

First Peter

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1This letter comes from Peter, apostle of Jesus Christ, and is sent to God's chosen people: exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. ² You were chosen by God the Father in his wisdom, made a holy people by the Spirit who obey Jesus Christ and are sprinkled with his blood. May you have grace and peace more and more!

3Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through his great mercy we have been born again and given a living hope ¹ through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ⁴ This inheritance is eternal, it never spoils or fades, and it is kept safe in heaven for you. ⁵ Through your trust in him, God will protect you by his power until salvation arrives—the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the last day.

6So be happy about this, even though you may be sad for a short while as you endure various trials. ⁷ These prove that your trust in God is genuine, just as fire is used to prove if gold is genuine—even though that too can be destroyed—and your faith is more valuable than gold! In this way your trust in God will be recognized and you will receive praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ appears.

8You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you cannot see him now, you trust in him

and you're filled with wonderful, indescribable happiness. ⁹ Your reward for trusting in him is that you will be saved! ¹⁰ It was this salvation that the prophets searched for and investigated when they spoke of the grace that was prepared for you. ¹¹ They tried to find out when and how this would take place, for the Spirit of Christ inside them spoke clearly about Christ's sufferings and glory to come. ¹² It was explained to them that they were not doing this for themselves, but for you—since what they spoke about you've now learned from those who shared the good news with you by the Holy Spirit that heaven sent. Even the angels are eager to find out about all this!

13Make sure your minds are in gear. Be clear-headed. Fix your hope exclusively on the grace you'll be given when Jesus is revealed. ¹⁴

Live like children that do what they're told. Don't allow yourselves to be shaped by your former sinful desires when you didn't know any better. ¹⁵ Now you need to be holy in everything you do, just as the One who called you is holy. ¹⁶ As Scripture says, "You are to be holy, for I am holy."

17Since you call him Father, and recognize he judges everyone impartially based on what they do, take your time here on earth seriously, respecting him.

¹ + 1:3. Or "a hope that brings us life."