

# Lessons From Peter

## True Church, False Church

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (NIV84®)

<sup>26</sup> Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

Luke 9:51–56 (NIV84®)

<sup>51</sup> As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and rebuked them, <sup>56</sup> and they went to another village.

Acts 8:3 (NIV84®)

But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

1 Timothy 1:12–13 (NIV84®)

<sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. <sup>13</sup> Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man,

Acts 9:26–30 (NIV84®)

<sup>26</sup> When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. <sup>28</sup> So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup> He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. <sup>30</sup> When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Galatians 1:18–19 (NIV84®)

<sup>18</sup> Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup> I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother.

## I. A Coaching Session — From Someone Taught By Our Lord

### A. False Church

2 Peter 2:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. <sup>2</sup> **Many will follow** their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. <sup>3</sup> In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

2 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup> the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. <sup>10</sup> This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings;

2 Peter 2:13-14 (NIV®)

<sup>13</sup> They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. <sup>14</sup> With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed--an accursed brood!

## B. The Day of the Lord

2 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV®)

<sup>3</sup> **First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come**, scoffing and following their own evil desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:5 (NIV®)

But **they deliberately forget** that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV®)

<sup>8</sup> But **do not forget this one thing**, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:10-12 (NIV®)

<sup>10</sup> But **the day of the Lord will come** like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. <sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

2 Peter 3:14 (NIV®)

**So then**, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort** to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

2 Peter 3:17-18 (NIV®)

<sup>17</sup> **Therefore**, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. <sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.