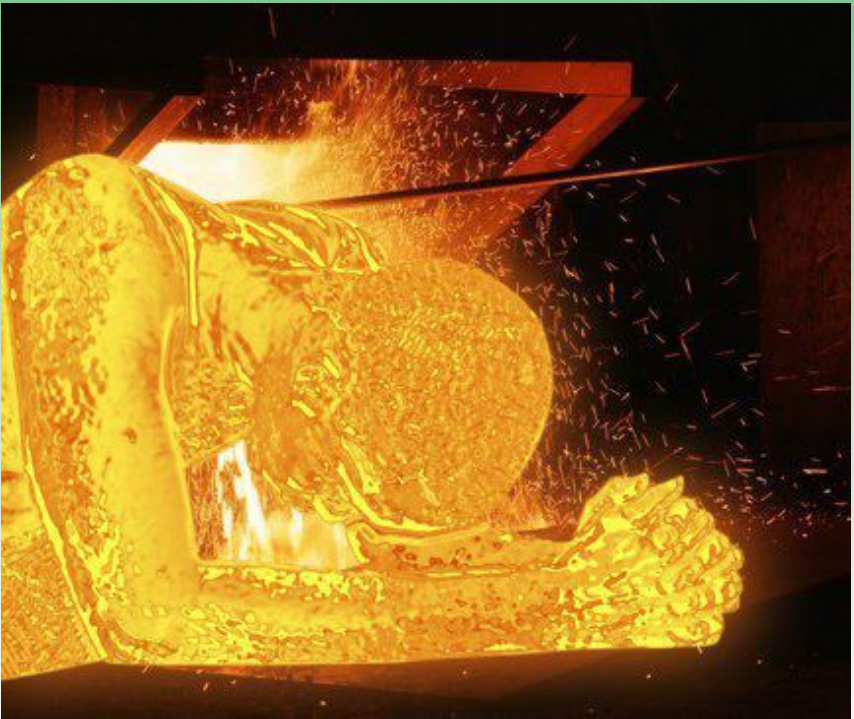


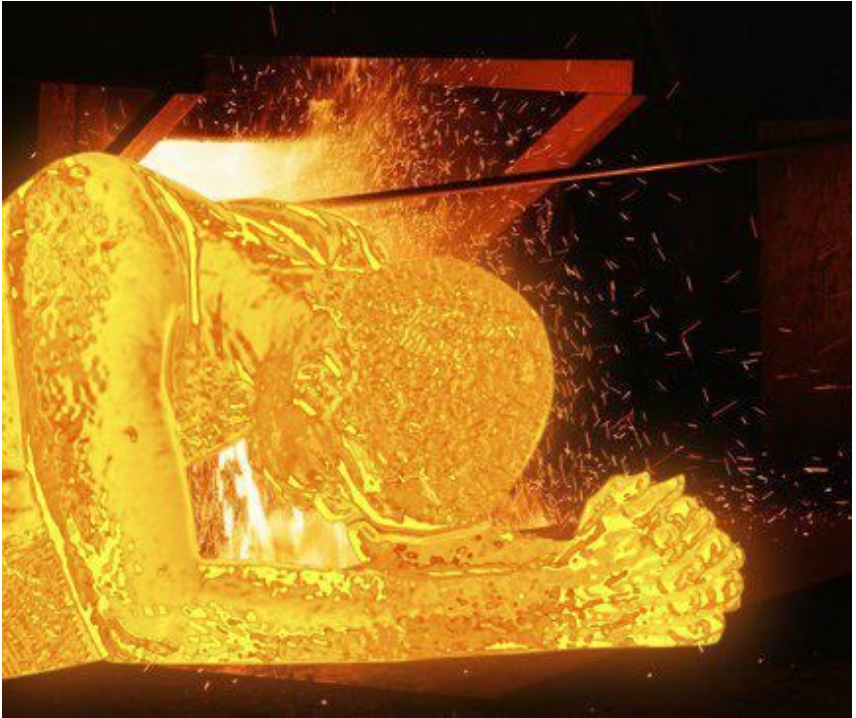


A STUDY ON 1 PETER CHAPTER 1



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Preview

The study is an encouragement written by Peter to Christians encouraging them to endure trials and to keep the faith, understanding that they were not redeemed or justified by corruptible seed (that which is perishable), but by the word of God (the faith of Jesus Christ), the incorruptible seed which endures for ever.

A study on 1 Peter 1

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ is writing to Christians who are scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

1 Peter 1:2 These Christians are elect or ordained by God according to His foreknowledge through the plan of salvation, that is, the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ. There are a few major points to be derived from this statement and these are as follows:

1. This foreknowledge is like predestination, and it does not take away man's ability to choose. What it really is that Yahweh foreknew, or knew beforehand that all those who are called and repent and believe the gospel, and abide in it shall be saved from sin.

2. Such people (the elect) are sanctified by the truth of the plan of salvation or are justified by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to fulfil their God-given purpose

Those who are elected according to the foreknowledge of

Yahweh and abide in that calling become conformed to the image of Yahweh in such a way that the faith governs their behaviour unto obedience.

1 Peter 1:3 As he addresses his audience, he also acknowledges the mercy of God (the Divine Nature) in redeeming us (justifying us) and as a result awakening hope in us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:4 from verse 3 we see that the hope that is awakened in us is of an inheritance that is pure and does not fade, and this hope is in heaven.

1 Peter 1:5 this hope is for those who abide in the faith of Jesus Christ leading them to pass safe in the judgement.

1 Peter 1:6 Seeing that we have this hope, we are encouraged to rejoice even though we may be going through affliction.

1 Peter 1:7 the reason for rejoicing is that the trying of our faith is much more precious than gold which perishes.

Two points can be derived from the above text:

1. The trying of our faith works endurance, (James 1:3, 4). When we endure trials (through faith), we are praising God, or glorifying Him, in that though we be tried, we do not give up the faith but continue to see Him as God alone and to present Him that way. An example is the trying of Job. Though he was severely afflicted, he did not reject

God, he was never found wanting, he endured trials by faith. Job held on to the fact that God is God alone and presented Him as God alone to those who were mocking him, and in that God was glorified.

2. Another point is that by enduring trials through faith, and continuing to glorify God, we will be kept in sinfreeness even at the second coming of Christ. So, Although the trying of our faith is for a season, it results in endurance which keeps us, not just for a season, but until the second coming of Christ. In other words, trials are for a season, but the faith (the word of God) endures forever. So, continual showing forth of the righteousness of God keeps us sinfree till the coming of Christ.

1 Peter 1:8-9 -So, the faith gives us endurance, making us sinfree until the coming of Christ, the same Jesus Christ whom we have not seen with our physical eyes, yet love. We do not currently see a physical manifestation of Him, but believe in Him and have hope in Him through faith. The hope that we have is that he will come again for us (another reason for rejoicing). So the hope that faith awakens in us when we abide is that we shall be maintained in sinfreeness, we will see Jesus Christ when He comes again and will be sure to pass safe in the judgement.

1 Peter 1:10-12 These texts show us that the prophets inquired and diligently searched concerning the Saviour Jesus Christ (the plan of salvation) and through the Holy Spirit they prophesied of His coming, even of His death and resurrection, though He was not manifested in their

time. These things the angels also gladly look into (it is also their desire to see God saving man from sin).

1 Peter 1:13 Peter instructs the Christians to “gird up the loins” of the mind. This statement suggests that Christians are to have their mental powers alert (with interest) in expectation of Christ’s second coming. In this text Peter is also giving admonition to remain sober that is to continue abiding in the pure doctrine of Christ. This soberness is a watchfulness which does not involve the drunkenness of false doctrine. So in other words, Peter is instructing believers to abide in the truth as they look forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ and hope to pass safe in the judgement. The only way one can have this spiritual watchfulness or alertness is by diligently studying the truth as it is revealed, and accepting it to the point that it affects their experience, or in a way that it governs their whole way of life.

1 Peter 1:14 -This is an encouragement to continue as obedient children, meaning “maintain your justification through faith, and return not to fulfil the lusts of the flesh which you had when you had the carnal mind.”

1 Peter 1:15-16 A call to holiness in our behaviour, just as Yahweh who called us unto this holy calling is holy. And this holiness can only be achieved when one continually abides in the faith of Jesus Christ, without which we cannot be holy. In other words, when God justifies us, and makes us holy, it is our duty to maintain this holiness and this is possible by continuing to study and abide in the truth which sanctifies us.

1 Peter 1:17-21 Peter is showing the need to seek Yahweh and abide in Him throughout our time on this earth, understanding that we were not freed from the carnal mind or justified by perishable things, or in other words we did not receive this justification as a result of our own works (“vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers”), but by the precious blood of the perfect Lamb of God (without sin) which was slain from the foundation of the world.

Two points to note from this are that:

1. He was slain from the foundation of the world, but appeared in the flesh (physical manifestation) as The Son of Man.
2. He revealed the plan of salvation to us and through His word of truth we now believe in God.

1 Peter 1:22-23 Seeing that we have been justified by faith through repenting and believing the gospel, it is now our duty to love one another with genuine love. This genuine love is a result of being born again of the pure word of God (“incorruptible seed”), which endures forever (it does not perish). Genuine love can only come as a result of the One who is love dwelling in us. Once we have the right relationship to God, we will have a right relationship with our fellow men (Love to God results in love to our fellow men).

1 Peter 1:24-25 In these last two verses, Peter is now showing a contrast between flesh and the word of God. In other words, the carnal mind (flesh) will end in death whereas, the one who abides in the faith (the word of God),

has the spiritual mind and will inherit everlasting life because the word which dwells in him is from everlasting to everlasting.

THE END

NOTES



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