

Reading Together
New Testament Bible Reading
May 2 – May 8

Sunday, May 01 – 1 Peter 4: 1 – 19

In these verses Peter reminds his readers that they must no longer live as the pagans live, because a day of judgment is near in which we will have to give an account of our lives to God. Then Peter goes on to tell his readers how they should live self controlled lives so that they can pray (verse 7), loving each other deeply because love pays the cost of sin (verse 8), and then sharing our goods, our gifts, and our lives with each other for the mutual benefit of all believers.

Peter then returns to the subject of suffering for being a Christian (do you see how important this subject is by the emphasis that Peter places on it over and over again.) Peter reminds us that there is no shame in suffering for the cause of Christ, and it is important that we continue to live lives of obedient service even in the face of suffering.

Just a note on verse 18 about what the words “hard for the righteous to be saved,” mean. Think what it took to save even the best of us. Jesus had to come and die on the cross, for even the best of us, so that we could be saved, it doesn’t get any harder than that does it?

Monday, May 02 – 1 Peter 5: 1 – 14

Peter closes his letter with instructions for how elders (church leaders) are to oversee the flock of Jesus Christ. The leaders of Christ’s church are not to be in it for the money, they are not to lord their power over others, because those who serve should not be serving for worldly glory or worldly reward, but for the

reward that awaits each of us in heaven (verse 4). Next, in verse 5, Peter tells those who are under the authority of the leaders in the church to be humble and respect those who lead them. If we are willing to humble ourselves God will lift us up in his timing (verse 6).

Finally, Peter tells us that we can and must give all the things that make us anxious to God, and trust God to do what is best (verse 7). The reason why is because anxiety can lead us right into sin and the hands of the devil (verse 8). We are to be at work to resist Satan, by being alert and prepared for his attacks on our spiritual lives. Peter reminds us that all of our suffering is temporary and God will, in His timing, lift us up and make everything right.

Tuesday, May 03 – 2 Peter 1: 1 – 11

Peter's second letter appears to be written to the same Christians that 1st Peter was written to, but this letter was written to try to combat false teachers who were leading people astray.

Peter starts this short letter by reminding his readers just how precious their faith is (verse 1), and through their faith they have the power to live lives that are pleasing to God (verse 3 and 4). Starting in verse 5 Peter reminds his readers that faith is the starting point of a life in Christ, but in order to keep from being ineffective and unproductive in that life we must be constantly at work to insure that Christ-like qualities grow in our lives. The more of Christ we see shining through our lives the more sure we can be of our salvation.

Wednesday, May 04 – 2 Peter 1: 12 – 21

In these verses Peter assures us of the truth of Scripture. Scripture doesn't come as a result of clever inventions of man

but rather as a result of eyewitness testimony to what Jesus did. In Jesus many of the Old Testament prophecies have been made sure (come to pass), which is proof that all of them will eventually be fulfilled when Jesus comes again. God's Word comes as a result of the Holy Spirit working in and through the lives of those whom God commissioned to write it (verses 20-21).

Thursday, May 05 – 2 Peter 2: 1 – 22

In this chapter Peter deals with false teachers. He starts by warning his readers that following false teachings will lead them to the same destruction that awaits the false teachers. Next Peter goes on to describe the lifestyle of these false teachers. It is not a very flattering picture. In greed they exploit people (verse 3), they are corrupt and despise authority (verse 10), they blaspheme about things they don't understand, and are like brute beasts who live by instincts alone (verse 12). Peter goes on and says they carouse in broad daylight (verse 13), they have left the straight way to follow the wages of wickedness (verse 15) (for more on Balaam son of Peor read Numbers 22). Peter says that when you go looking to them for answers all you find is emptiness (verses 17-19), and it would have been better for them to never have known the truth than to have known the truth and then twist it and reject it.

Friday, May 06 – 2 Peter 3: 1 – 18

In chapter 3 Peter closes this short letter with a warning that The Day of The Lord will come one day—that is that Jesus will one day come again. Even though life seems to just go on and on, there will be a day of judgment. Rather than scoffing about Jesus' failure to return people should take advantage of the extra time they have been given to repent and turn to Christ before it is too late. Peter describes The Day of The Lord in verse 10, and

those words speak for themselves. What is more important is what follows after verse 10, that we should our lives with the idea that we will one day be judged by the things we have done. Only that which is done for Jesus will last into eternity.

Saturday, May 07 – Acts 1: 1 – 26

The book of Acts was written by Luke, who was a traveling companion of Paul's. Luke wrote Acts and the Gospel that bears his name after he carefully investigated everything about Jesus (Luke 1:3). Acts is a history of the church after Jesus ascended into heaven, which is the first event that Luke records in Acts 1. As the disciples watched Jesus ascend into heaven, an angel comes to them and tells them to quit looking up into the sky. Rather than staring at the heavens they are to get about the work that Jesus gave them to do in Acts 1:8, take the gospel to the ends of the earth. But they were only to do this after they had received the Holy Spirit (verses 4, 5, 8). As the disciples waited for the Holy Spirit to come they went about the business of choosing someone to take the place of the traitor Judas.

Sunday, May 08 – Acts 2: 1 – 13

The Day of Pentecost came fifty days after Passover, and so it was 50 days after Jesus had been crucified. These verses record the coming of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had told the disciples about in chapter 1. This was a special outpouring of the Spirit for that time, place, and purpose. Notice that the whole reason the disciples could speak in tongues was so that the Gospel could be proclaimed in many different languages to the people who were there that day from all over the Roman Empire. The gift of tongues, or any other miraculous gift, was given for a purpose so that others may come to have faith in Christ.