

1 P E T E R 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THEREFORE**, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
- 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
 - 3 For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.
 - 4 And in *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign *you*;
 - 5 but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
 - 6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to *the will of* God.
 - 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer.
 - 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.
 - 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

- 10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 11 Whoever speaks, *let him speak*, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, *let him do so* as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;
- 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.
- 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
- 15 By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;
- 16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.
- 17 For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
- 18 AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?
- 19 Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

1 P E T E R 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEREFORE, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

9 But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

- 10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.
- 11 To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 12** Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard *him*), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!
- 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and *so does* my son, Mark.
- 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.
Peace be to you all who are in Christ.