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# *Church in Campbell Weekly News*

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## **The outline of first Peter**

### **God's desire**

1 Pet. 2:1-10 reveals God's goal; it shows us what God desires. God wants a built up house and a priesthood for His expression. Both the house and the priesthood must be corporate. This is indicated by the four collective nouns used in verse 9: race, priesthood, nation, and people. First, God wants a house in which to dwell. As we all know, a house cannot be built of a single piece of material. On the contrary, a house can be built only of many different materials put together. In addition to a house for His dwelling, God wants a priesthood for His service. God does not desire individual priests; He desires a priesthood, a corporate body of priests, for His service.

The house and the priesthood, both of which are corporate entities, are for God's expression. This is indicated clearly in 2:9: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." Telling out the virtues of Him is a matter of expressing Him. To tell out the Lord's virtues simply means to express Him according to what He is. God is rich in virtues. For example, He is loving and kind. Both His love and His kindness are virtues. Actually, all of God's attributes are His virtues, and we should tell out these virtues. Whenever we preach the gospel and teach the truth concerning the Lord, we should tell out His virtues. But unlike the practice of many Christians today, this telling out should be a corporate matter, not an individual one.

We need to turn from traditional, religious teachings and come back to the pure Word. We grow by taking in the guileless milk of the Word so that we may be transformed. Then we shall be built up into a house for God's dwelling and a priesthood for His service. Furthermore, we shall become God's expression in His virtues. These are the main points of the second section of this Epistle, 2:1-10.

In 1 Peter chapter one we have God's economy to bring forth His full salvation so that we may have His life to have a holy manner of life and to have genuine love for the brothers. In 1:1-2 we see that the pilgrims in

dispersion are under the operation of the Triune God. Then in 1:3-25 we have the full salvation of the Triune God and its issues. In chapter two we see the matter of growth in life and its results (2:1-10). First we grow by feeding on the milk of the Word unto full salvation (2:1-3). Then we are transformed unto the building up of a spiritual house for God's dwelling, a holy priesthood for God's service (2:4-8). Following this, in verses 9 and 10, we have the telling out of the virtues of the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Peter may have been a fisherman, but he was very intelligent. After studying Peter's two Epistles, I have become fully convinced that this fisherman had a scholarly mind. However, in order to appreciate the beauty of Peter's thought, we need to dig deeply into his writings.

### **The outline of first Peter**

The beauty of Peter's thought is seen in the outline of this Epistle. I can testify that I spent a great deal of time to outline 1 Peter. This was a great pressure upon me, for it was extremely difficult to determine where to draw the lines between the various sections of this book. I believe it would be very helpful at this point to consider the outline of 1 Peter:

1. Introduction—to the Pilgrims in Dispersion under the Operation of the Triune God (1 Pet. 1:1-2)
2. Full Salvation of the Triune God and Its Issues (1 Pet. 1:3-25)
  - 1) The Father's Regeneration unto a Living Hope, an Inheritance Kept in the Heavens and Ready to Be Revealed at the Last Time (1 Pet. 1:3-9)
  - 2) The Spirit's Application through the Prophets' Prophesying and the Apostles' Preaching (1 Pet. 1:10-12)
  - 3) Christ's Redemption unto a Holy Life by the Holy Nature, and Brotherly Love through Purification by the Sanctifying Truth, Based on Regeneration of the Incorruptible Seed through the Living Word of God (1 Pet. 1:13-25)
3. Growth in Life and Its Results (1 Pet. 2:1-10)
  - 1) Growing by Feeding on the Milk of the Word unto Full Salvation (1 Pet. 2:1-3)

- 2) Transformed unto the Building Up of a Spiritual House for God's Dwelling, a Holy Priesthood for God's Service (1 Pet. 2:4-8)
- 3) To Tell Out the Virtues of the Calling One (1 Pet. 2:9-10)
4. Christian Life and Its Sufferings (2:11—4:19)
  - 1) A Life in an Excellent Manner toward All Men in All Concerns (1 Pet. 2:11-25; 3:1-13)
    - i. As Pilgrims among the Nations (1 Pet. 2:11-12)
    - ii. Toward Human Institution (1 Pet. 2:13-17)
    - iii. Servants toward Masters (1 Pet. 2:18-20)
    - iv. The Model of Christ (1 Pet. 2:21-25)
    - v. In Marriage Life (1 Pet. 3:1-7)
    - vi. In Common Life (1 Pet. 3:8-13)
  - 2) Suffering for Righteousness by the Will of God as Christ Did (1 Pet. 3:14-22)
  - 3) Arming Themselves with the Mind of Christ for Suffering (1 Pet. 4:1-6)
  - 4) Ministering as Good Stewards of the Varied Grace of God (1 Pet. 4:7-11)
  - 5) Rejoicing in Sharing the Sufferings of Christ (1 Pet. 4:12-19)
5. The Elders' Shepherding and Its Reward (1 Pet. 5:1-4)
  - 1) The Shepherding Patterns (1 Pet. 5:1-3)
  - 2) The Chief Shepherd's Reward (1 Pet. 5:4)
6. The Mighty Hand of God and Its Goal (1 Pet. 5:5-11)
  - 1) Humbled under God's Mighty Hand (1 Pet. 5:5-9)
  - 2) Perfected and Grounded by the God of All Grace (1 Pet. 5:10-11)
7. Conclusion (1 Pet. 5:12-14)
  - 1) Testimony of the True Grace of God (1 Pet. 5:12)
  - 2) Greetings (1 Pet. 5:13-14)

In the introduction to this Epistle (1:1-2) we see that the operation of God's economy is to bring us into the full enjoyment of the Triune God. What a great matter this is! Then in the first section (1:3-25) we have the full salvation of the Triune God and its issues. God's full salvation includes the regeneration of the Father, the redemption of the Son, and the sanctification of the Spirit. The issues of this full salvation are a holy manner of life and an unfeigned brotherly love.

The second section of this Epistle covers the growth in life and its results (2:1-10). In order to grow in life, we need to long for the guileless milk of the Word. It is by

this milk that we grow. The result of the growth in life is transformation, building up, and the expression of God. By the growth in life we are transformed and built up, and then we become God's expression.

The third section of this Epistle, concerned with the Christian life and its sufferings, is the longest (2:11—4:19). Peter takes more than two whole chapters to cover this subject. In this portion of his Epistle he does not speak of the Christian life and its enjoyment; he speaks concerning the Christian life and its sufferings. In the messages to come we shall see what these sufferings are.

After the lengthy section on the Christian life and its sufferings, Peter has two short sections on the elders' shepherding and its reward (5:1-4) and the mighty hand of God and its goal (5:5-11). Finally, in 5:12-14, we have the conclusion.

(Excerpt from Life Studies of 1 Peter, Message 19)

#### **Burdens for Church Prayer**

- Our target for 2025, # of newly baptized 25 and # of attending prayer meeting 35
- Perfecting young working saints through shepherding
- Saints blending together to build up the Body in love
- Establish a prayer life individually and corporately
- Pursuing truth and growth in life to be in the reality of the kingdom.
- Spreading the kingdom of God by preaching the gospel at WVC campus and community.
- Build up container for receiving our next generation

#### **Announcements**

- Life-study of 1 Peter MSG 19, 20.
- HWMR: Living a Christian life and Church life under the Government of God for the Economy of God, Week 5
- 4/15 (Tue.) Prayer meeting, 7:45pm, meeting hall.
- 4/18- 5/9 Corporate pursuit 5th term 4 weeks on Fridays
- 5/3 10:00am-12:45 NorCal Senior Saints Conference, FSCC
- 5/10 10am Lessons on small groups with br Minoru: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89326774993?pwd=MkJYVU00RW5qcTV0WmlhNU1NNE5PZz09>
- 5/11 (LD) Church blending at Sycamore Group Picnic Area in Stevens Creek County Park
- 5/17 Gospel meeting in Chinese, Campbell meeting hall
- 6/7 Gospel meeting in English, Campbell meeting hall
- 6/16-20 Bible Camp FSCC
- 6/30-7/5 Semiannual training, Registration by 5/1
- Financial Giving:  
PayPal/Zelle: [churchincampbell@gmail.com](mailto:churchincampbell@gmail.com)  
[Venmo @Churchin-Campbell](#)
- Church in Campbell bookroom account (PayPal/Zelle): [churchincampbellbooks@gmail.com](mailto:churchincampbellbooks@gmail.com)