

## A Study of 1 Peter 1

### I. Outline.

1. Salutation (1 Peter 1:1-2).
2. Reasons Christians should patiently endure (3-12).
3. A call to holy living (13-17).
4. Consider the cost of salvation (18-21).
5. Love the brethren (22).
6. The abiding word (23-25).

### II. Summary.

The Apostle Peter obviously has concern for his brethren and wants to motivate them faithfully to endure persecution which will surely come (if not already present). His powerfully persuasive arguments should provide a strength to saints of all ages! He attempts to help the brethren to appreciate more their own salvation by showing others (prophets & angels) had/have great interest in it. We are urged to prepare for meeting temptations and persecutions and to keep it in perspective that these sufferings are only temporary. He takes us to the Cross to remind us of the great cost of our salvation. He reminds us of the importance of having sincere love of our brethren, who have so many things in common with us.

“The basic message of 1 Peter concerns suffering. It is obvious that the people to whom it was written were suffering because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Undoubtedly, this persecution took many different forms. We know that some of what they were subjected to involved being falsely charged with evil (1 Pet. 2:11-12). Those who have been wrongly accused of something know that it is not easy to endure. False accusations take a great toll on one emotionally. However, it seems that their suffering involved more than mere talk, for Peter calls it a "fiery trial" that was testing their faith (1 Pet. 4:12). One of the things Peter sets out to do in this epistle is to instruct God's people on how to handle persecution. They must not react by retaliating (1 Pet. 2:21-25; 3:9), nor should they justify their adversaries by engaging in the things of which they are being accused (1 Pet. 4:15-16). Rather, he says, they must "put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (1 Pet. 2:11-16) by living pure lives that do not justify the slander. Also, he says they should rejoice that they are suffering because they are Christians (1 Pet. 4:13).

Not only is Peter instructing them on how to deal with suffering for the sake of one's affiliation with Jesus, but above all else he teaches them that they must remain faithful to the very faith that is bringing the persecution. This is a high price to pay, and, undoubtedly, a price they had not counted on when they became disciples.

If people are asked to pay a price, they must be convinced that what they are getting is worth the price they are paying. In this way 1 Pet. 1:1-12 fits into the persecution theme of this letter. These words are Peter's effort to convince his readers that the Christian faith is worth holding on to despite their suffering. What does Peter tell them about Christianity that makes it worth suffering for? He tells them about the future hope they have as Christians (1 Pet. 1:3-4). Then, he tells them that their present trials will serve to prove that their faith is genuine (1 Pet. 1:5-9). Finally, he looks at Christianity from the past (1 Pet. 1:10-12). The prophets and even the angels were greatly interested in the faith they have had the honor of receiving.” [Gene Burgett, in *Studies in 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Jude*, Edited by Dub McClish, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Denton Lectures, 1998, p. 29].

### III. Chronology.

**BIBLE PERIOD:** The Period of the Church.

If you are not familiar with the **15 Bible Periods**, please click here: <http://bit.ly/Rvd8gW>

### IV. Words/Phrases to Study

1. **Introduction to 1 Peter**... “In reading from 1 Peter 5:13, we learn that the writer was in Babylon at the time this letter was penned. It seems strange that there should be any question that the word Babylon without any other explanation would mean anything other than the great city on the Euphrates River, or the territory adjacent to it. ... However, there is a great debate as to whether Peter was using the word Babylon metaphorically or as a cryptograph and was actually writing at Rome or Jerusalem. ‘In the New Testament generally, and more especially in a writing like this First Epistle of St. Peter, remarkable for its simplicity and directness, we see no sufficient reason for supposing that one word is used in a symbolical sense, while all else is plain and literal. Such a use of the word would be unintelligible to the Christians of Asia Minor.’ ... The date of the writing of 1 Peter cannot be fixed to an exact year but the following points will help us determine the limits within which the letter must have been written. ... This would place the date of 1 Peter sometime after A.D. 63” [James Gravelle, “1,2 Peter and Jude—An Introduction,” in *Studies in 1,2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, p. 22]. |||| “The basic message of 1 Peter concerns suffering. ... Peter was uniquely qualified to write this letter. He knew what it was like to suffer and yet remain loyal to Jesus (Acts 4; 5:12-42; 12:1-19). He also knew the bitterness of turning away from the Lord (Luke 22:62). Peter preferred the suffering to the bitterness” [Gene Burgett, “God’s Great Mercy and Our Living Hope,” in *Studies in 1,2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, pp. 49-51].
2. 1:2... **ELECT**—“The Bible doctrine of election according to the foreknowledge of God is that God chooses to save those who willingly come to Him in obedience to the Gospel call.” through sanctification of the Spirit—“That sanctification demands knowledge gives us an indication of how the Holy Spirit works to sanctify the individual. All knowledge necessary to be pleasing to God is revealed through the Word of God (2 Tm 3:16-17). Thus Jesus prayed to God, ‘Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth’ (Jn 17:17)” [Ibid., p. 54].
3. 1:3... **HATH BEGOTTEN US AGAIN**—“Salvation is portrayed by many figures in the Bible. One of the more common ones is the idea of being born or begotten again. A couple of ideas are combined in the figure of being born again, one of which is the thought of being a different person; one has been given the opportunity to start afresh (Rom 6:3-4; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:23-24). All people are born into a family, and so it is with those who are born again. They become a part of God’s family, the church (1 Tm 3:15). Jesus used the figure of a new birth in his famous conversation with Nicodemus (John 3:3-5). Though the figure is used often, it is still misunderstood by many. Some seem to be of the opinion that being born again is something different from being a Christian, and thus we hear the phrase ‘born-again Christians.’ Scripture does not make a distinction between being born again and being a Christian. Peter also tells us how one is born again. In 1 Peter 1:22 we are told that our souls are purified in ‘obedience to the truth.’ In verse 23 he says people are ‘begotten again ... through the word of God.’ How wonderfully simple this is, and how sad it is that many people are sitting around waiting for an ‘experience’ or a sign to tell them they are born again, when all they need is the Word of God” [Ibid, pp. 54-55].
4. 1:5... **IN THE LAST TIME**—“Despite the fact of many New Testament writers using the expression “the last days” to mean the Christian dispensation, “the last time” here has reference to the final judgment day when Christ will raise the dead and summon all people to the judgment of the White Throne” [James Burton Coffman’s Commentaries].
5. 1:7... **TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH**—“The Bible has much to say about the subject of God’s people and suffering, but it never really answers the question most of us want to ask. When it comes to suffering, most people want to know why we or those we love are suffering. But throughout

Scripture when God chooses to address the subject of suffering He always deals with how one should face suffering and what suffering can accomplish. Job provides the reader an entire book of the Bible dedicated to the subject of suffering. Job was constantly asking why he was suffering, yet God never tells him why. The book of Job takes forty-two chapters to tell us what Peter and James state in just a few verses: Suffering reveals the strength of our faith. Suffering reveals one's motives for being a Christian. ... When Jesus taught hard lessons, those who really believed were separated from those who were simply interested in the fishes and the loaves (John 6:26-71). Personal suffering also reveals true motives and separates the faithful from the faithless" [Gene Burgett, "God's Great Mercy and Our Living Hope," in *Studies in 1,2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, pp. 57-58]. |||| **MUCH MORE PRECIOUS THAN OF GOLD** "This does not mean that their faith was much more precious than gold, but that the testing of it, (δοκίμιον dokimion,) the process of showing whether it was or was not genuine, was a much more important and valuable process than that of testing gold in the fire. More important results were to be arrived at by it, and it was more desirable that it should be done" [Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible].

6. 1:10... **THE PROPHETS HAVE INQUIRED AND SEARCHED DILIGENTLY**—"...Peter's design is to prove to them the value of the religion they profess. Sometimes we do not realize the value of something we have until we learn how much someone else values it. Peter first turns to the prophets and the concern they had for the things his readers now possess. The prophets 'sought and searched diligently' concerning the grace that was now theirs" [Gene Burgett, "God's Great Mercy and Our Living Hope," in *Studies in 1,2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, p. 59]. |||| "The phenomenon of prophets not being able to comprehend fully their own writings is one of utmost consequence in biblical interpretation; for it requires the deduction that the Spirit of Christ, speaking through them, did not merely give them the correct ideas, or thoughts, which they then were to present in their own words, but, contrarily, the words of truth were exactly what they did receive, words with ideas and thoughts contained which they did not understand at all" [James Burton Coffman's Commentaries].
7. 1:12... **NOT UNTO THEMSELVES**—"The revelation which the prophets received from God almighty was not ultimately intended for them; it was designed for those of us who live in the Christian era. The prophets wanted to know the fulfillment of their prophetic writings; so did the angels. But the full knowledge of what God was providing was reserved for us" [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 56].
8. 1:13... **GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND**—"The expression 'girding up the loins' 'refers to the habit of the Orientals, who quickly gather up their loose robes with a girdle or belt when in a hurry or starting on a journey. The reason is that Easterners' long flowing robes would impede physical activity unless tucked under the belt.' This same preparation would precede any planned vigorous activity such as running or fighting. To the first-century audience, the familiar girding up of the loins would be readily transferred, at Peter's direction, to the task of preparing the mind for the lifetime journey to their Heavenly home with its sundry challenges" [Bob Berard, "Redemption of Sin through the Blood of Christ," in *Studies in 1,2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, p. 63]. |||| **AND HOPE UNTO THE END**—"Biblical, saving hope involves its holder's desire of Heaven, his expectation of Heaven, and his justified or well-founded assurance of attaining Heaven, given his continuance in God's way. The 'hope' of false religionists may have both the desire and expectation of Heaven, but only faithful children of God have a justified assurance of same (Mt 7:21; Heb 5:8-9)" [Ibid, pp. 64-65].
9. 1:17... **PASS THE TIME OF YOUR SOJOURNING HERE IN FEAR**—"Here, in a brief word, Peter sets out the perspective of the redeemed, the crucial attitude required by the Creator for His creatures. 'Fear' is from phobos, meaning 'reverence, respect (for authority, rank, dignity).' Only those who believe in God and His authority will have this attitude, and those who have it will obey God

- (Eccl 12:13). The God-fearer has a proper point of view about life” [Bob Berard, “Redemption of Sin through the Blood of Christ,” in *Studies in 1,2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, p. 65].
10. 1:18... **REDEEMED**—“This is one of the great ransom passages of the New Testament, along with Mark 10:45; 1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Tim. 2:5, Rev. 1:5, and many others” [James Burton Coffman’s Commentaries].
  11. 1:20... **WAS FOREORDAINED**—“The truth of the matter is that God foreknows everything that is the subject of knowledge and, contrary to the Calvinistic assumption, His foreknowledge of man’s every act and destiny does not compel man to perform those acts or attain that destiny. God, who knows beforehand the acts and destiny of all, also knows the free-will choices underlying their acts and leading to their destiny” [Bob Berard, “Redemption of Sin through the Blood of Christ,” in *Studies in 1,2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, p. 69]. IIII “There is no full understanding of such a thing as this by finite intelligence; but the heart of faith believes it without reservation or doubt” [James Burton Coffman’s Commentaries].
  12. 1:22... **UNFEIGNED LOVE OF THE BRETHREN**—“Our spiritual ties as brethren in Christ are similar to our physical families, but far more significant because the blood we share flows in the spiritual body of Christ, the church. As faithful children of God we expect an eternity of blessed fellowship (Eph 1:21ff; 5:23; 1 Th 4:13-18). In the new birth one acquires new brethren as well as a new Father. Our common Parent, common goal, common journey, common enemy, and common adversity, all contribute to an affectionate regard for one another” [Bob Berard, “Redemption of Sin through the Blood of Christ,” in *Studies in 1,2 Peter and Jude*, edited by Dub McClish, p. 71].
  13. 1.24... **FOR ALL FLESH IS AS GRASS, ... AND THE FLOWER THEREOF FALLETH AWAY**—“As an emphasis on the enduring nature of the Word of God, Peter quotes Isaiah 40.6-8, contrasting it with the short duration of the grass of the field. Not only does the ALL FLESH point to the fact that the Lord’s kingdom would be composed of both Jew and Gentile (contrast this with the idea that the Jews are God’s special people even today), but the passage shows that the reproductive power (spiritually) of the gospel never fades. The grass, as well as man, fades, wastes away, becomes feeble, and finally dies. However, the gospel is perpetually young, vigorous, and powerful; is eternal” [Curtis Cates, in *Things Pertaining to Life and Godliness—Studies in the Epistles of Peter, John, and Jude*, 1987 ETSOPM Lectures, p. 35].
  14. 1.25... **AND THIS IS THE WORD WHICH BY THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED UNTO YOU**—“WORD in verse 23 is *logos*, here it is *rhema*, a term more concrete, meaning an utterance, a thing said. The word which the apostles preached through the province of Asia Minor Peter here declares to be the word (*logos*) which abides forever. It was the word of good tidings, because it brought to all who received it the knowledge of salvation through Christ. Here, again, emphasis is given to the fact that the means of their birth was the word preached unto them. Only where the word is preached is it possible for men to be born again” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles of Peter, John, and Jude*, Gospel Advocate, 1973, p. 52].

## V. Lessons & Applications.

- **THE CHRISTIAN IS CHOSEN FOR OBEDIENCE AND FOR SPRINKLING BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST** (1 Peter 1:2). *In the Old Testament there were three occasions of SPRINKLING OF BLOOD...*
  - When a leper had been healed (Lev 14:1-7). Thus, the symbol of CLEANSING.
  - When Aaron and the priests were set apart (Ex 29:20-21). Thus, the symbol of SETTING APART FOR SERVICE TO GOD.
  - When Israel pledged to be God’s people and to obey His statutes (Ex 24:1-8). Thus, the symbol of OBEDIENCE.
- **WHY DOES PETER DESCRIBE THIS HOPE AS A LIVELY OR LIVING HOPE?**
  - Because it is based upon the mercy of God (v. 3).

- Because we have a living Saviour (v. 3).
- Because of our INHERITANCE (v. 4).
- Because we are KEPT (v. 5).
- **PETER TELLS THE CHRISTIAN'S SECRET OF ENDURANCE** (1 Peter 1:6-7).
  - They endure because of what they may look forward to—the hope of glory.
  - They endure because they remember that every trial is, in fact, a test (e.g., gold—pure; athlete—endurance).
  - They endure because they know that when Jesus appears they will receive praise, honor, and glory.
- **THE CHRISTIAN'S TRIALS MAY BE MANIFOLD (many colored), BUT SO IS THE GRACE OF GOD** (1 Peter 1:6; 4:10).
- **THE CHRISTLESS LIFE vs THE CHRIST-FILLED LIFE** (1 Peter 1:14-25).
 

• 1. Ignorance (14).	vs	1. Obedient & Holy (14-25).
• 2. Lustful (14)	vs	2. Reverent (17-21).
• 3. Futile	vs	3. Loving brethren (22).
- **TO THE CHRISTIAN, JESUS CHRIST IS REDEEMER AND LORD** (1 Peter 1:18-22).
  - The cost of our redemption was the precious blood of Christ (19).
  - This redemption was in the mind of God before the foundation of the world (20).
  - The triumphant resurrection of Christ grounds our faith and hope in God (21).
  - Obeying the truth makes Jesus our Lord (22).
- **BLESSINGS OF THE NEW BIRTH**—“Most Americans shy away from the topic of death, preferring to discuss any topic pertaining to this brief life rather than face the prospect of life’s coming to an end. But the Christian, confident in his own resurrection because of the resurrection of Christ, can contemplate and talk about death in contentment and without dread or fear (Philippians 1.21). Many of us have visited the former homes of the very wealthy and powerful, usually now museums or trusts, their builders and owners in ornate cemeteries. Even their houses and personal effects, grand in their day, usually show deterioration with the years that have passed. They are truly inheritances that FADE AWAY (1 Peter 1.4). But heaven will have no deterioration (Revelation 21.1, 4). When trials come to the Christian, especially those that come because of his faith, he can take hope in his salvation and remember that suffering is only **‘NOW FOR A LITTLE WHILE’** (1 Peter 1.6). Salvation does not come through some mystical or miraculous experience. It comes through ‘obeying the truth’ and being **‘BORN AGAIN ... THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD,’** which is preached **‘BY THE GOSPEL’** ( Peter 1.23, 25)” [Author not known, *Companion*, 2000-2001, p. 124].

## VI. Questions.

### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_\_ The thing that Peter says does not fade away is the inheritance of the Christian.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Peter does not mention the blood of Christ in 1 Peter 1.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ The faithful Christian can truly say, “The end of my faith is the salvation of my soul.”
04. \_\_\_\_\_ We do not have to fear that someone or some power will be able to destroy the Word of the Lord.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ There is an emphasis in 1 Peter 1, regarding the judgment that takes place in the end, that it will be INDIVIDUAL in nature.

### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ The Word of the Lord is—(a) compared to; (b) contrasted with—grass and the flower of it.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ Peter speaks of the early saints rejoicing in their faith in such a way that they had: (a) joy unspeakable; (b) full of glory; (c) a & b; (d) none of these.

08. \_\_\_\_\_ Peter uses this word to describe a heaviness that exists among the saints due to this kind of temptations: (a) multitudinous; (b) manifold; (c) maximum.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ Verse 7 of 1 Peter matches up well with which verse(s) from James: (a) 4:17; (b) 3:10; (c) 2:24; (d) 1:2-4.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Peter gave this as an example of CORRUPTIBLE THINGS: (a) gold; (b) houses; (c) prestige.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ the truth is the way to purify your soul.
12. The Father judges according to \_\_\_\_\_ man's \_\_\_\_\_.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ was manifest in these last times for us.
14. "To an \_\_\_\_\_ incorruptible, and undefiled, and that \_\_\_\_\_ not away, reserved in \_\_\_\_\_ for you."
15. "...And this is the \_\_\_\_\_ which by the \_\_\_\_\_ is preached unto you."

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

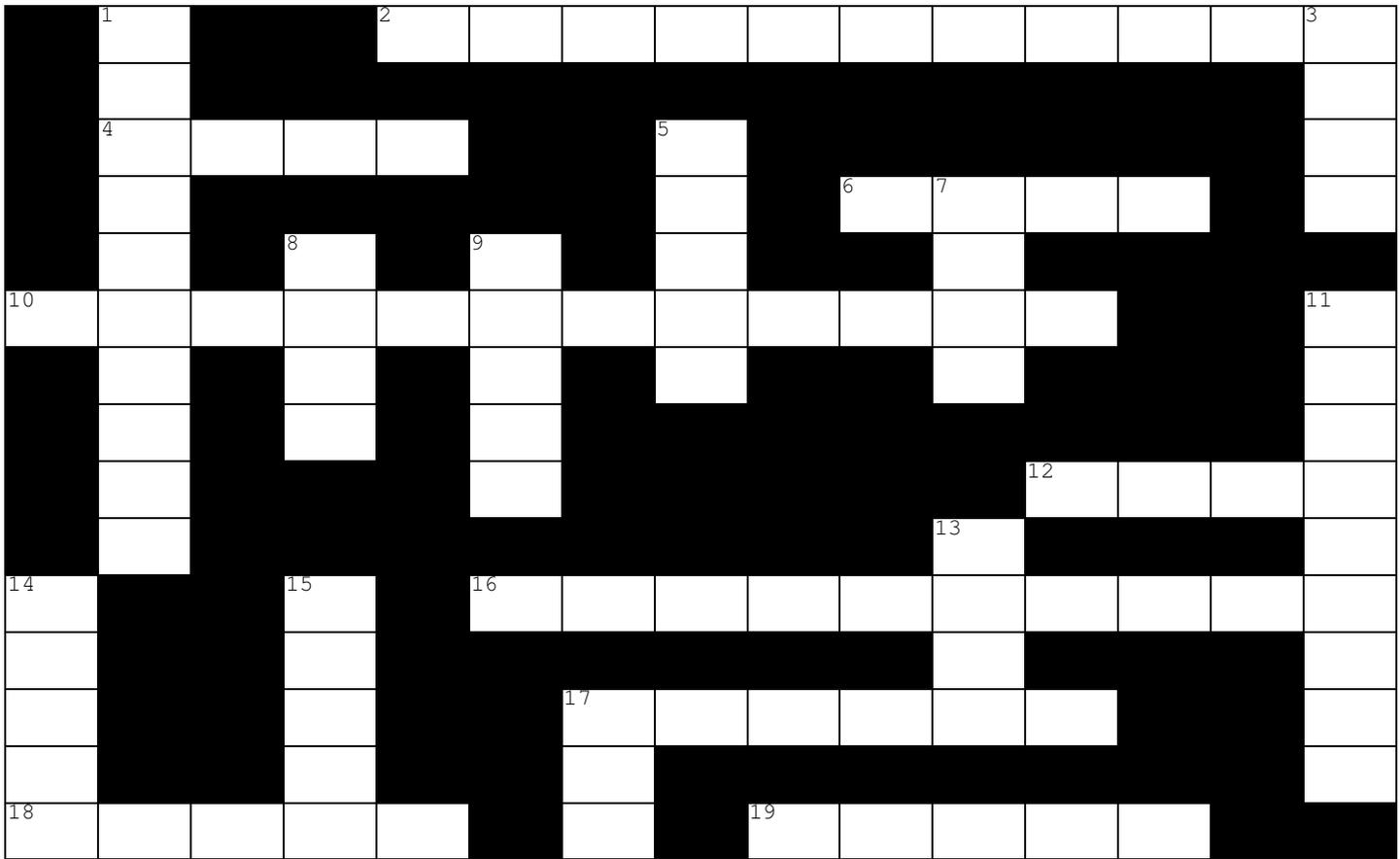
*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.** The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. -DRL

L O R D D A L O G H F O D  
 L A S T L J O G L A A G E  
 O R H O P E V R O C T R A  
 R G R A S S E A R C H E D  
 B L O O D U E C Y O E V O  
 E H O L Y S S E W R R E O  
 L C R E C E I V E D N A B  
 I N C O R R U P T I B L E  
 E S A L V A T I O N E E D  
 V P G C A T H I N G S D I  
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 E R I F A I T H E A V E N  
 S I N Y Y O E C H R I S T  
 O T H O U G H C A L L P Y

<b>ACCORDING</b>	<b>AGAIN</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>BELIEVE</b>	<b>BLOOD</b>
<b>CALL</b>	<b>CHRIST</b>	<b>DEAD</b>	<b>FAITH</b>	<b>FATHER</b>
<b>GLORY</b>	<b>GRACE</b>	<b>GRASS</b>	<b>HEAVEN</b>	<b>HOLY</b>
<b>HOPE</b>	<b>INCORRUPTIBLE</b>	<b>JESUS</b>	<b>LAST</b>	<b>LORD</b>
<b>LOVE</b>	<b>OBEDIENT</b>	<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>REJOICE</b>	<b>REVEALED</b>
<b>SALVATION</b>	<b>SEARCHED</b>	<b>SPIRIT</b>	<b>THINGS</b>	<b>THOUGH</b>

**VIII. Crossword Puzzle.**



<b>1 Peter 1 (KJV)</b>	
ACROSS	DOWN
<b>02</b> A kind of joy.	<b>01</b> Peter says the prophets searched this way.
<b>04</b> Without blemish/spot.	<b>03</b> The word of God lives and abides for ____.
<b>06</b> One of the places strangers scattered.	<b>05</b> God's is abundant.
<b>10</b> Christians have a lively hope by it.	<b>07</b> Without blemish and without ____.
<b>12</b> Used to try gold.	<b>08</b> Kind of heart with which we are to love.
<b>16</b> Not to be done according to former lusts.	<b>09</b> All flesh is as.
<b>17</b> Needs preaching.	<b>11</b> Sincere.
<b>18</b> Gold perishes even though it be.	<b>13</b> Should be in God.
<b>19</b> Person who wrote to the strangers scattered.	<b>14</b> Involves foreknowledge, sanctification, obedience, and sprinkling.
	<b>15</b> Prophets prophesied of it.
	<b>17</b> Christians are kept by the power of.

**IX. EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...**

*Will you please consider answering these three SIMPLE questions based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a great help to all of those in the class if you will do so. Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!*

**W O R D: What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?**

**W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...**

**W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...**