

Title:**1 PETER*****“The Salvation of Your Souls”***Text:

1 Peter 1:1-9

Date:

Tuesday Evening — July 20, 2004

Tape #

Y-30b

Readings: *Bob Poncer & David Burge*Introduction:

It is commonly agreed that Peter wrote his first epistle in the year 65 A.D. within a year after the Emperor Nero burned the city of Rome to the ground.

That happened in July of 64 A.D. Let me summarize what took place. A fire broke out in the city of Rome that eventually engulfed the whole city in flames, leaving it a virtual heap of ashes. You can imagine the devastation.

Historians are certain that the fire was set by Rome's insane Emperor, Nero. He wanted to make space in the city to build some great palaces that would give his name an unforgettable place in history.

You have all heard that "Nero fiddled while Rome burned." Actually, the story is slightly embellished. The violin had not yet been invented. So the Emperor was not fiddling. However, he was seen looking over the city, playing some kind of instrument, as he watched the devastation with delight. Of course, he was never charged with the crime, but historians are agreed that he was the man responsible.

The inhabitants of Rome were convinced that he had done it and were enraged. They were on the brink of anarchy and ready to overthrow the Emperor. Nero needed a scapegoat, someone he could blame for the fire.

There was a group of people in Rome who were just suited for his wicked scheme. They were called “Christians.” They followed a man called Christ. They were a strange group of people, commonly disliked and evil spoken of by the masses. Rumors about this strange religious sect were many. It was commonly reported that they were cannibals, because when they got together in their homes to worship that man they called God, they greeted each other with “an holy kiss” and it was reported that they ate someone’s body and drank his blood.

Of course, that led to more rumors. People commonly accused these Christians of engaging in horribly evil things. So they were a people looked upon with great suspicion. So, when Nero needed a scapegoat, he started the rumor that the Christians had burned down the city of Rome, and it was readily accepted.

That is what was behind the infamous persecutions that took place under Nero’s infamous reign as Emperor of Rome. Believers were hunted, arrested, tortured and put to death by the hundreds. They were dipped in tar and burned as torches to light Nero’s courtyards while he

threw an outdoor party. They were tied to chariots and dragged to death through the streets of Rome. They were thrown to the lions. They were tied up in leather bags and thrown into pools of water. In countless other ways, the saints of God were persecuted and slaughtered, as the most despicable people of the world.

It was during this time of persecution that Peter wrote this blessed epistle to God's suffering saints scattered as "*strangers throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.*" Peter wrote this blessed letter of encouragement and hope to his suffering, persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ, encouraging them (and us) to endure the things we suffer as Christians, knowing that even the sufferings we endure at the hands of wicked men is according to the purpose of God just as our Savior did (3:21-24).

How can men and women enduring such evil, such hardships be expected to take it patiently? What will inspire them to persevere? How can they be comforted? Peter knew exactly what they needed. He wrote to them about redemption and grace in Christ, about the salvation of their souls.

(1 Peter 1:1-9) “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience

and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your souls.*”

SALVATION

The first part of this epistle (1:1-2:12) beautifully describes God’s free, saving grace in Christ, “*the salvation of your souls.*” Multitudes live in frustration because they think their lives are meaningless. And the

fact is — Life in this world is meaningless until we find its meaning in eternity, until we find meaning in Christ.

There is nothing that is of greater importance than the salvation of your soul. **You are a living soul.** You have a body; but you are a living soul. You will spend eternity somewhere, in some state. You will live forever, either in the eternal bliss of salvation in heaven, or in the eternal state of death, the second death, in the torment of divine wrath in hell.

The salvation of your soul involves the very glory of God himself. — If the Lord God is pleased to save you by his almighty, free and sovereign grace in Christ, it will be to show forth the praise of the glory of his grace. God saves sinners for his name's sake (Eph. 1:3-14). He says, "*For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it*" (Isa. 48:11).

(Psalms 106:8) “Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.”

It is the salvation of your immortal soul that I am talking about. I am not talking about earthly, temporal things, but about spiritual, eternal things. I am not talking about your house, property, money, or health. I am not talking to you about politics, history, or even church dogma. I am talking to you about something of real importance. I am talking to you about your soul!

Mark 8:36-37 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (37) Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

The salvation of your souls is the subject of **1 Peter**. So I want you to keep your Bibles open on your laps, as I endeavor to give you the message of inspired epistle.

Because the salvation of our souls is of such immense importance, we are admonished in the Scriptures to make our calling and election sure, lest we be deceived with one of Satan's devices to the damning of our souls. May God the Holy Spirit make us honest with ourselves and honest before him. As we look at the salvation described in this book, let us ask ourselves one question — “**IS THIS THE SALVATION I HAVE?**”

If the salvation described here is your salvation, you have reason to give thanks to God continually. If the salvation you think you have is not described in these terms, then your imagined salvation is a vain delusion, a refuge of lies that will crush your soul down to hell forever, unless the Lord delivers you from it.

In these twelve verses God the Holy Spirit describes what salvation is. If we are saved by the grace of God, this is the salvation we have experienced. If we have not experienced this salvation, we have not yet been saved by the grace of God.

TEN THINGS ABOUT SALVATION

In the first twelve verse of chapter one, Peter tells us ten things about God's great gift of salvation in Christ.

1. In Bible terms salvation is a radical thing.

Salvation is something so radical, so life altering that it makes every saved sinner a stranger in this world. Religion makes people strange; but grace makes believers strangers to the world.

(1 Peter 1:1) “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,”

“Therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.” — Believers are strangers to the people of the world. We are a paradox, a people puzzling to the world.

- Rich, but Poor in Spirit.
- Happy, but Heavy Laden.
- Strong, but Weak.
- Confident, but Trembling.
- Assured, but Fearful.
- Meek, but Uncompromising.

The world can never understand what makes us tick, why we do what we do, how we live, or what motivates us. The world can understand and explain any and every form of human religion. But the world can never

understand a child of God. It's a grace thing. They just can't get it. Grace experienced in the soul makes a person a stranger in this world.

Now, look at verse 2...

(1 Peter 1:2) “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

2. Salvation is the work of the triune God alone.

It begins in that blessed, eternal work of God the Father called, “**ELECTION**”.

Salvation is wrought in us by the regenerating, sanctifying work of God the Holy Spirit — **IRRESISTIBLE GRACE**.

This salvation was earned and purchased for us by the obedience and death of God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. — **PARTICULAR REDEMPTION**.

God's salvation **BRINGS BOTH GRACE AND PEACE**. — It brings every gift and blessing of grace as a matter of pure, free grace. And where there is grace, there is peace. — Peace With God. — Peace From God. — The Peace of God. — Grace and peace multiplied, never divided.

Look at verses 3-4...

(1 Peter 1:3-4) “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

3. **Salvation, as it is described in the Bible, both honors God and gives all praise and honor to God.**
— “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*”

(Ephesians 1:3) “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ.”

4. **That salvation which is described in the Book of God gives hope.**

- A Lively (LIVING) Hope — “*Christ in you, the hope of glory!*”
- A Hope That Is Based Upon And Is Found In God’s Abundant Mercy.
- A Hope That Is In A Risen Savior.
- A Hope For Eternity. — It is the hope of an inheritance — an incorruptible inheritance — an undefiled inheritance — an inheritance that fadeth not away — a reserved inheritance.

Read verse 5.

(1 Peter 1:5) “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

5. God's salvation is a salvation that keeps all by grace who are in grace.

- Grace chose me.
- Grace found me.
- Grace put me in the way.
- Grace keeps me in the way.
- Grace keeps me through faith, yes; but it is grace that gives me the faith through which I am kept.

6. This great salvation, great as it is now, in this present, earthly experience of it, is a salvation “ready to be revealed” (v. 5).

7. Salvation, real salvation, causes saved sinners to rejoice in the Lord.

(1 Peter 1:6) “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:”

I am not talking about giddy, giggly, ha-ha, hee-hee joy. I am talking about real joy, joy in the very depths of

your heart and soul, joy in God your Savior. When we have nothing else in which to rejoice, we can and should rejoice in our God and in his salvation.

(Philippians 4:4-5) “Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.”

Illustration: David did — Dancing Before the Ark
On His Deathbed — 2 Samuel 23:1-5

Look at verses 6-9.

(1 Peter 1:6-9) “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: (7) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (8) Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: (9) Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.”

- **Joy In The Midst Of Heavy Trials** — Notice that we are here told three things about our trials in this world. Let us never forget them. — (1.) They are only for a season. — (2.) There is a “*need be*” for them all. — (3.) They will make heaven more glorious and blessed than it otherwise would be, or could be (v. 7).
- **Joy Because Of Christ** (v. 8). — “*Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.*”
- **Joy Because Of The End** (v. 9). — “*Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*”

Now, read verses 10-11.

(1 Peter 1:10-11) “Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: (11) Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”

8. This salvation is a salvation which is consistent with all the Scriptures.

This salvation that God performs and gives freely to chosen sinners in Christ is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament Scriptures. — The prophets of old inquired

and searched diligently for it (v. 10). — He who taught them was the Spirit of Christ, who was in them and “*testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow*” (v. 11).

Now, let's look at verse 12.

(1 Peter 1:12) “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”

9. The only way any sinner can ever know and experience this **salvation is by divine revelation.**

Those prophets in the Old Testament era wrote the things they wrote by divine inspiration, not just for themselves, but for us also. And the salvation they received was the salvation we receive. It is salvation revealed unto us by the grace of God. It is revealed...

- By Type, Shadow, Promise, And Prophecy In The Old Testament.
- Through The Report Of The Gospel.
- By The Holy Ghost Sent Down From Heaven.

10. This great salvation is **a salvation that the angels desire to look into!**

Illustration: *The Cherubim Looking On The Mercy-Seat*

(Ephesians 3:8-10) “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; [9] And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: [10] To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.”

OUR RESPONSE

That is how the Word of God describes this thing we call “salvation.” Have I described your salvation? If I have, how thankful we ought to be! How we ought to love our God! That is what we are told in 1 Peter 1:13-2:12. **How we ought to consecrate ourselves to our Savior.**

- **Remembering that we have been saved from a meaningless, useless existence** (1:13-15).

(1 Peter 1:13-15) “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;”

- **Remembering that the holy Lord God of Heaven is our Father and we are his dear children** (1:16-17).

(1 Peter 1:16-17) “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:”

- **Remembering that we have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ** (1:18-20).

(1 Peter 1:18-20) “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”

- **Remembering that we that he who loved us and redeemed us has given us faith and hope in God** (1:21-22).

(1 Peter 1:21-22) "Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. (22) Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:"

- **Remembering that we have been born again by the Word of God** (1 Pet. 1:23-25).

(1 Peter 1:23-25) "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (24) For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: (25) But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

- **Remembering that we are living stones in the temple of God, built upon the Foundation Stone, Christ Jesus** (2:5-12).

(1 Peter 2:5-10) "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his

marvellous light: 10 Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

Hear me, you who are the redeemed of the Lord. Hear what Peter says to you and me. **Hear the motives he gives for us to live in utter consecration to our God.** Begin at verse 10 and go backwards to verse 5. We are...

- The recipients of mercy (2:10).
- Saved to show forth the praises of him who called us (2:9).
- God’s own, special, distinct, peculiar people (2:9).
- A holy nation (2:9).
- A royal priesthood (2:9). — A nation of kings and priests unto God!
- A chosen generation (2:9).
- A royal priesthood offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by the merits and mediation of Christ (2:5).

Not only is it true that our prayers and gifts, our specific deeds of worship and love are accepted of God as spiritual sacrifices, but our very lives (Rom. 12:1-2; Eccles. 9:7).

(Romans 12:1-2) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this

world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

(Ecclesiastes 9:7) “Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.”

THE WILL OF GOD

Perhaps you are thinking, “I want to live for Christ, I want to honor God. I just don’t know how. I just don’t know what I should do and not do.” If you are a believer, I know that it is your soul’s desire to live for Christ, to honor God in your life. And I also know that it is the nature of man to desire rules and laws by which he can measure his success. But the Holy Spirit, instead of giving us rules and laws and commandments to fulfill, gives us a principle by which our lives (all areas of our lives) are to be governed. — That principle by which grace governs the lives of God’s saints in this world is submission — Submission to the will of God. That is what Peter shows us in 1 Peter 2:13-3:12.

- **Grace teaches us to submit to all God ordained authority, particularly Peter tells us to submit to our political, civil rulers for Christ's sake** (2:13-17). — If the saints to whom this epistle was addressed were expected to honor and submit to Nero and the Roman rulers under him, it certainly applies

to us today. Where there is no honor given to government, there is no fear of God.

(1 Peter 2:13-17) “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. 15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: 16 As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. 17 Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”

- **Grace teaches us to submit to our employers** (2:18-19).

(1 Peter 2:18-19) “Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the foward. 19 For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.”

Peter is not here giving approval to the inhuman, horrid practice of slavery that was so common throughout the world in that day. He is simply using the common practice to teach submission to the will of God. He tells even those who were slaves with wicked masters to be subject to them for Christ’s sake. Believers ought to be the best, most dependable, most trustworthy workers in any place of employment.

- Grace teaches us to patiently endure suffering, even from wicked men, just as our Savior did, knowing that the things we suffer are according to the will of God and ordained by him for our eternal good (2:20-25).

(1 Peter 2:20-25) “For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”

- Grace teaches us to honor God in our homes, submitting one to another (3:1-7).

(1 Peter 3:1-7) “Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it

not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. 7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

Wives, even those married to unbelieving men, are to live in submission to their husband's as their heads. One reason given for this is that their unbelieving husbands might be converted, because they observe true grace manifest in their wives, “*even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*”¹

Husbands are to love their wives, submitting to their needs as the weaker vessel. Believing husbands and wives ought always to live together “*as heirs together of the grace of life.*”

¹ 1 Peter 3:3-4 is not a prohibition to women fixing their hair and wearing make up and jewelry. It is simply a declaration that the believing woman is to be more concerned about living in godliness than about dressing in gaudiness.

- **Grace teaches us to live together in the church of God as brethren, submitting our own wills and preferences to one another** (3:8-12) — “*Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves*” (Phil. 2:3).

(1 Peter 3:8-12) “Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is against* them that do evil.”

The church of God ought to be the one place in this world where God’s saints find nothing to hurt them. It ought to be a blessed habitation of peace, a household of faith and grace in which every person is treated with pity, kindness, and courtesy, in which none should ever experience gossip, slander, reproach and abuse of any kind.

SUFFER WELL

Even when we are called upon by God's good and wise providence to suffer evil at the hands of men, let us suffer well, as those who believe God. Peter teaches us how to do so in **1 Peter 3:13-4:9**. Even in such circumstances as these persecuted saints found themselves, he asks in verse 13, "*Who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?*" Let us behave in such a way that we do not suffer as evil men, because we have done evil. And **when we do suffer for the gospel's sake...**

- Let us **sanctify the Lord God in our hearts**, not murmur against him (3:15).
- Let us ever **be ready to give reason for the hope** that is in us (3:15).
- Let us **remember that Christ suffered much more** for us (3:18).

(1 Peter 3:18) “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:”

- And **let us remember that he who suffered and died for us, that he who loved us and gave himself for us is seated in heaven and has dominion over all things**, even over those who cause us to suffer by their evil deeds (3:22).

(1 Peter 3:22) “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.”

(1 Peter 4:12-16) “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: *13* But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. *14* If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. *15* But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or *as* a busybody in other men’s matters. *16* Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

SERVING GOD IN HIS HOUSE

In chapter 5 Peter moves directly from the matter of how we are to endure suffering from the hands of wicked men to how we are to serve God in his house. It is as though he is telling us to make certain than none of God’s elect suffer anything in his house, but that we should labor together as one body in peace for the glory of God, strengthening one another for life in this world.

- **Let every pastor in the church of God be a faithful shepherd, tenderly caring for Christ's sheep,** feeding them, watching over them, guiding them, and showing them by example how to live for the honor of God in a world of woe (5:1-4).

(1 Peter 5:1-4) “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

- **Let every child of God walk in loving submission to our God and to one another, casting all our care upon him, knowing that he cares for us** (5:5-9).

(1 Peter 5:5-9) “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same

afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

- Let us ever remind ourselves and one another of God's boundless, sure grace in Christ, keeping our hearts fixed upon eternity, not upon our temporary trials here (5:10; 2 Cor. 4:18-5:1).

(1 Peter 5:10-11) “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*. 11 To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

(2 Corinthians 4:18-5:1) “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. (5:1) For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

You will notice that, at the close of this letter, Peter says he wrote it from Babylon. Many imagine that Peter is here using the word Babylon as a spiritual term for Rome. But there is no foundation for that supposition. There is no historical or biblical evidence that Peter ever visited Rome. Peter was obviously in Babylon (Baghdad) on the Euphrates River in Assyria.

May God the Holy Spirit bless his word to “*the salvation of your souls*” for Christ’s sake.

(1 Peter 5:14) “Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace *be* with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.”