**1 Peter 1-3** - December 16th

(#60 book of the Bible – 6 is no. of man x 10 is perfect order OR 3 is holiness x 4 is creation x 5 is grace – significant that God wanted Peter to be the 60th book 😊, written by the Apostle Peter in approx. 67 or 68 AD after Paul was martyred. He wrote it to the Churches in Asia Minor – probably to encourage them after Paul’s death, as Paul founded most of them. Peter was writing from “Babylon” which is most likely not the real Babylon in Iraq, but from Rome which was called “Babylon” because of the evil.

Today’s Summary: Peter was writing to encourage the Churches under severe persecution and suffering as Nero was on a rampage to kill all Christians and Christians were being burned to death nightly in Nero’s garden as he used them as torches to light his parties. Makes me soo angry and sick. This is why Peter says in 1 Peter 5:8 that Satan is like a “roaring lion” looking for souls to devour. Peter knew his time was short and he too would be crucified for the faith and so how did the Father of the Church spend his last days? Thinking of others and helping to his very last breath strengthen and build the Church – the Bride of Christ – just as Jesus asked him to. Chills and tears as I write this. Well done, Peter!! And he is telling US today – believers who are the Bride of Christ – that like Noah who had to preach to a wicked generation for 120 years and had to have felt so alone – because only 8 out of billions got on the Ark – that WE TOO are called to testify to the hope of the Gospel in this world, even if we are ridiculed and persecuted. He tells us, like Noah, we can’t do this in our power, but only in the power of the Holy Spirit!

**1**Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God’s elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, **2**who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Praise to God for a Living Hope

**3**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4**and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5**who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6**In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7**These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8**Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9**for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**10**Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, **11**trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. **12**It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Be Holy

**13**Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. **14**As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. **15**But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; **16**for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

**17**Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. **18**For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19**but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **20**He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. **21**Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

**22**Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. **23**For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. **24**For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, **25** but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

And this is the word that was preached to you.

**2**Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. **2**Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3**now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

**4As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - 5you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** **6**For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” **7**Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” **8**and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message - which is also what they were destined for.

**9**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10**Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society

**11**Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12**Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**13**Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, **14**or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. **15**For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. **16Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. 17Show proper respect to everyone, *love* the family of believers, *fear* God, *honor* the emperor.**

**18**Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. **19**For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. **20**But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? **But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.** **21**To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. **22**“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

**23**When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. **24**“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” **25**For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**3**Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, **2**when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. **3**Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. **4**Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. **5**For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, **6**like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

**7**Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Suffering for Doing Good

**8**Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. **9**Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. **10**For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. **11**They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. **12**For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

**13**Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? **14**But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” **15**But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. **19**After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits - **20**to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, **21**and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22**who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand - with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.