



THE BIG PICTURE

Studies in 1 & 2 Peter

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 5, Issue 18

20-20 Hindsight

Introduction to 1 Peter 4-5



The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

There’s a lot of the truth in the old saying, “hindsight is 20-20”. It’s easy to see what we should have done when we look back. As Peter 4-5 shows us this week, we have the opportunity to do that very thing in our Christian lives. Since we know how the end will turn out, we can live our lives with 20-20 hindsight. This is especially helpful when we have to endure the suffering that 1 Peter talks about. In the section this week we are reminded of 3 outcomes upon which we can build our lives today. The first is that of God’s judgment. Because the end of all things is near we must remember that all things will be evaluated by God. Therefore, we are to be driven no longer by the desires of this world, but by the will of God. This will sur-

prise those who expect you to participate with them, but it will enable us to live in the Spirit with God’s approval. Additionally, this mindset should lead us to express love and service to each other as we are infused with God’s strength. Next, a clear vision of the coming glory of God will enable us to endure suffering. Just as the sufferings of Christ translate directly into His coming glory, so our sufferings for Him will allow us to share that glory when He is revealed. Our suffering must not be for our own misdeeds, however; we must suffer because we are Christians and be proud of it. It is when we do what is right that we are able to entrust our souls to our faithful Creator. Finally, when we consider that God will lift us up when we willingly humble



Understanding the big picture of God’s work helps us serve Him no matter what...

ourselves, we are able to endure suffering. It is better to submit to God’s appointed authority, and trust that God will exalt us at the right time, rather than insisting on doing it our way. When we do this we will not only be exalted in God’s due time, but we will be completed, confirmed, strengthened and established in our lives as we walk with Him. When we know the outcomes of judgment, glory and exaltation, we can endure suffering because of our 20-20 hindsight.

Daily Study Questions for 1 Peter 4-5

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.thehospitalchurch.com/small groups/ABFs/leader resources](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com/small_groups/ABFs/leader_resources))

<p>1. Read 1 Peter 4:1-2. What should we expect in our Christian life (v1)? What purpose should we have that will enable us to endure this (v2)?</p>	
<p>2. In 4:3-6 how do those who don’t know Christ act (v3-4), and why should Christians not act like that (v3, 5)? Why was the gospel preached to those dead in sins (v6)?</p>	
<p>3. From 4:7-9 what positive instructions are given since “the end of all things is at hand” (v7, 8, 9)? Why are these important?</p>	

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I Peter 4-5 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From 4:10-11 what does every Christian have (v10)? In what 2 areas are these to be used (v11), and by what ability (v11)?

5. Based on 4:12-16 what can we expect later if we suffer now (v13)? How should that make us react (v12, 13, 16), and why (v14)? What caution is given (v15)?

6. Looking at 4:17-19 how should Christians respond to God's instructions (v17, 19)? What outcome does this imply for non-believers (v18)?

7. Using 5:1-5 how are church leaders supposed to lead (v1-2, 3), and how are the followers to react (v5)? What can we expect (v4, 5)?

8. In 5:6-7 what attitudes will enable us to endure suffering (v6, 7)? How will God respond to these attitudes (v6, 7)?

9. According to 5:8-11 who is after us (v8), what is he like (v8), and how should we react (v8-9)? What will God do for us (v10-11)?

10. From 5:12-14 how are these instructions characterized (v12)? What are we to do with them (v12), and how does 5:13-14 relate to this?

11. Looking back at 1 Pet 4-5 write down some attitudes that we must have to successfully endure suffering. What are some things we can expect from God?

Scripture to Remember

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Let's Get Real about Integrity

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Think of someone you feel is a person of integrity and describe them to the group. What do you think makes integrity so hard to come by (and so attractive)?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-12. “Abstaining from fleshly lusts” is necessary to develop integrity. Talk about how the temptation cycle (desire, deception, disobedience, death) works with 2 or 3 typical desires, and how overcoming temptation can be achieved.
3. Define submission and list some areas in which we should submit on a daily basis. Discuss the difference between submission and spineless passivity.
4. What is so hard about submitting to divinely ordained authority? Why is it important to learn how to do this to be a person of integrity?
5. Look at 1 Peter 2:20-23. How should we suffer? When we learn how to suffer the way Christ did, how does this lead to integrity?
6. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.