The Epistle of I Peter - Major Themes

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In the last session we discussed how Peter was preparing people for the coming trials and persecution Nero was about to unleash on Christians.. And had already begun with the martyrdom of Paul. It would soon also take Peter's life.

1 Peter 5:12 NLT - I have written and sent this short letter to you with the help of Silas, whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. **My purpose in writing is to encourage you** and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace.

In the Bible Exposition Commentary Warren Wiersbe makes the following observation.

> *Peter is preeminently the apostle of HOPE, as Paul is the apostle of FAITH, and John of LOVE. (Emphasis mine)*

Tonight we will see he encourages them by not only talking about the coming suffering but also of hope, grace and glory. Even when he talks of suffering he compares it to what Christ went through. Tonight we will look at these themes.

Suffering

1 Peter 1:6 NLT - So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, **even though you have to endure many trials for a little while**.
1 Peter 1:7 NLT - These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold--though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

1 Peter 1:10 NLT - This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you.
1 Peter 1:11 NLT - They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about **Christ's suffering** and his great glory afterward.

1 Peter 1:21 NLT - Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

Also in other chapters:

1 Peter 3:18 NLT - Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

1 Peter 4:1 NLT - So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.

1 Peter 4:13 NLT - Instead, be very glad--for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.
1 Peter 4:14 NLT - So be happy when you are insulted for being a Christian, for then the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.
1 Peter 4:15 NLT - If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs.
1 Peter 4:16 NLT - But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

1 Peter 5:1 NLT - And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you:

To be hopeful! (A LIVING Faith, In GOD!)

1 Peter 1:3 NKJV - Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
1 Peter 1:4 NKJV - to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
1 Peter 1:5 NKJV - who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:13 NASB95 - Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober [in spirit,] **fix your hope** completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

> 1 Peter 1:13 ESV - Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope** fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:17 NKJV - And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay [here] in fear;
1 Peter 1:18 NKJV - knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, [like] silver or gold, from your aimless conduct [received] by tradition from your fathers,
1 Peter 1:19 NKJV - but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
1 Peter 1:20 NKJV - He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you
1 Peter 1:21 NKJV - who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, **so that your faith and hope are in God**.

1 Peter 3:15 KJV - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason **of the <u>hope</u> that is in you** with meekness and fear:
1 Peter 3:16 KJV - Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

Hope = G1680 = ἐλπίς elpís, el-pece'; from a primary ἔλπω élpō (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation (abstractly or concretely) or confidence:—faith, hope.

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

I. expectation of evil, fear
II. expectation of good, hope
    A. in the Christian sense
        1. joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation
III. on hope, in hope, having hope
    A. the author of hope, or he who is its foundation
    B. the thing hoped for

Grace is mentioned in every chapter

Grace is God's generous favor to undeserving sinners and needy saints. When we depend on God's grace we can endure suffering and turn trials into triumphs.

Ephesians 2:8 NLT - God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.
Ephesians 2:9 NLT - Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.
Ephesians 2:10 NLT - For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

2 Corinthians 12:5 NLT - That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses.
2 Corinthians 12:6 NLT - If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message,
2 Corinthians 12:7 NLT - even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.
2 Corinthians 12:8 NLT - Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away.
2 Corinthians 12:9 NLT - Each time he said, **"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."** So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.
2 Corinthians 12:10 NLT - That's why **I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults**,

hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Grace allows us to serve God.

1 Corinthians 15:9 NLT - For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.
1 Corinthians 15:10 NLT - But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me--and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.

This leads to Glory

Psalm 84:11 NLT - For the LORD God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

1 Peter 5:10 NLT - In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

As we progress through the first epistle we will be seeing these themes mentioned recurring times.

Peter does this as part of the commission Jesus gave him to care for his sheep.

> John 21:15 NLT - After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "**Then feed my lambs**," Jesus told him.
> John 21:16 NLT - Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "**Then take care of my sheep,**" Jesus said.
> John 21:17 NLT - A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "**Then feed my sheep**.