

Two Year Bible Trek
Week 102
1 Peter; 2 Peter

Key Concepts: The key concept in 1 Peter is the call to find courage in the face of persecution. The key concepts in the second letter are a reconfirmation of the second coming of Christ and a warning to the church to beware of false teachers.

Background: These letters are written to Gentile churches in Asia Minor who were beginning to come under persecution as well as pressure to abandon their faith.

Brief Summary: Salutation and Celebration (1 Peter - 1:1-1:12) Peter opens with the usual stylized greeting and then reminds the people, who are enduring trials, that they had been born anew in Jesus into a living hope through his resurrection and into an inheritance that will never fade away.

Be Holy (1 Peter - 1:13-2:10) Peter calls the church to holy living rather than the type of living in which they engaged before they became Christians. They are to do so during their “exile” because they have been ransomed by the blood of Christ who was destined from the foundation of the world to set them free. Because of this they are to love one another and put away all malice, guile, insincerity, and envy. He also tells them to come to Christ, the living stone in order to be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, to be a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and God’s own people.

Instructions for Life (1 Peter - 2:11-4:11) The Apostle calls upon the people to abstain from passions of the flesh, be subject to ruling authorities, honor all persons, care for fellow believers and fear God. Slaves are to be subject to their masters. Wives are to be “submissive” to husbands even if the husbands are not Christians (in hopes of converting them), dress plainly and have a gentle and quiet spirit. Husbands are to bestow honor on their wives sine they are joint heirs in Christ. Believers are to have unity of spirit, sympathy of love, a tender heart and mind. They are to respond to evil with blessing. And even if believers suffer for doing what is right they should be ready to make a defense of what they believe. And even though it may surprise their former friends, those who follow Jesus are to give up their old ways and habits that were contrary to Christ’s commands.

Summary and concluding Remarks (1 Peter 4:12-5:14) Peter reminds them that they are not to be surprised when the “fiery ordeal” comes upon them but are to rejoice that they share in Christ’s sufferings. They are also to humble themselves, cast all of their cares on God, be sober and watchful and trust that one day God will restore them to their rightful place.

Salutation and call to Holiness (2 Peter 1:1-1:21) Peter opens with the usual greeting and then a reminder that God has given believers everything that they need that pertains to life. This means that believers can become partakers of the divine nature. To assist in so doing they are encouraged to put on a list of seven virtues. Peter can say these things because he was a witness to Christ’s earthly glory which confirmed the prophecies of the Old Testament.

The False Prophets (2 Peter 2:1-2:22) Even with the Apostolic witness to Jesus, false prophets arose and are attempting to lead the church astray. They will however be punished for their lies. Believers who follow them are worse off than they would have been if they had not ever believed.

The Return of Jesus (3:1-3:18) Peter reminds the church that even though Christ has not returned it is because of forbearance, but like a thief in the night he will return and judge the world. The church then is to faithfully wait for the new heaven and the new earth.

1. What do you make of Peter’s contention that we should celebrate suffering for Christ?
2. How do you react to Peters traditional views of the relationship between husband and wife?
3. How do you understand the second coming of Jesus?