

**The 1st letter that Peter
wrote
(The book in the Holy Bible
called 1 Peter)
About this letter**

Peter was one of Jesus's 12 special workers. He went everywhere with Jesus and knew him well.

Peter wrote 2 letters that are now in the Holy Bible. This is the 1st letter. He wrote it about 2,000 years ago, about 30 years after Jesus went back to heaven. He sent it to Christians that lived in lots of different places.

At that time there were people that kept on making trouble for Christians. Some people were hurting the Christians, and some were even killing them. Lots of Christians were very frightened and sad.

Peter wanted those Christians to be brave, not frightened. So he wrote this letter to help them be 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.

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

These words that Peter wrote to them have very important messages for all of us Christians.

¹ I am Peter, and this letter is from me. I am one of Jesus Christ's special workers.

I'm sending this letter 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 Capadoshia, and Asia, and Bithinia. You had to leave your homes, and now you live in those places.

² A long time ago, God, our father, knew you, and he picked you 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. 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 he feels sorry for us, and 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 that 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 them 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 that, and you will get really happy. You might get different sorts 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 special. People put that gold into a fire to make it really clean. The fire makes it better, 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 on trusting him, God will say, "You are very special to me. You are much more special to me than gold." So keep on trusting God, and after Jesus comes again, God will talk to you like that, and he will make you important.

⁸⁻⁹ You never saw Jesus, but you love him. You can't see him now, but you trust him. 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.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ A long time ago, the men that brought God's messages told people about God. They said that he is good, and that he saves us. At that time, they wanted to find out more about God saving people, so they carefully tried to find out

more about the man that God promised to send to save people, called the Christ. The spirit of Jesus Christ was in them and showed them that at first the Christ was going get big trouble, and he was going to die. But after that, God would make him really important. So they wanted to know who the Christ was and when he was going to come.

¹² His spirit told them that the message 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 message 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. But now you are God's kids. So you have to stop doing those bad things,

¹⁵ and you have to be properly good and right, just like God. He picked you for himself. So you have to be good, just like him.

¹⁶ You see, God's book says this,

“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 you have to 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. So you have to properly respect God now. You don't belong to this world, you are only living here for a little while, but later you will live with God.

18 Your grand-parents and elders tried to teach you the way 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. You know the old Jewish ceremonies. You know that they pick a young sheep that has nothing wrong with it, and they kill it to give it to God. Well, that is a picture of Jesus. There was nothing wrong with him, and he never did anything wrong. But people killed him. He bled and died for you. That 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.

* **1:16** Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2

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 gave you new life. It's not like the life you got from your mother and father. That life will end. But when you listened properly 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 God says this in his book,
 "All people are like grass with pretty flowers,
 they are beautiful for some time, but then they
 die.

²⁵ But God's word will never die, it will last for ever."*

And that is the message about Jesus that God's people told you.

2

God's word makes you grow

* **1:25** Isaiah 40:6-8

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 are not. Stop being jealous of other people, don't hate them because they have something that you don't have. And don't rubbish another person.

² Instead, you have to keep learning more of God's word. Think about little babies. They always want milk. It makes them grow and get strong. Well, they are a picture of you Christians. You have to keep wanting more of God's word, and it will make you believe more strongly, and then God will save you.

³ You already know that Jesus Christ is really good to you, so you have to live his way.*

We are joined to Jesus

⁴ I will tell you a picture story about how people build a house out of stone. At first they put one good stone in its place. That stone is the important one. They join all the other stones together on to this important stone. Well, that is a picture of Jesus Christ and us. 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 special house for God, so he will live with you. And Jesus will help you do good things and make God happy, just like the men that look after God's ceremonies gave

* **2:3** Psalm 34:8

him good things to show him respect and make him happy.

⁶ You see, God says this in his book,
 “Look, I picked out a person that is very special to me.

He is like that most important stone.

And I put him among my people in my special city called Jerusalem.

And if you trust him, you will always know that you are going the right way, and he will save you.”

That’s what God said.*

⁷ And you mob do that. You trust Jesus. You know that he is important. But people that don’t trust him don’t know that he is important. God says this about them in his book,

“Some work-men built a house out of stones, but the work-men thought one of the stones was rubbish, so they chucked it away.

They were wrong. That stone was properly good, and now God made it the most important stone of all.”*

⁸ God says this about Jesus too, in his book,

“He will be like a stone that people trip over, so that they fall down and hurt themselves.”*

You see, people that don’t trust in Jesus, they go wrong and stop following God. It’s like they fall down and hurt themselves. They go wrong because they don’t listen to God’s word, and they don’t do what it says. You know, God planned all that trouble for them a long time ago.

* **2:6** Isaiah 28:16

* **2:7** Psalm 118:22

* **2:8** Isaiah 8:14

⁹ But you are the people God picked out for himself. Together you work for him, like the men that looked 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 his family. At one time you didn't understand that God is very good, but now you know that he is. He felt sorry for you, and he was very good to you. He saved you.*

Keep on doing whatever is right and good

¹¹ My friends, you belong to God. You don't belong to this world. Right now you are like strangers here in this world. So I'm telling you this really strongly. Sometimes you will really want to do something bad, like the people that belong to this world do, 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 that 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. So you have to make up your mind to always do things that are good. Sometimes people might tell lies and blame you

* **2:9** Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 43:20-21; Deuteronomy 4:20; 7:6; 14:2;

Titus 2:14; Isaiah 9:2 * **2:10** Hosea 2:23

and say you have done wrong. But if you always keep on doing whatever is right, they will see 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.

Do what government leaders say

¹³ Our leader, Jesus, wants you to listen to your community leaders and government leaders, and do what they say. You have to do that for the biggest government boss,

¹⁴ and do it too for the other bosses, like police and judges. The biggest boss gave them those jobs, to punish anyone that does wrong. They also know about the people that do the right things, and they tell everybody that those people are good.

¹⁵ God wants you to live the right way, and if you do that, nobody will have anything bad 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 that you are free from that old Jewish law, but that doesn't mean that you can do things that are wrong. You belong to God, and you work for him, so you have to do whatever is right.

¹⁷ You have to respect everyone. And love other Christians a lot. And thank God and respect him for being good and great. And respect the big government boss too.

Be like Jesus

18-19 Some of you are workers that belong to your bosses. Maybe your boss is good to you, or maybe your boss is hard on you. It doesn't matter. You have to listen carefully to your boss anyway and do what your boss tells you. Sometimes you don't do anything wrong, but your boss makes trouble for you or hits you because you are following Jesus. You have to respect your boss anyway and take it quietly. Don't try to do payback to your boss. Then God will be pleased with you, and he will say that you are good.

20 But if you do something wrong and your boss hits you, and if you take it quietly, that is just the way it goes. Everyone knows you did something wrong, so nobody will say that you are good for taking it quietly. But sometimes somebody might punish you for doing something good. You have to be like Jesus and take it quietly. If you do that, then God will say that you are good.

21 Jesus Christ did nothing wrong, but people hurt him and killed him. And God wants you to be like Jesus, and to live the same way that he lived.

22 God says this in his book,
"He never did anything bad,
he never lied or tried to trick anyone."*

23 People rubbished him, but he didn't rubbish them back. They hit him with whips, but he

* 2:22 Isaiah 53:9

didn't talk to them in a bad way. No, he trusted God. God is the one that judges fairly.*

²⁴ Jesus never did anything bad, but he died instead of us there on the cross. He took the payback for the bad things that we did. He died so that we can stop doing bad things, so that instead, we will do the right things. Jesus let them hurt him so that God can make us clean on the inside. It's like we are sick, but God can make us better.*

²⁵ Before that, you were going the wrong way and getting lost like sheep. But now you have come to Jesus, and he looks after you and shows you the right way to live, just like a man looks after his sheep.*

3

This is about wives and husbands

¹ Now I'm talking to you women that are married. You have to think about what your husbands want and agree with them. 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 properly to God.

³⁻⁴ You women will be really beautiful if you live in a quiet way, and don't try to be important. If you are beautiful inside like that, you will stay beautiful for ever, even after you get old. But if

* **2:23** Isaiah 53:7 * **2:24** Isaiah 53:5 * **2:25** Isaiah 53:6

you just do things like 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 quiet inside yourselves, and don't try to be important. God really wants you to be beautiful that way.*

⁵ A long time ago, the women that really trusted God were like that. They thought about what their husbands wanted and agreed with them.

⁶ Remember Sarah, a woman that lived a long time ago. She listened to her husband, Abraham, and she did what he wanted. She called him, "My good boss." So always do what is right, and don't be frightened of anyone. Then you will be like grand-daughters of Sarah.*

⁷ And you men that are married, you have to do your part too. 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 God 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 too. Remember that you are all in the same family, so you have to think the same way about what is right. And you have to care for each other properly. Don't

* 3:3-4 1 Timothy 2:9 * 3:6 Genesis 18:12

think you are great. Try to understand how other people are feeling and be good to them.

⁹ If somebody rubbishes you, don't rubbish them back. If somebody does wrong to you, don't do payback to them. Instead of that, you have to ask God to be good to them. God picked you to be in his family and to live like that. And if you are good to people like that, God will be good to you too.

¹⁰ God says this in his book,
"If you want to live well and be happy,
don't talk badly about other people,
and 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 punishes people that do bad things."*

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 frightened 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, "Tell us,
why are you sure that God will do good things

* **3:12** Psalm 34:12-16 * **3:14** Matthew 5:10; Isaiah 8:12-13

for you?" So you always have to be ready to help them understand why you are sure.

¹⁶ Tell them clearly, and respect them as you talk to them. Make sure you always live the right way, so you don't feel shame. Some people rubbish Christians, but if they see you doing the right things, they will feel shame about themselves.

¹⁷ If you do something wrong, and then people give you trouble, that's fair enough. But it is much better to do good things, even if people give you trouble for doing those good things.

¹⁸ All of us have done wrong things, so we should die, but Jesus Christ died instead of us. He took the payback for the bad things we did. He never did anything wrong himself, but he died instead of us, so that we can 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 They 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. But God wanted them to turn back to him, and he 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 of the baptism ceremony. Like 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's like that water washed the shame from inside us. When we asked those leaders to baptise us, we asked God to make us clean on the inside, so that we will not feel shame any more. So God saves us and gives us new life. Yes, we can have new life because, after Jesus died, he came back to life again.

²² Jesus is now in heaven with God in the most important place, at God's right-hand side. All the angels, and all the bad spirits, and all the bosses everywhere, they haven't got as much power as Jesus. No. He is the strongest one anywhere. 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 because you belong to Jesus, that shows that you want to live God's way and don't do bad things any more.

² It shows that you want to do the things that God wants. So whenever you want to do something bad, you have to turn away from it and live God's way.

* **3:20** Genesis 6:1—7:24

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 people made. That was really bad. But you don't do those bad things now.

⁴ Some of your friends keep on doing lots of bad things, and they don't care about it. But you say, "No," and you don't do those bad things with them. So they are surprised, and they rubbish you.

⁵ But they will have to face God. He is ready to be their judge. He will judge everyone, people that are still living and people that are dead. He will ask them about the bad things they did, and they will have to answer him.

⁶ That is the reason why we told the good news about Jesus to people that are dead now. We told them the good news, then later their bodies died, like all people have to die because they did bad things. But we wanted them to trust in Jesus, so that at the time when God judges everyone, he will make them alive again, and they will live with him for ever.

Do good things for each other

⁷ You know, God will finish up everything soon. So now you have to think clearly, and be careful about everything you do, so that you can talk to God properly when you pray.

⁸ And this is the most important thing you've got to do, you've got to keep on loving each other very much. Even if somebody does something bad to you, you have to love them, and be good to them anyway, and don't do payback to them.*

⁹ If there are other Christians that need food or a place to stay, then share your home with them and don't complain to anyone about it.

¹⁰ God has given each one of you different ways to do good for each other. He has given you the power to do them, so you have to do them 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 when people see it, they might say that God is really great. If they know that you follow Jesus, they might thank God for sending Jesus to us. Jesus has really great power now, and he will have that power for ever. That's true.

We all get troubles

¹² My friends, you are following Jesus, and from that you are getting trouble. Don't be surprised about it. God lets you get that trouble to show that you really trust Jesus.

¹³ You are getting trouble just like Jesus got trouble, so be happy. Don't be sad. Then on the day that Jesus comes back and shows everyone that he is really great, you will be very happy.

* **4:8** Proverbs 10:12

14 Maybe people are making fun of you because you follow Jesus. But don't worry, it shows that God is happy with you, and that God's spirit is with you. His spirit is great and has a lot of power.

15 You know that people that do wrong things get trouble. Don't be like them. Don't kill another person. Don't steal things. Don't make trouble for other people. Don't do wrong things like that.

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

17 It is time now for God to start judging everybody. He will be good to some people, and he will give trouble to other people. He will judge his own people first. They might get some trouble now, but it will not last for ever. But later, he will judge the people that didn't want to listen to his good story. He will be really hard on them, he will give them lots of trouble.

18 God says this in his book,
"People that live right will get some troubles,
but God will save them.
But what about those people that do bad things
and never listen to God?
God will not save them.
He will punish them."*

19 So if God lets you Christians get trouble, keep on trusting him, and keep on doing whatever is right. He made you, and he promised to save

* **4:18** Proverbs 11:31

you, and he does everything that he promises to do, so you can trust him to do that.

5

This is a message for Christian leaders

¹ Now I'm talking to you Christian leaders. I am a leader too, and I was with Jesus Christ, and I saw him get trouble. I saw people blame him by telling lies, and I saw them kill 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. God gave you the job to look after them, so you have to do it properly, like a man with sheep looks after them properly. God wants you leaders to be happy while you do that job. Don't just do it because you think you have to, or because you want money. Do it because you want to help God's people.* ³ Don't be bossy. Instead, show them how to follow Jesus. You have to follow Jesus properly, so they will see the way you follow him, and they will follow him properly too.

⁴ Then, later, Jesus will come back, and he will be happy with your work, and he will make you great, 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 listen carefully to your Christian leaders. Don't think you are great or more important

* 5:2 John 21:15-17

than other people. Think about what God says in his book. He says,
“God is against people that think they are great, but he is good to people that know they are not great.”*

This is a message for everyone

⁶ God is great and powerful, so remember that you are not important at all. Wait for him, and at the right time, he will get everybody to respect 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 devil. He is the boss over all the bad spirits, and he is going around looking for people to trick. He is like a wild animal that is going around and looking for somebody to kill and eat.

⁹ Don't listen to him, but fight back against him. Trust Jesus properly, and keep on trusting him. Remember, you are not alone. All over the world your Christian friends are getting trouble, just like you are. They follow Jesus, so bad people give them trouble too.

¹⁰ But trouble doesn't last for ever. After you have trouble for a short time, God will be good to you. He will make everything right for you and make you properly strong for him. He picked

* 5:5 Proverbs 3:34

* 5:6 Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14

you to join you up with Jesus Christ. He did that so that, in the end, you will be very great with Jesus for ever.

¹¹ God is very powerful now, and he will keep on 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 good Christian friend, 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 on thinking about how good he is. Then you will keep on trusting him.*

Hello from other Christians

¹³ The people in the church here, in this city that we sometimes call Babylon, they say *hello* to you. God has made them his family, just like you. And 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 that you are happy to see each other, because you love each other.

I ask God to make all you Christians happy and quiet inside yourselves.

From Peter

* **5:12** Acts 15:22, 40 * **5:13** Acts 12:12, 25; 13:13; 15:37-39; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 1:24

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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Language: Aboriginal English (English)

Dialect: Australian Aboriginal

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2024-09-10

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 10 Sep 2024 from source files dated 10 Sep 2024

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