

WEEK 18

1st Peter discussion and Hebrews 1-6 background

1st Peter discussion

Theme

Ryrie: the “true grace of God” in the life of the believer 5:12

Bible discussion questions

What did you think was the theme of 1 Peter ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading 1 Peter ?

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you? Which passages challenged you?

What does the fact that Jesus picked Peter, who hadn’t “made it” in his religious world,
mean to you?

What do you think is a “living hope” and what’s a dead hope? (1:3)

In 1:3-9, what do we see that’s comforting in a time of trial?

What do we have that the prophets and angels don’t have? 1:10-12

Because of all this, what does it say in 1:13-21 that we should do? note 1:15 be like your Rabbi

How should we treat others? 1:22

What do you think he means when he calls us strangers? (1:1, 1:17, 2:11) see Phil. 3:20

Citizenship in heaven

In 2:2, Peter talks about “pure spiritual milk”—what do you think that is?

How does he describe us in 2:9-10? How has God changed our situation?

What do we need to submit to:

2:13 government—why?

2:18 masters—why?

3:1 husbands—why?

3:8 each other—why?

Why shouldn't suffering take us by surprise? 2:21 we're called to it

What is our Biblical beauty treatment? 3:3-4



think about the face of a sweet old saint you may know—their faces reflect
the peace and joy of the Lord

How can we be Sarah's daughters? 3:6

In 3:13-17, how should we act when we are persecuted (or when we are sharing the gospel) ?

Emerson—"How can I hear what you SAY when what you ARE is thundering
in my ears?"

How is baptism described in 3:21-22?

Does anyone have an example of what was described in 4:4, where the unbelieving
think it's strange that you don't jump in with them into drunkenness and
indulgence, and heap abuse on you?

In 4:8, how does love reach beyond the idea of justice?

In what activities, mentioned in 4:10-11, should we all be participating?

How does Peter comfort them in their trials in 4:12-19? In 5:6-11?

Hebrews 1-6 background

Timeline

64 Nero increases persecution against Christians

James (the writer of the book of James) is martyred

64 Hebrews

Who Wrote it?

There is some debate about this, but many scholars believe it was Paul, and they've convinced me it was Paul, so we're going with Paul.

If you have a different opinion, that's certainly okay, too.

Timothy was with the writer.

About the epistle

Called a word of exhortation 13:22

Written before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD; one of the objects of the letter may have been to prepare them for it.

Many Jews, even believing ones, were still very zealous for the Temple rites and sacrifices, thinking that when Messiah returned, Jerusalem would become capital of the world.

Their faith was like a political slogan.

They were in for a big shock when Jerusalem was destroyed.

Many Jewish Christians still thought of Moses as the Law-giver and Christ as the second in command, to enforce the law of Moses on other nations; Moses first, Christ under him.

About the church

Written to believers of Jewish background, very familiar with the Old Testament

29 direct OT quotes, 53 clear allusions to OT passages

probably living in either Palestine or Italy

Some were in danger of abandoning the faith and reverting to Judaism because they were being persecuted

There seems to have been some decline from the brotherly love in the church in Acts 4 back to a more selfish and worldly church.

Difficult passages

6:4-6 probably refers to people who profess to be Christians, but are not genuine.

Falling away is from the knowledge of the truth, not personal acceptance of it.

Jesus clearly teaches that no one who truly believes can be taken from his hand John 10:28

Goes on to describe the permanent nature of God's promise to us in 6:13-20

After the epistle

In 66 AD, the Jewish revolt against Rome began, leading to the destruction of Jerusalem