



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

1 Peter

HOW TO STAND FIRM
WHEN TESTED

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

1 PETER

HOW TO STAND FIRM WHEN TESTED

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2014

The New Inductive Study Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

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.

GRUDEM, WAYNE

Tyndale New Testament Commentary

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

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



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 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.

¹ F. B. Meyer, *Tried by Fire* (Fort Washington, Pennsylvania: Christian Literature Crusade, 1983), p.7.



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 Observation Worksheets. Use these Observation Worksheets for your reading and working.

2. Read 1 Peter once 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 once 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—Context 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 at the end of this lesson 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(s) 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 book. Use colors and/or symbols. On the back cover of this book are suggestions for marking some words frequently used throughout the Bible.
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 declare 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 the “1 Peter Observations” page 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. You may want to use a pencil so you can easily make changes as you continue to study.

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 presenting yourself approved unto God, rightly handling the word of truth.

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(s) 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	
Date		
Purpose	2	
	3	
Key Words	4	
	5	



1 PETER 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

PETER, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,

11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.



- 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.
- 13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,
- 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
- 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
- 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,
- 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,
- 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
- 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the 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 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,
- 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, 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,
- 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.



1 PETER 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

SO put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,

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

6 For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



- 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- 11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
- 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
- 13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,
- 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.
- 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.
- 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.
- 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.
- 18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.
- 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.
- 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.
- 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.
- 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.
- 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.
- 24 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.
- 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



1 PETER 3 Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- LIKEWISE**, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,
- 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.
 - 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—
 - 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.
 - 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,
 - 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.
 - 7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
 - 8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.
 - 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.
 - 10 For
 - “Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;
 - 11 let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.



- 12 “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
- 13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?
14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed.
Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,
15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to
make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in
you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile
your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.
17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for
doing evil.
- 18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that
he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in
the spirit,
19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,
20 because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days
of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight
persons, were brought safely through water.
21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt
from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ,
22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels,
authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.



1 PETER 4 Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- SINCE** therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
- 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.
 - 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.
 - 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;
 - 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
 - 6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.
 - 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.
 - 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.
 - 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.
 - 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:
 - 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.



- 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
- 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
- 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.
- 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.
- 17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
- 18 And
- “If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”
- 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.



1 PETER 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- 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 going to be revealed:
- 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;
 - 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.
 - 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
 - 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
 - 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
 - 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
 - 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
 - 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.
 - 10 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, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.
 - 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - 12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.
 - 13 She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.
 - 14 Greet one another with the kiss of love.
Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

