

The First letter of Peter

LEADERS NOTES

Week 2 (1 Pt 1.6-12)

1. The “in this” refers back to the previous verses - to what is kept in heaven for us and to the fact that we are guarded through faith by the power of God for salvation etc.

2. We don't know for whether Peter has particular trials in mind but the fact that Peter writes “if necessary” suggests they are general trials. Trials may include persecution, infirmity, hardship, anxiety and so on.

3-10 The comment in italics introduces questions 3-10 which are about why we can rejoice though being grieved by trials.

3. God's power working in us through guards us for salvation.

4. (Notice that faith is more precious than gold.) The refining burns away the things that really don't matter and leaves what does - that is faith in Christ.

5. Though it is hard this ought to help us to rejoice because despite the pain what we end up with is better than what we start with.

6. We see what Jesus endured for us which should make us to want to endure suffering for him. But the main point here and in Hebrews seems to be that Jesus is an example that beyond suffering there is glory which leads in to the next point.

7. Paul is focused on the outcome and there are other passages which do the same thing. People are prepared to endure hardship to achieve all sorts of things in life and we should have the same outlook in our faith.

9. The expression “you ... put my tears in your bottle” is very evocative as is the fact that they are in God's book. It is the fact that God knows that should help us - because we can see we are not alone in this, but it has a purpose though our trials can be so grievous to us.

10. The idea of the reward is similar to question 7, but I think the second translation is more likely which is about how by persevering we bring glory to God - which is what we see in the Book of Job.

11. The language of love is not as prominent as that of faith but notice for example that Jn 8.42 and 1 Cor 16.22 are emphatic that love is essential, it is part of true saving faith.

12. Hopefully clear - Jesus was speaking of what lay ahead including the manner of Peter's death.

13. It is easy to forget that almost all the recipients of the New Testament letters and the gospels were like us - they had not seen Jesus - but they and we should still love him and remember that Jesus said to Thomas that we are more blessed to believe even though we have not see (Jn 20.29)

15. Earlier this year we looked at Psalms 22, 16, 118 and 68 at Easter and Ascension. Three years ago we looked at the various passages in Isaiah such as Isaiah 52 and 53.

17. The scriptures give us comfort through hope - that is they remind us of the things we have been looking at in this study. Of course the Old Testament also gives us example of believers, like Jeremiah, who persevered through fiery trials even though they knew less of the hope than we do.

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