



## Focus Points...*For 1 Peter 1*

### Listen...

- \* To Peter, one of the inner three disciples, as he called the faithful to perseverance;
- \* As Peter calls today's Christians to prepare our minds for action: to boldly proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### Prayer:

Lord, as I reflect on Peter's walk of faith as Your disciple, I recall his faithfulness and his frailties. As one who experienced the wonder of Your grace, send Your Spirit into my heart that I, too, may find that same wondrous grace. As He urged the Christians of old to be faithful in the face of sometimes severe persecution, give me a steadfastness and passion that nothing will prevent me from being prepared to boldly proclaim You (I Peter 3:15). In Your name I pray. Amen.

+ + +

### Commentary:

The New Testament is largely a record of Jesus' ministry through the voice of His apostles.

- Matthew, formerly the tax collector, wrote the Gospel which bears his name.
- Luke, an associate missionary with Paul, wrote his Gospel.
- Paul, the apostle was the apostle "abnormally born" (I Corinthians 15:8), wrote at least thirteen epistles.
- James, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote the Epistle of James.
- John, the "beloved disciple" made distinguished contributions to the New Testament.

Peter, the leader among the disciples, also cast his imprint on the Scriptures. Moved by the Holy Spirit, he wrote two letters (I and II Peter) and, according to ancient testimony, the Gospel of Mark.

Since Peter was a member of Jesus' inner circle with James and John, Peter's writings are of great interest to Christians. He was, after all, close to Jesus. He, of all the disciples, had Jesus' ear.

Peter's Epistles represent the writings of the mature, seasoned apostle. No longer the impatient disciple known for his impulsiveness, his epistles are a handbook—a catechism—of faith for every Christian. In contrast to Paul's more

---

intellectual, detailed presentations, Peter's letters are simple, straight-forward, direct and, above all, *practical*.

Peter's letters include practical topics such as suffering, persecution, witnessing, the origin and authority of the Bible, the end of the world, Christian marriage and Baptism...just to name a *few*. His purpose: to encourage Christians to remain faithful during times of intense persecution.

Peter, as did Paul, followed the ancient pattern for his letters. In I Peter 1:1, he provided the writer (an "apostle of Jesus Christ") and his addressees:

"God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia" (1:1).

His doxology (1:3-8) indicates the severity of the persecution. Christians were being "refined by fire" (1:7) and, in the process of this refining, they received the goal of your faith, "the salvation of your souls" (1:9). In other words, their faith was often put to the ultimate trial by fire: martyrdom.

Though they might pay the ultimate price, Peter would not have them doubt their faith. "Concerning this salvation..." (1:10) was a call to trust the Word of God revealed through the prophets through the ages. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was not a new theological idea. God revealed it from ancient times. Thus, Christians could trust it and use it to strengthen their faith.

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1:13).

Peter's call to holiness in 1:14ff. is a reminder that Christians are different. They are set apart. God has, through Jesus' suffering and death, consecrated and set them apart for His higher purpose. Even as they were to love one another deeply (1:22), Peter reminded them that they were perishable. Though Christians might die, the Word of God will last forever. They could bank their life on it!

As you read I Peter 1, don't overlook one of the great Biblical statements regarding Christ's work of salvation.

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

That, in Peter's words, pretty much says why Jesus Christ came: to bring You to God. Are you found in Him today? Will you remain in Him forever?

**Prayer:**

Jesus, You paid the ultimate price to bring me to You. Your determination, Your passion and Your love never diverted from Your purpose: to bring me to You. Now that I am Yours by grace, give me such determination, passion and love to proclaim You at every opportunity. When I fail, restore me as You restored Peter.

---

Move me, as You did Peter, to dedicate my life to feeding Your sheep with the Bread of Life. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Thomas F. Fischer

Copyright 2009 Thomas F. Fischer  
www.DailyBibleHabit.com All Rights Reserved.

+ + +

Unauthorized Duplication Or Distribution Of This Material  
(by printed, electronic and/or internet/email)  
Is A Criminal Violation And Strictly Prohibited  
For Questions, Please Contact [info@DailyBibleHabit.com](mailto:info@DailyBibleHabit.com)

TFF 7/09