

THE FIRST EPISTLE GENERAL OF PETER

¹ Peter an Apostle of Iesu Christ to them that dwell here and there as straungers thorowout Pontus Galacia Capadocia Asia and Bethinia ² electe by the forknowledge of God the father thorow the sanctifyinge of the sprete vnto obedience and springlinge of the bloud of Iesus Christ. Grace be with you and peace be multiplied. ³ Blessed be God the father of oure Lorde Iesus Christ which thorow is abundant mercie begat vs agayne vnto a lively hope by the resurreccion of Iesus Christ from deeth ⁴ to enioye an inheritaunce immortall and vndefiled and that purifieth not reserved in heven for you ⁵ which are kept by the power of God thorow fayth vnto salvacion which salvacion is prepared all redy to be shewed in the last tyme ⁶ in the which tyme ye shall reioyce though now for a season (if nede requyre) ye are in hevines thorowe manifolde temptacions, ⁷ that youre fayth once tried beinge moche more precious then golde that perissheth (though it be tried with fyre) myght be founde vnto lawde glory and honoure at the apperinge of Iesus Christ: ⁸ whom ye have not sene and yet love him in whom even now though ye se him not ye yet beleue and reioyce with ioye vnspeakable and glorious: ⁹ receavyng the ende of youre fayth the salvacion of youre soules. ¹⁰ Of which salvacion have the Prophetes enquyred

and searched which prophesied of the grace that shuld come vnto you ¹¹ searchinge when or at what tyme the sprete of Christ which was in them shuld signifie which sprete testified before the passions that shuld come vnto Christ and the glory that shuld folowe after: ¹² vnto which Prophetes it was declared that not vnto them selves but vnto vs they shuld minister the thinges which are now shewed vnto you of them which by the holy goost sent doune from heven have preached vnto you the thinges which the angels desyre to beholde. ¹³ Wherefore gyrde vp the loynes of youre myndes be sober and trust perfectly on the grace that is brought vnto you by the declaringe of Iesus Christ ¹⁴ as obedient chyl dren not facioninge youre selves vnto youre olde lustes of ignorancye: ¹⁵ but as he which called you is holy even so be ye holy in all maner of conuersacion ¹⁶ because it is written. Be ye holy for I am holy. ¹⁷ And yf so be that ye call on the father which with out respecte of person iudgeth accordinge to every manes worke se that ye passe the tyme of youre pilgrimage in feare. ¹⁸ For as moche as ye know how that ye were not redemed with corruptible sylver and golde from youre vayne conversacion which ye receaved by the tradicions of the fathers: ¹⁹ but with the precious bloud of Christ as of a lambe vndefiled and withouten spot ²⁰ which was ordeyened before the worlde was made: but was declared in the last tymes for youre sakes ²¹ which by his meanes have beleved on god

that rayseed him from deth and glorified him that youre fayth and hope myght be in god. ²² And for as moche as ye have purified youre soules thorowe the sprete in obeyinge the trueth for to love brotherly withouten saynyng se that ye love one another with a pure hert fervently: ²³ for ye are borne a newe not of mortall seed but of immortall by the worde of god which liveth and lasteth for ever. ²⁴ For all flesshe is as grasse and all the glory of man is as the floure of grasse. The grasse widdereth and the flower falleth away ²⁵ but the worde of the lorde endureth ever. And this is the worde which by the gossell was preached amonge you.

2

¹ Wherefore laye asyde all maliciousnes and all gyle and dissimulacion and envie and all back-bytyng: ² and as newe borne babes desyre that reasonable mylke which is with out corrupcion that ye maye growe therin. ³ If so be that ye have tasted how plesaunt the lorde is ⁴ to whom ye come as vnto a livyng stone disalowed of men but chosen of god and precious: ⁵ and ye as livyng stones are made a spretuall housse and an holy presthode for to offer vp spretuall sacryfice acceptable to god by Iesus Christ. ⁶ Wherefore it is contayned in the scripture: beholde I put in Sion an heed corner stone electe and precious: and he that beleveth on him shall not be ashamed. ⁷ Vnto you therefore which beleve he is precious: but vnto them which beleve not the stone which the bylders refused

the same is made the heed stone in the corner⁸ and a stone to stomble at and a rocke to offende them which stomble at the worde and beleve not that where on they were set.⁹ But ye are a chosyn generacion a royall presthod an holy nacion and a peculiar people that ye shuld shewe the vertues of him that called you out of darknes into hys marvelous light¹⁰ which in tyme past were not a people yet are now the people of God: which were not vnder mercye but now have obteyned mercye.¹¹ Derly beloved I beseche you as straegers and pilgrims abstayne from fleshly lustes which fyght agaynst the soule¹² and se that ye have honest conversacion amonge the getyls that they which backbyte you as evyll doars maye se youre good workes and prayse god in the daye of visitacion.¹³ Submit youre selves vnto all manner ordinaunce of man for the lordes sake whether it be vnto the kynge as vnto the chefe heed:¹⁴ other vnto rulars as vnto them that are sent of him for the punysshment of evyll doars: but for the laude of them that do well.¹⁵ For so is the will of god that ye put to sylence the ygnorancie of the folyshe men:¹⁶ as fre and not as havinge the libertie for a cloke of maliciousnes but even as the servautes of god.¹⁷ Honoure all men. Love brotherly felishippe. Feare god and honour the kynge.¹⁸ Servautes obey youre masters with all feare not only yf they be good and courteous: but also though they be frowarde.¹⁹ For it is thankeworthye yf a man for conscience towarde god endure grefe sufferinge wrongfully.²⁰ For what prayse

is it if when ye be buffeted for youre fautes ye take it paciently? But and yf when ye do well ye suffer wronge and take it paciently then is there thanke with God. ²¹ For herevnto verely were ye called: for Christ also suffered for vs levinge vs an insample that ye shuld folowe his steppes, ²² which dyd no sinne nether was ther gyle founde in his mouth: ²³ which when he was reviled reviled not agayne: when he suffered he threatened not: but committed the cause to him that iudgeth ryghteously ²⁴ which his awne silfe bareoure synnes in his body on the tree that we shuld be delyvered from synne and shuld lyve in rightewesnes. By whose strypes ye were healed. ²⁵ For ye were as shepe goinge astraye: but are now returned vnto the shepheard and bisshoppe of youre soules.

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¹ Lykewyse let the wyves be in subieccion to their husbandes that even they which beleve not the worde maye with out the worde be wonne by the conversacion of the wyves: ² whill they beholde youre pure coversacion coupled with feare. ³ Whose apparell shall not be outwarde with broyded heare and hanginge on of golde other in puttinge on of gorgious aparell: ⁴ but let the hyd man of the herte be incorrupt with a meke and a quyet sprete which sprete is before God a thinge moche set by. ⁵ For after this maner in the olde tyme dyd the holy wemen which trusted in God tyer the selves and were obediet to their husbandes ⁶ even as Sara obeyed Abraham

and called him Lorde: whose daughters ye are as longe as ye do well and be not afrayde of every shadowe. ⁷ Lyke wyse the men dwell with them accordinge to knowledge gevinge honoure vnto the wyfe as vnto the weaker vessell and as vnto them that are heyres also of the grace of lyfe that youre prayers be not let. ⁸ In conclusion be ye all of one mynde one suffre with another love as brethren be petifull be courteous ⁹ not redringe evyll for evyll nether rebuke for rebuke: but contrary wyse blesse remembringe that the are thervnto called even that ye shuld be heyres of blessinge. ¹⁰ If eny man longe after life and loveth to se good dayes let him refrayne his tonge from evyll and his lippes that they speake not gyle. ¹¹ Let him eschue evyll and do good: let him seke peace and ensue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lorde are over the righteous and his eares are open vnto their prayers. But the face of the Lorde beholdeth the that do evyll. ¹³ Moreover who is it that will harme you yf ye folowe that which is good? ¹⁴ Not withstondyng happy are ye yf ye suffre for rightewesnessis sake. Ye and feare not though they seme terrible vnto you nether be troubled: ¹⁵ but sanctifie the Lorde God in youre hertes. Be redy all wayes to geve an answer to every man that axeth you a reason of the hope that is in you and that with meaknes and feare: ¹⁶ haveinge a good consciene that when they backbyte you as evyll doars they maye be ashamed for as moche as they have falsely accused youre good conversacion in Christ. ¹⁷ It

is better (yf the wyll of God be so) that ye suffre for well doynge then for evyll doynge. ¹⁸ For as moche as Christ hath once suffered for synnes the iuste for the vniuste forto bringe vs to God and was kylled as pertayninge to the flesshe: but was quyckened in the sprete. ¹⁹ In which sprete he also wet and preached vnto the spretes that were in preson ²⁰ which were in tyme passed disobedient when the longe sufferinge of God abode excedinge paciently in the dayes of Noe whyll the arcke was a preparinge wherin feawe (that is to saye.viii soules) were saved by water ²¹ which signifieth baptism that now saveth vs not the puttinge awaye of the filth of the flesshe but in that a good conscience consenteth to God by the resurreccion of Iesus Christ ²² which is oure right honde of God and is gone into heven angels power and myght subdued vnto him.

4

¹ For as moche as christ hath suffred for vs in the flesshe arme youre selves lyke wyse with the same mynde: for he which suffereth in the flesshe ceasith from synne ² that he hence forwarde shuld lyve as moche tyme as remayneth in the flesshe: not after the lustes of men but after the will of God. ³ For it is sufficient for vs that we have spent the tyme that is past of the lyfe after the will of the gentylys walkinge in wantannes lustes dronkennes in eatinge drinkinge and in abominable ydolatrie. ⁴ And it semeth to them a straunge thinge that ye runne not also with them vnto the same

excesse of ryote and therefore speake they evill of you ⁵ which shall geve a comptes to him that is redy to iudge quycke and deed. ⁶ For vnto this purpose verely was the gospell preached vnto the (deed) that they shuld be condempned of men in the flesshe but shuld live before God in the sprete. ⁷ The ende of all thinges is at honde. Be ye therefore discrete and sober that ye maye be apte to prayers. ⁸ But above all thinges have fervet love amonge you. For love covereth the multitude of synnes. ⁹ Be ye herberous one to another and that with out grudginge. ¹⁰ As every man hath received the gyfte minister the same one to another as good ministers of the manyfolde grace of God. ¹¹ Yf eny man speake let him talke as though he spake the wordes of God. If eny man minister let him do it as of the abilitie which god ministreth vnto him. That god in all thinges maye be glorified thorow Iesus Christ to whom be prayse and dominion for ever and whyll the worlde stondest. Amen. ¹² Dearly beloved be not troubled in this heate which now is come amonge you to trye you as though some straunge thinge had happened vnto you: ¹³ but reioyce in as moche as ye are partetakers of Christes passions that when his glory appereth ye maye be mery and glad. ¹⁴ If ye be rayled vpon for the name of Christ happie are ye. For the sprete of glory and the sprete of god resteth apon you. On their parte he is evyll spoken of: but on youre parte he is glorified. ¹⁵ Se that none of you suffre as a murtherer or as a thefe or an evyll doar or as a busybody in other mens matters.

16 Yf eny man suffre as a Christe man let him not be ashamed: but let him glorifie god on his behalfe. 17 For the tyme is come that iudgement must begynne at the housse of god. If it fyrst begynne at vs what shall the ende be of them which beleve not the gospell of god? 18 And yf the righteous scasily be saved: where shall the vngodly and the sinner appere? 19 Wherefore let them that suffer accordynge to the will of god commit their soules to him with well doynge as vnto a faythfull creator.

5

1 The elders which are amonge you I exhorte which am also an elder and a witnes of the afflictions of Christ and also a partaker of the glory that shalbe opened: 2 se that ye fede Christes flocke which is amonge you takynge the oversyght of them 3 not as though ye were compelled therto but willyngly: not for the desyre of filthy lucre but of a good mynde. not as though ye were lordes over the parishes: but that ye be a insample to the flocke. 4 And when the chef shepheard shall appere ye shall receave an incorruptible croune of glorye. 5 Lykwyse ye yonger submit youre selves vnto the elder. Submit youre selves every man one to another knet youre selves togedder in lowlines of mynde. For god resisteth the proude and geveth grace to the humble. 6 Submit youre selves therefore vnder the myghty honde of god that he maye exalt you when the tyme is come. 7 Cast all youre care to him: for he careth for you. 8 Be

sober and watch for youre adversary the devyll as a rorynge lion walketh about sekyng whom he maye devoure: ⁹ whom resist stedfast in the fayth remebrynge that ye do but fulfill the same affliccions which are apoynted to youre brethren that are in the worlde. ¹⁰ The God of all grace which called you vnto his eternall glory by Christ Iesus shall his awne silfe after ye have soffred a lytell affliccion make you perfect: shall settle strenght and stablishe you. ¹¹ To him be glory and dominion for ever and whill the worlde endureth Amen. ¹² By Silvanus a faythfull brother vnto you (as I suppose) have I written brefly exhortynge and testifyinge how that this is the true grace of god wherin ye stonde. ¹³ The companions of youre eleccion that are at Babilon, saluteth you and Marcus my sonne. ¹⁴ Grete ye one another with the kysse of love. Peace be with you all which are in Christ Iesus. Amen.

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