

Insights From 1 Peter

Other non-fiction books by the author:

Biblical Oddities

Even So, Come, Lord Jesus

The Kings of Israel and Judah

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2008 – 2009)

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2010 – 2011)

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2012 – 2013)

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2014 – 2018)

The Lost Doctrines

Dinosaurs in History

Summary of Old Testament Events

Chapter Summary of the Bible

Creation: A Study of Origins

Theology: An Assortment of Articles

Heresy: A Study of False Teachers

Eschatology: A Study of the Second Coming

C S Lewis

Bill Gothard

Translation Issues: The KJV Controversy

The Catholic Church: A Study of Heresy

Insights From 1 Peter

by Jonathan Cooper

First Edition on 5/10/2024

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

Table of Contents

Introduction.....4
1 Peter.....7

1 Peter

- Peter wrote this letter to the Gentiles (who he called "strangers") (1 Peter 1:1)
- Paul isn't the only apostle who talked about predestination. Peter did as well (1 Peter 1:2).
- The reason people become saved is because they were chosen according to the foreknowledge of God. That means we didn't choose God! Instead God chose us (1 Peter 1:2).
- The Spirit is the one who sanctifies us (1 Peter 1:2).
- The salvation that God has given us is an act of mercy. It's not something we deserved or were owed (1 Peter 1:3).
- The reason we have hope is because Jesus rose from the dead (1 Peter 1:3).
- Christians have an inheritance in Heaven that's been reserved for us (1 Peter 1:4). This inheritance is pure, incorruptible, and will never fade away.
- The reason Christians can't lose their salvation is because we're kept by the power of God. Our salvation rests on His power, not ours (1 Peter 1:5). Since God's power can't be defeated, our salvation can't be lost.
- Our salvation is preserved by faith, not works (1 Peter 1:5).
- The church has not yet been revealed. In some important way we're still hidden, waiting for our unveiling at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:5).
- It's necessary for some Christians to suffer. This suffering can't be avoided and must be endured (1 Peter 1:6). In

these cases suffering is a normal part of the Christian life and doesn't represent any sort of personal failure.

- The Bible doesn't teach that all Christians should be happy all the time. There are seasons of pain (1 Peter 1:6).
- Persecution and suffering only lasts for a season. It doesn't last forever (1 Peter 1:6).
- God uses persecution to test our faith (1 Peter 1:7).
- Our faith is far more precious than gold (1 Peter 1:7).
- Those who endure persecution will receive praise, honor, and glory when the Lord Jesus Christ returns (1 Peter 1:7).
- The prophets prophesied about the suffering of Christ and the glory that would follow (1 Peter 1:11).
- The prophets were very interested in the subject of salvation. They made inquiries about it and searched diligently to learn more (1 Peter 1:10-11). They also wanted to know when Christ would appear. This means they studied their own prophecies to understand what they meant and when they would be fulfilled.
- God revealed to the prophets that their prophecies were intended for us (the church), not for them (1 Peter 1:12).
- When Peter wrote this letter, the gospel had already been preached to its recipients (1 Peter 1:12).
- The Holy Ghost was sent from Heaven into this world (1 Peter 1:12). This means before Jesus sent the Holy Ghost into this world, the Holy Ghost was in Heaven.
- Angels desire to look into the subject of salvation (1 Peter 1:12).

- The Bible consistently depicts Heaven as something that's above us (1 Peter 1:12).
- The Bible doesn't teach that Christians should turn off their mind. Instead it says we must gird up our mind and *think* (1 Peter 1:13).
- There's a type of grace that will only be given to Christians once the Lord Jesus Christ returns (1 Peter 1:13).
- Peter expected the hope of Christ's return to be a continual part of our life – a hope that we never lose (1 Peter 1:13). He believed this hope was very important to our daily lives.
- Before we were saved we followed after the desires of this world. Now that we're saved we must no longer do that (1 Peter 1:14).
- Since Christians were called by a holy God, we must be holy as well (1 Peter 1:15). This means we must lead holy lives.
- God judges everyone's work (1 Peter 1:17). No one's work will escape judgment.
- Peter spoke of our lives in this world as a time of sojourning. We're strangers who are passing through this world while on the way to something else (1 Peter 1:17).
- The redemption of Christians is in the past! It's already been accomplished (1 Peter 1:18).
- No one can save their soul through money or works (1 Peter 1:18-19). Instead Christians have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb who shed His blood and died in our place to purchase our

redemption – taking upon Himself the punishment that we deserved for our sins.

- Jesus is without sin and without fault (1 Peter 1:19).
- The sacrifice of Christ was planned before God created the world (1 Peter 1:20). This means that before God created the world, He already knew what would happen. The fall of man didn't surprise Him.
- The reason we believe in God is because of Jesus. Our belief comes from Jesus, not from ourselves (1 Peter 1:21).
- God is the one who raised Jesus from the dead (1 Peter 1:21).
- God resurrected Jesus and gave Him glory so that our faith and hope would be in God (1 Peter 1:21).
- Our souls need to be purified (1 Peter 1:22). The way we do that is through obedience to the truth.
- The power of the Spirit gives us the grace we need to obey the truth (1 Peter 1:22).
- Peter never used titles like "reverend" or "pastor" or "father" or "saint" when addressing other Christians. Instead he called them brothers (1 Peter 1:22).
- If we've purified our souls through obedience then we will love other Christians (1 Peter 1:22). If we don't love other Christians then our souls haven't been purified.
- It's Biblical to say that Christians have been born again (1 Peter 1:23).
- The Bible consistently teaches that grass *withers* (1 Peter 1:24). Although it says that people and animals die, it

doesn't say that plants die. This means that from God's perspective, plants aren't alive the same way that people and animals are.

- The word of the Lord endures forever (1 Peter 1:25).
- Christians must earnestly desire the Word of God the same way that newborn infants desire milk (1 Peter 2:2)
- Christians should seek to grow (1 Peter 2:2). The way we grow is through the Scriptures.
- Peter called Jesus a living stone, and he called Christians lively stones (1 Peter 2:4-5).
- Peter believed that Jesus is the chief corner stone, and the church was built upon Him. That means he believed that *Jesus* is the rock upon which the church was built (1 Peter 2:6). Peter never claimed that the church was built upon him (in spite of what Catholics claim).
- Those who believe in Jesus see Him as precious. However, those who don't believe in Jesus see Him as offensive (1 Peter 2:7-8). These attitudes come from the core natures of believers and unbelievers.
- The church must not try to make Jesus more appealing to unbelievers by compromising the gospel! Instead we must understand that the gospel is offensive to those who don't believe (1 Peter 2:8). Tampering with the gospel to make it appealing to those who hate it is a terrible sin.
- Those who are disobedient and reject Jesus were appointed to that fate (1 Peter 2:8). This means that just as God predestined some people to be saved, He also predestined other people to *not* be saved.

- Those who believe are a chosen generation. We were chosen by God, which is why we believe (1 Peter 2:9).
- Those who believe are a holy nation. Even though Christians come from all nations, we make up one new nation (1 Peter 2:9).
- One of the reasons God called us out of the darkness and into His light is so we would praise Him (1 Peter 2:9). This means it's very important for us to praise God!
- Before we were saved we weren't the people of God, but now we are the people of God (1 Peter 2:10).
- God is merciful to some people, but not to everyone (1 Peter 2:10). The Lord has given His mercy to those who are saved, but He hasn't given it to those who are lost.
- This present world is not our home (1 Peter 2:11).
- The day is coming when this world, which has spoken against Christians as evildoers, will glorify God for the good works that we've done. This will happen on the "day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12).
- It's important for Christians to live lives of good works in spite of the false accusations that the world hurls against us. One day this will bring glory to God (1 Peter 2:12).
- Christians must obey every law that's handed down by the government (provided that they don't violate the laws of God) (1 Peter 2:13). The reason we must do this is for the sake of Christ.
- God has given the government the responsibility of punishing evildoers and praising those who do well (1 Peter 2:14).

- Christians need to live honest and good lives in order to silence the ignorance of foolish people (1 Peter 2:15). This means the way to overcome evil is by doing good.
- Servants should serve with fear. This means they should take their responsibilities seriously and strive to do their best (1 Peter 2:18).
- Servants should faithfully serve their masters. This is true if their masters are good, and also if their masters are evil (1 Peter 2:18). This means the way a servant should serve their master doesn't change based on what their master is like.
- If a servant faithfully serves his master and yet his master is evil toward him, that servant is doing what's right and God is glorified by his obedience (1 Peter 2:19-20).
- It is possible for God to be glorified by our suffering even if that suffering isn't directly tied to the gospel. Those who suffer because they obeyed God are counted as suffering wrongfully (1 Peter 2:19).
- Since Christ suffered, it shouldn't surprise us if we suffer as well (1 Peter 2:21). This is because when Christ suffered He set an example for us to follow.
- Jesus never sinned (1 Peter 2:22).
- Christians must not threaten those who cause them to suffer (1 Peter 2:23).
- Jesus bore our sins and died for them (1 Peter 2:24).
- Jesus didn't die so we could keep sinning. Instead He died to free us from sin so we could live righteous lives (1 Peter 2:24).

- We are healed by the suffering of Christ (1 Peter 2:24).
- We are the reason why Christ suffered (1 Peter 2:24).
- Jesus is the Shepherd of our souls (1 Peter 2:25).
- It's possible for prayers to be hindered (1 Peter 3:7).
- Peter expected married couples to pray (1 Peter 3:7).
- God didn't say that Christians should obtain unity by compromising or finding the lowest common denominator. Instead He commands us to achieve unity by having one mind (1 Peter 3:8).
- Christians must not return evil for evil. When we're treated badly we must not turn around and treat the other person badly as well (1 Peter 3:9).
- Christians must not rail against those who rail against us (1 Peter 3:9). Instead God has called us to bless them. If we do this then God will reward us with a blessing.
- The path of evil isn't the easy path in life (1 Peter 3:10-11).
- The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous (1 Peter 3:12).
- The Bible doesn't say that God hates the sin but loves the sinner. Instead it teaches that God is against those who do evil (1 Peter 3:12).
- The prayers of the righteous are more effective than the prayers of the wicked (1 Peter 3:12).
- Christians shouldn't be afraid of persecution, or troubled by it (1 Peter 3:14).
- Peter didn't say that Christians should find ways to compromise with the world in order to avoid persecution.

Instead he said that we should find happiness in suffering for the sake of righteousness (1 Peter 3:14).

- When persecution comes, we must sanctify God in our hearts (1 Peter 3:15).
- We must be ready to give an answer to those who question us about the gospel (1 Peter 3:15).
- The answers that Christians give about the gospel must be given in meekness (1 Peter 3:15).
- It may be God's will that we suffer for doing good (1 Peter 3:17).
- Christ didn't die for the sake of good people. Instead He died for the sake of bad people (1 Peter 3:18). Before God saved us we were unjust, not righteous.
- Christ suffered for our sins *once* (1 Peter 3:18). There's no need for Him to suffer for our sins again, or to suffer continually.
- At some point Christ preached to spirits who were in prison. These spirits were disobedient in the days when Noah was building the ark (1 Peter 3:19-20). Since Christ preached to those spirits and no one else, this may mean the spirits were nephilim or fallen angels.
- God waited for Noah to finish preparing the ark. This was an act of longsuffering (1 Peter 3:20).
- The flood of Genesis killed everyone in the world except for the eight people who were on the ark (1 Peter 3:20). This means the flood of Genesis wasn't a local flood.
- Peter compared Noah's salvation from the flood to baptism. Just as Noah was saved by the ark, so we are

saved through baptism (1 Peter 3:21). However, Peter specifically says that baptism doesn't forgive our sins. Instead baptism is an outward act of obedience which follows salvation and is therefore a public symbol of salvation.

- Christians are saved by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21).
- Jesus has gone to Heaven and is at the right hand of God (1 Peter 3:22).
- Angels are subject to Jesus (1 Peter 3:22).
- Peter didn't preach a health and wealth gospel. Instead he said that since Christ suffered in the flesh, we would as well (1 Peter 4:1).
- He who suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin (1 Peter 4:1). Why? Because the whole reason that person is suffering is because he chose not to sin. That means his suffering is a sign that he's said no to sin.
- Christians must cease from sin (1 Peter 4:1). This is so important that it's worth suffering for.
- Christians won't always have a body of flesh. One day we'll be changed (1 Peter 4:2).
- While we're in this body we must not give in to our desires (1 Peter 4:2). Those who aren't saved spend their time pursuing sinful desires, but we must not copy their example. Instead we must seek after the will of God.
- You can either seek after the lusts of the flesh, or the will of God. You can't choose both (1 Peter 4:2).
- The people of this world find it strange that Christians

aren't doing the same wicked things that they are (1 Peter 4:4). This is why the world condemns us: it doesn't like people who don't follow it in its sins.

- Christians must not be like the world. We must not join the wicked in their sins (1 Peter 4:4).
- Peter doesn't teach that Christians should compromise with the world and try to win its favor. Instead he says we must continue to do what is right, even though the world will condemn us for it. This is because in the end God will hold the wicked accountable for their evil behavior (1 Peter 4:1-5).
- The day is coming when God will judge the living and the dead (1 Peter 4:5).
- The gospel has been preached to those who are dead (1 Peter 4:6). This was done for the purpose of judgment, not salvation.
- The end of all things is at hand (1 Peter 4:7). Since this is the case, we need to watch and pray.
- Above everything else, Christians must be characterized by a fervent love for other believers (1 Peter 4:8). This is because love covers a multitude of sins.
- The way that Christians become good stewards of God's grace is by using our gifts to minister to one another (1 Peter 4:10).
- We must use our gifts to serve one another so that God is glorified through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:11). God is glorified when we use our abilities to serve others.
- Everlasting praise belongs to God (1 Peter 4:11).

- Everlasting dominion belongs to God (1 Peter 4:11).
- Peter said that a fiery trial was going to come upon the recipients of his letter (1 Peter 4:12).
- Christians shouldn't be surprised when fiery trials come upon us (1 Peter 4:12).
- Christians should rejoice when fiery trials come upon us (1 Peter 4:13). This is because those trials allow us to partake in Christ's sufferings.
- When the Lord Jesus Christ returns, His glory will be revealed (1 Peter 4:13). In that day those who have gone through fiery trials will be exceedingly glad.
- The glory of Jesus is currently hidden. It has not yet been revealed (1 Peter 4:13).
- Being reproached for the sake of Christ should bring happiness to Christians (1 Peter 4:14). This is because when that happens, the spirit of glory rests on us. The reproaches of the world bring glory to Christ.
- Judgment begins at the house of God (the church) (1 Peter 4:17). This means God holds the church accountable for its actions.
- If God even judges His church, then those who are outside the church are certain to meet a terrible fate (1 Peter 4:17). No one will escape accountability for what they've done.
- The righteous are scarcely saved (1 Peter 4:18). The only thing that saves us from everlasting damnation is the blood of Jesus.
- If even the righteous are scarcely saved, then the wicked

are in enormous trouble because they're far from being righteous (1 Peter 4:18).

- Suffering shouldn't drive us away from God. Instead it should drive us toward God (1 Peter 4:19).
- Peter was an elder, not a pope (1 Peter 5:1).
- Peter witnessed the suffering of Christ (1 Peter 5:1).
- Peter believed that he would partake of the glory that would be revealed when Christ returned (1 Peter 5:1).
- It's the job of the *elders* to feed the flock of God (the church) and have oversight of it (1 Peter 5:2). The Bible never says it's the job of the pastor to do this, nor does it even recognize the position of pastor as it exists in the modern church. Peter put the responsibility of taking care of the church in the hands of the *elders*, not the pastor (and this is consistent throughout the New Testament).
- The elders must be good examples. They shouldn't rule over the congregation as authoritarian rulers and lords (1 Peter 5:3).
- The church is God's heritage (1 Peter 5:3).
- When elders oversee the church, they need to remember that the church belongs to God, not to them. The elders are taking care of God's flock, and He will hold them responsible for what they do (1 Peter 5:1-4).
- Jesus is the chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). He's the one who has authority over all of the churches, and He's the head of the church.
- When the Lord Jesus Christ returns, the elders of the churches will receive a crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4). This

means there's a reward promised to elders who faithfully oversee their church.

- The younger members of the church should submit themselves to the older members of the church (1 Peter 5:5).
- If we humble ourselves before God, He will exalt us in due time (1 Peter 5:6). This means there's a specific time when God will exalt those who humble themselves before Him.
- It's good for us to cast our cares upon God. It's not wrong to do this, and it's not complaining. Instead it's something God has commanded us to do (1 Peter 5:7).
- The devil is the adversary of Christians (1 Peter 5:8).
- In the church age the devil isn't bound. He's actively seeking to harm the church (1 Peter 5:8). Peter compares the devil to a roaring lion who's walking about.
- The devil is looking for people to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Since this is the case, we must be sober minded and vigilant (1 Peter 5:8).
- It is possible for Christians to resist the devil (1 Peter 5:9). We're not helpless before him. The way that we resist him is through faith.
- The devil is responsible for our afflictions and suffering (1 Peter 5:9).
- God has called us unto His eternal glory (1 Peter 5:10).
- God used Jesus to call us (1 Peter 5:10).
- The ultimate destiny of the church is glory, not suffering and afflictions (1 Peter 5:10). It's true that it may be God's

will for us to suffer for a while. However, our sufferings won't last forever. One day we will receive the glory that God promised us.

- Peter prayed that God would make Christians perfect (1 Peter 5:10). This means God is the one who will one day make us perfect.
- The church should desire God's everlasting reign over all things (1 Peter 5:11).
- Although this letter was written by Peter, it seems that Silvanus was the person who physically wrote it down (1 Peter 5:12).
- Peter considered this letter to be brief (1 Peter 5:12).
- Peter wrote this letter from Babylon (1 Peter 5:13). There was a church located there.
- Peter had a son named Marcus (1 Peter 5:13).