

1 Peter

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus,
Galatia, Cappado'cia, Asia, and Bithyn'ia, chosen and destined by God the
Father and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and for
sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. Blessed
5 be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we
have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled,
and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded
through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this
10 you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various
trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which
though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and
honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Without having seen him you love
him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with
15 unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the
salvation of your souls. The prophets who prophesied of the grace that was
to be yours searched and inquired about this salvation; they inquired what
person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them when
predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed
20 to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things which

have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to
you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long
to look. Therefore gird up your minds, be sober, set your hope fully upon
the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient
5 children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but
as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since
it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you invoke as
Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct
yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. You know that you
10 were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with
perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of
Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was destined before
the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times
for your sake. Through him you have confidence in God, who raised him
15 from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere love
of the brethren, love one another earnestly from the heart. You have been
born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and
abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the
20 flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the

Lord abides for ever." That word is the good news which was preached to you. So put away all malice and all guile and insincerity and envy and all slander. Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation; for you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

5 Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and he who believes in him will not be

10 put to shame." To you therefore who believe, he is precious, but for those who do not believe, "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner," and "A stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall"; for they stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,

15 a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I beseech you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against

20 your soul. Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in case they

5 speak against you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify
God on the day of visitation. Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human
institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent
by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For
it is God's will that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance
of foolish men. Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a
pretext for evil; but live as servants of God. Honor all men. Love the
brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be submissive to your
masters with all respect, not only to the kind and gentle but also to the
overbearing. For one is approved if, mindful of God, he endures pain while
suffering unjustly. For what credit is it, if when you do wrong and are
beaten for it you take it patiently? But if when you do right and suffer for
it you take it patiently, you have God's approval. For to this you have been
called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that
you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on
his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered,
he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly. He himself bore
our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to
righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying
like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your

souls. Likewise you wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behavior. Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of fine clothing, but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. So once the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves and were submissive to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are now her children if you do right and let nothing terrify you. Likewise you husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered. Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart and a humble mind. Do not return evil for evil or reviling for reviling; but on the contrary bless, for to this you have been called, that you may obtain a blessing. For "He that would love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile; let him turn away from evil and do right; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those that do evil."

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is right? But even if you do suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account

5 for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God's will, than for doing wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that

10 he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not

15 as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him. Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same thought, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from

20 sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer by human

passions but by the will of God. Let the time that is past suffice for doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you do not now join them in the same wild profligacy, and they abuse you; but they

5 will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the spirit like God. The end of all things is at hand; therefore keep sane and sober for your prayers. Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of

10 sins. Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another. As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory

15 and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the

20 spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a

murderer, or a thief, or a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker; yet if one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous man is scarcely saved, where will the impious and sinner appear?" Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will do right and entrust their souls to a faithful Creator. So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is to be revealed.

10 Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory. Likewise you that are younger be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with

15 humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour. Resist him, firm in

20 your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your

brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while,
the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will
himself restore, establish, and strengthen you. To him be the dominion for
ever and ever. Amen. By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have
5 written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of
God; stand fast in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends
you greetings; and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with the kiss of
love. Peace to all of you that are in Christ. *

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