

The 2 letters that Peter wrote
The 1st letter that Peter wrote
This page tells a bit more about
Peter's 1st letter

Peter was one of the 12 close followers of Jesus. He lived with Jesus and knew him well.

Peter wrote 2 letters that are now part of the Holy Bible. This is the 1st one.

Peter wrote this letter about 35 years after Jesus went back to heaven. He wrote to Christians that lived in many different places. At that time people kept making trouble for Christians. Some people were hurting the Christians, and some were even killing them.

Many Christians were very afraid and sad. Peter wanted these Christians to be brave, not afraid. So he wrote this letter to make them strong and happy. He didn't want them to stop following Jesus. He got them to remember that God is great and always takes good care of his people. This was Peter's message,

- Don't be sad.
- If trouble comes, we can grow strong.
- God wants us to grow strong like Jesus.
- Jesus never stopped listening to God.
- People made trouble for Jesus but he always did the right thing and good thing.

Peter didn't want these Christians to listen to people that were teaching things that were wrong. Peter knew that Jesus will come back again, and he wanted them to be ready for him.

¹ I am Peter, and this letter is from me. I'm sending it to you people that God picked to be in his family. I'm sending it to you Christians in a lot of different places, called Pontus, and Galatia, and Cappadocia, and Asia, and Bithynia. You now live in those places like you are strangers, living away from your homes.

I work for Jesus Christ. He sent me to do this work.

² A long time ago God, our Father, knew you and he picked you out to be in his family. His spirit picked you out from other people to make you his special people. You listened to Jesus's words and you did whatever he said, so God made you good for himself. Jesus died and his blood came out, and it is like God put that blood of Jesus on you to make you clean.

I'm asking God to be properly good to you, and to make you feel really happy and quiet inside yourselves.

God keeps good things for us

³ God is very good to us. We went wrong, but still he is good to us. Now he puts new life in us, like we get born all over again. Jesus died, but God brought him back to life. From that we know God will save us too. So let us thank God, the Father of our leader, Jesus, and say that he is really good. ⁴ We are his family, so he will give us a lot of good things. He has it all ready in heaven for us, so now we just wait for those things. God looks after them all there for us in heaven. They will never rot or get dirty there, and nobody can ever mess them up. ⁵ God has a lot of power and he looks after us, all of us that trust him. He will look after us until the last day. Then he will show everyone that he saved us.

⁶ So think about all this and you will get really happy. You might get different kinds of trouble now and you

might be sad for a little while, but think about the things that will happen later, and you will be really happy. In the end God will save you from those troubles.

⁷ You know about gold. It is very dear. People put that gold into a fire to make it really clean. The fire makes it better after it burns away all the rubbish that isn't real gold. But even gold will not last for ever. It belongs to this world. Now think about the troubles that come to us. They make us better because they show that we really trust God. If we keep trusting him, God will say, "You are very dear to me. You are much more dear to me than gold." So keep trusting God and after Jesus comes again, God will talk to you like that, and make you important.

⁸ You have never seen Jesus, but you love him. You can't see him now, but you trust him. ⁹ You are trusting God and he is saving you, so you are really happy. You are so happy you can't properly say how happy you are.

¹⁰ A long time ago, the men that brought God's messages told about God. They said that he is good, and he saves us. ¹¹ At that time they wanted to find out more about God saving people. The spirit of Jesus Christ was in them and showed them that at first Jesus will get big trouble and he will die. But after that, God will make Jesus really important. ¹² His spirit told them that this word wasn't for themselves, but it was for you. That all happened a long time ago, and now God's people have told you that good word about Jesus. The Holy Spirit from heaven gave them power to talk to you.

This is all very wonderful. Even God's angels in heaven don't know all about the things that God does to save people, and they want to find out more.

Stay away from things that are bad

¹³ So you have to think about it more clearly and be careful about everything you do. Keep waiting for Jesus to come and get ready for him. God will show him to everybody, and he will be very good to you at that time.

¹⁴ In the past you didn't know that God was good, so at that time you did all the bad things you wanted to do.

¹⁵ But now you are God's children. So you have to stop doing those bad things, and be properly good and right, just like God. He picked you out for himself. So you have to be good, just like him.

¹⁶ In his book we read, "God is properly good and he keeps away from everything that is bad, so you have to be like that too, you have to be properly good and keep away from everything that is bad."

¹⁷ You know that God is our Father, and you pray to him. He looks at everything we do, and he treats us in a fair way. You are only living in this world a little while, like you are strangers here. Later you will live in God's family in heaven. So you have to properly respect God.

¹⁸ Your grand-parents and elders taught you some good ways to live, but they didn't teach you God's way. That old way was useless, and you weren't free. But God has saved you from that wrong way. He paid a lot to set you free from that old way. Sometimes people pay money to get somebody out of prison and let them go free. But money doesn't last for ever. ¹⁹ So God didn't pay money to set you free. He did more than that. I'll tell you the price he paid for you. Do you remember the old Jewish ceremonies? Do you remember that they used to pick a young sheep that had nothing wrong with it, and they gave that sheep to God? Well that is a picture of Jesus. There was nothing wrong with him and he never did anything wrong. He was perfect. But they killed Jesus. He bled and died for

you. This is the price God paid to set you free, and it is better than money, it lasts for ever. You see, you belong to God now.

²⁰⁻²¹ A long time ago, before God made the world, he picked Jesus to set you free. Then, later, Jesus came into the world. And now you know about him. You know that he died for you, and so you believe in God too. After Jesus died God made him alive again, and God made him very great and gave him a lot of power. Now you can trust God and wait for everything he promised you.

²² You listened to the true message from God, and you did everything he said in that message. Then God cleaned up your lives and you stopped doing bad things. So now you love each other. Well, keep on loving each other very much. ²³ God has given you new life. It's not like the life you got from your mother and father. That life will end. But when you listened to God's message, he gave you new life, like you got born again. Your new life will not end, because God's word will never finish up. It lives for ever.

²⁴ In his book we read,
All people are like grass.
They are beautiful like flowers in the bush.
But grass gets dry and dies,
and so do the flowers in the bush.

²⁵ But God's word will never die, it will last for ever.
And that is the message which God's people told you.

God's word makes you grow

2

¹ So clean up your lives and stop doing bad things. Don't tell lies but tell the straight and true story. Don't say you are good if you're not. Stop being jealous and stop wanting the things that other people have. Don't rubbish

another person. ² You see, you have to know God's word better and better. Little babies always want milk. It makes them grow and get strong. Well, just like that, if you know God's word better it makes your spirits get strong, and God saves you. ³ You see, you already found out that Jesus Christ is really good.

We are joined to Jesus

⁴ I will tell you a picture story about the way men build a house out of stone. At first they put one good stone in its place. This stone is the important one. They join all the other stones together on to this important stone. Well, this is a picture of Jesus Christ and us. Well, he is like that most important stone. Other people didn't want him, but God picked him to be the most important one. So come to Jesus and join up with him. ⁵ Just like stones join together to make a house, you join up with Jesus to make a sacred house for God, so he will live with you. You are like the men that look after God's ceremonies and that give him good things. Jesus will help you do this and God will be happy with whatever you do. ⁶ This is what God says about Jesus in his book,
Look I picked out a person that is very dear to me.
He is like that most important stone.
And I put him in that town called Jerusalem.
And if you trust him, God will never shame you.

⁷ You do trust him, so he is very important for you. But he isn't important to those that don't trust him. We read this in God's book,
The one that the leaders didn't want
is now the most important one.

⁸ God's book also has this about Jesus,
He will be like a stone that people trip over,
so that they fall down and hurt themselves.

They hurt themselves because they don't listen to God's word and they don't do anything it says. Long ago God said this will happen to them.

⁹ But you are the people God picked out for himself. Together you work for him, like the men that look after his ceremonies. You are his own family. God called you away from doing bad things, so you can do good things. It is like you used to live in the dark so that nobody could see you do bad things there, but now he called you away from that to live in his good light. So let's tell everyone that God is really great and really good. ¹⁰ At one time you were not God's family, but now, you are in his family. At one time you didn't understand that God is very good, but now you know that he is. He was very good to you. He saved you.

Keep doing whatever is right and good

¹¹ My friends, your real home is in heaven but right now you are like strangers here in this world. I'm telling you this really strongly. Sometimes you will really want to do something bad, like other people here, but you have to be strong and leave it. You will think, "I really want to do that bad thing," but then you will think, "My spirit is telling me it is the wrong thing to do." So you've got to leave it. ¹² You live in the same place with people that don't follow Jesus. You have to make up your mind to always do things that are good. Sometimes people might tell lies and blame you and say you have done wrong. But if you always keep doing whatever is right, they will notice that you do good things. Later, after God comes to judge everybody, they will remember the good things you did, and they will respect him.

Show respect to your leaders

¹³ Our leader, Jesus, wants you to listen to your community leaders and government leaders, and do whatever they say. You have to do this for the most important government boss, ¹⁴ and for the ones that he puts up to be your judges. They punish anyone that does wrong. They also notice the people that do the right things and they tell everybody that these people are good.

¹⁵ God wants you to live the right way, and if you do that, nobody will have anything to say against you. Those people that want to blame you for no reason or tell lies about you, they will not be able to say anything.

¹⁶ You know you are free from that old Jewish law, but that doesn't mean that you can do something that is wrong. You belong to God and work for him, so you have to do whatever is right. ¹⁷ Show respect to everyone. Love other Christians a lot. Thank God and respect him for being good and great. And show respect to the big government boss.

Be like Jesus

¹⁸ Some of you are working men. You belong to your bosses. Maybe your boss is good to you, or maybe your boss is rough on you. It doesn't matter. You have to listen carefully to your boss anyway and do whatever he tells you. Sometimes you do nothing wrong, but your boss makes trouble for you or hits you because you are following Jesus. You have to respect him anyway and take it quietly. Don't try to pay him back. ¹⁹ Then God will be pleased with you and he will say that you are good. ²⁰ But if you do wrong, and your boss hits you, and you take it quietly, that is just the way it goes. Everyone knows you did wrong, so nobody will say that you are good for taking it quietly. But sometimes somebody might punish you for

nothing. You have to be like Jesus and take it quietly. ²¹ If you do that then God will say that you are good. Jesus Christ did nothing wrong, but people beat him. They killed him for nothing. God wants you to copy him and live good, like Jesus lived.

²² In God's book we read this about Jesus, He never did anything bad, he never lied.

²³ People rubbished him, but he didn't rubbish them back. They hit him, with whips, but he didn't talk to them in a bad way. No, he trusted God. God is the one that judges fairly. ²⁴ Jesus never did bad, but he died in our place there on the cross. He died so that we will stop doing bad but instead we will do the right things. God fixed you up and made you his family. ²⁵ Before that you were like sheep, going the wrong way and getting lost. But now you have come back to God and he looks after you and keeps you safe.

3

This is about wives and husbands

¹ Now I'm talking to you women that are married. You have to listen to your own husbands. Some husbands don't do what God's word says, but if they see you living right they will want to come to God. You don't have to say a word, you just have to live right. ² They will see that you are really good and that you listen to God.

³⁻⁴ How can you women be beautiful? This is the way. Be gentle and quiet inside yourselves. If you are beautiful this way, you will stay beautiful for ever, even after you get old. But if you just do things like you colour your hair and do it up, or if you have gold rings and necklaces, or if you have pretty clothes, you might think you are

beautiful, but those things don't last for ever. So be gentle and calm. Don't get angry easily. God really wants you to be beautiful this way. ⁵ Long ago the women that really trusted God were like that. They listened to their husbands and did whatever their husbands wanted. ⁶ Remember Sarah, a woman that lived long ago. She listened to her husband Abraham. She called him, "My good boss." So don't you be afraid to do anything that is right. Then you will be like grand-daughters of Sarah.

⁷ Now I'm talking to you men that are married. You have to respect your wives and take good care of them. Their bodies aren't strong like yours. But all of you are God's people, so he gave them life, just the same as he gave you life. So remember that, and be good to them and respect them. Then God will hear your prayers.

If people make trouble for you

⁸ Now all of you listen to this also. Remember you are all in the same family, so stay together and gently care for one another. Be good to each other. Don't think about yourself like you are great, and don't say bad things about each other. ⁹ If somebody rubbishes you, don't rubbish them back. If somebody does wrong to you, don't payback wrong to them. Instead of that, you have to ask God to be good to them. God picked you to be his family and to live like this, and then he will be good to you. ¹⁰ We read this in God's book,

If you want to live well and be happy,
don't speak badly about others.

Don't lie to them.

¹¹ Turn away from doing bad,
and do good.

Don't make trouble.

Try very hard to live happily with other people.

¹² God looks after people that live the right way, and he listens carefully to what they ask him.

But God fights against those people that are doing wrong.

¹³ So if you want to do good, nobody will want to punish you. ¹⁴ But sometimes, even if you do what's right, some people will make trouble for you. If that happens, don't be afraid of them and don't worry about anything they might do to you, because God will be very good to you.

¹⁵ Always remember that Jesus Christ is the really important one. He is your good leader, so listen to him. People might say to you, "How come you are happy as you wait for God to do things for you? Can you explain that to me?" So you always have to be ready to explain it to them. ¹⁶ Tell them clearly and respect them as you talk to them. Make sure you aren't ashamed because of something wrong that you did. Some people rubbish Christians, but if they see you doing the right things they will be ashamed of themselves.

¹⁷ If you do wrong and then people treat you badly, that's fair enough. But if you do good and people treat you badly, that is even better. ¹⁸ All of us have done wrong, but Jesus Christ had pain and died instead of us. He himself never did anything wrong but he died for us, to make the way for us to go to God and become his family. Jesus died just once but God remembers it for ever. People killed Jesus, but God's spirit made him alive again. ¹⁹ Then Jesus went to the place where the spirits of dead people wait, like they are in jail, and he talked to them there.

²⁰ These were the people that lived a long time ago, at the same time that Noah lived, but they didn't listen to God and they didn't do anything God told them to do. They took no notice of him. God was kind to them and waited while Noah built that big boat. Only 8 people got

into that boat. Then God sent a very big rain. Water covered everything, and everyone drowned. God saved only those 8 people that were in the boat. ²¹ That water is a picture that God gave ahead of time for us. It is a picture of the time our Christian leaders put us under the water to baptise us. They didn't do that to wash the dirt off the outside of us. No. It is like this, we ask God to make us clean on the inside, so we will not be ashamed any more. Remember that after Jesus died he came back to life again, and in that way he saved us. ²² Jesus is now in heaven with God in the most important place, at his right-hand side. All the angels, and all the bad spirits, and all bosses everywhere, they haven't got as much power as Jesus. No. He is the strongest one. He has more power than all of them.

4

Live like God wants

¹ Remember that Jesus Christ got trouble while he lived on earth. Well, you will get trouble too, so get ready for it and don't get upset about it. If you get trouble it will make you strong, and you will not worry about that trouble if it comes. After you get that trouble you will not want to do bad things any more, ² but you will always want to do the things that God wants. If you think you might want to do something bad you will just turn away from it.

³ In the past you did lots of wrong things. You lived like people that didn't know God. You just did whatever bad things you wanted to do. You slept with people that you were not married to, and you did with them what a husband and wife do together. You got drunk. You went to wild parties. You showed respect for statues that men made. That was really bad. But no more now.

That's enough of doing those bad things. ⁴ Some of your friends keep doing bad things and don't care if they mess themselves up. But you say, "No," and you don't go with them. So they are surprised and they rubbish you and make fun of you. ⁵ But they will have to face God. He is ready to be their judge. They will have to try to answer him about the bad things they do. ⁶ He will judge everyone, people that are still living and people that are dead. That is why Jesus told the good news to people that already died. At the time when they were alive they did wrong, so God said they had to die, but now their spirits can become alive again and live God's way.

Do good to each other

⁷ The last day will come soon, so you have to think clearly and be careful about everything you do. Then you can talk to God properly. ⁸ And this is most important, you've got to keep loving each other very much. People might do wrong to you, but if you love them you will be good to them and you will not pay them back. ⁹ If there are people that need food or a place to stay, then share your home with them and don't grumble about it.

¹⁰ God has given each one of you a different way to do good for each other. He has given you the power to do it, so you have to do it properly. ¹¹ If you can tell stories to people, then tell them God's story, and tell it clearly. If you can help other people, then let God make you strong so you can help them properly. Do everything properly so that people will see it and they will say that God is really great. They know that you follow Jesus, so they will thank God for sending Jesus to us. Jesus has really great power now and he will stay like that for ever. That's true.

We all get troubles

¹² My dear Christian friends. You are following Jesus, and from that you are getting trouble. So don't be surprised about it. God lets you get this trouble. ¹³ You are getting trouble just like Jesus got trouble, so be happy. Don't be sad. Jesus will come and show everyone that he is Number One, and you will be very happy then, because you are his relatives. ¹⁴ Maybe people are making fun of you because you follow Jesus, but don't worry, God is happy with you and God's spirit is with you. His spirit is great and has a lot of power.

¹⁵ But don't do wrong so that people give you trouble to punish you. If a person kills another person he gets trouble, or if a person steals things he gets trouble, or if he is bossy to others he gets trouble. You can't do wrong like that.

¹⁶ But if people make trouble for you because you follow Jesus, don't feel ashamed. No. Just thank God that you belong to Jesus.

¹⁷ It is time now for God to start judging everybody, and he will start with his own family. He will say to some of us, "You have done well," or maybe he will say to some, "You have not done well." He will talk this way to his own family. Then after that he will judge those that didn't want to listen to his good story. He will be really rough on those people. ¹⁸ God's book has this,
People that live right will get troubles,
but God will save them.
But what about those that do bad
and never listen to God?
They will not have a chance.
He will be very tough on them.

¹⁹ So if God lets trouble come to you Christians, don't leave him. Keep on doing whatever is right and keep

trusting him. He made you, and he promised you good things. He does everything that he promises to do, so you can trust your life to him. And keep on doing whatever is right.

5

This is a message for Christian leaders

¹ Now I'm talking to you Christian leaders there. I am also a leader. I was with Jesus Christ too. I saw him get trouble. I saw the people blame him by telling lies and then they killed him. But, later, he will show everyone that he is great, and I will be there too and I will be happy there with him.

² You church leaders have to look after God's people. He gave you this job, to look after them, so do it like a man that looks after sheep. He always looks after them properly and doesn't let anybody hurt them. God wants you leaders to be like that. You have to look after his people and help them. So be happy while you do this job. Don't just do it for money. ³ Don't be bossy. You have to follow Jesus properly, so they will see the things that you do, and they will follow him the same way as you do.

⁴ Then, later, Jesus will come back, and he will be happy with your work and he will give you the prize that will last for ever. He is the leader of all of us and he looks after us properly.

This is a message for young people

⁵ Listen, you young people, it is like this. You have to carefully listen to your Christian leaders. Don't act smart and think you are important. Think about what we read in God's book about people that think they are important. We read this,

“Some people think they are important and always right.
God is against those people.

But he is good to people that don't think about themselves
like that.”

This is a message for everyone

⁶ God is great and powerful, so remember that you are little, and you aren't important at all. Wait for him, and at the right time he will show everybody that he respects you. ⁷ God loves you and he is looking after you, so tell him about everything that makes you sad, or angry, or worried, and trust him to look after you properly.

⁸ You have to think clearly and watch out for your enemy, the big boss devil, He is like a wild animal going around and looking for somebody to kill and eat. You have to watch out carefully and don't listen to him.

⁹ Don't be frightened of him but keep trusting Jesus very much. Remember, you are not alone. All over the world Christians are getting trouble just like you are. People fight them because they follow Jesus.

¹⁰ But trouble doesn't last for ever. After you have trouble for a short time God will make you strong and give you power, so you can trust him properly. God is very good. He picked you out to join you up with Jesus Christ, so in the end you will be very great with Jesus for ever.

¹¹ God is very powerful now, and he will keep being very powerful for ever. That's true.

About this letter

¹² This is just a short letter to you. Silas helped me write it. He is our Christian brother and he follows Jesus properly. I want you to be happy and strong, so I'm writing this letter to you. And I want you to remember

that God is very good, so keep thinking about how good he is. Then you will keep on trusting him.

Hello from other Christians

¹³ The people here in the church in Babylon say hello to you. God has made them his family, just like you. Do you remember Mark? He is here with me and he is like a son to me. He says hello to you too.

¹⁴ Whenever you meet together, show each other that you love each other as Christian brothers and sisters.

I ask God to make all you Christians very happy.

From Peter

Plain English Version
Portions of the Holy Bible in the Plain English Version translation
for Australian Aboriginal people who speak English as a second
language

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