

## Bearing One Another's Burdens

### 1. Introduction:

- F. Principles that were taught early in the Church Age will be neglected and almost forgotten. Gal 6:1-5

### Gal 6:1 = Restoring One Who Has Abused Freedom.

C.T. = Brethren, even if a man (ANTHRWPOS) is caught (EAN + PROLAMBANW) in any trespass (EN + TIS + PARAPTWMA), you who are spiritual (PNEUMATIKOS), restore (KATARTIDZW) such a one in a spirit of selflessness (PRAUT8S); each one looking (SKOPEW) to yourself, lest you too may be tempted (PEIRADZW).

### Gal 6:2 = A Principle of "Law."

C.T./L.T. = Bear one another's burdens and thus you shall fulfill the law of the Christ.

### Summary:

1. The weight that others carry can include physical, financial, emotional or spiritual, but primarily here we are looking at a spiritual problem.
2. To help bear someone else's burdens requires a personal involvement with them.
3. It may involve suffering in their place. Matt 8:17; Rom 15:1
4. To help others with spiritual problems we need to learn to evaluate what are proper goals.
5. The highest goals in life for any individual are to fulfill the Two Greatest Commandments. Mark 12:29-31
6. We also need to understand our Fallen Structure and how it thinks and works.
  - A. The Fallen Structure inherently Doubts God, which defines our Attitude about Him. This is our Deepest Story and is Self-Serving. Matt 14:31; Jas 1:6; Jude 1:22
  - B. Doubting God has problems in that it leads to inconsistencies realizing it Needs Others but they can't fully satisfy so there is a Hate of Others that develops and eventually a Self-Hate emerges. Survival then becomes the issue and a Methodology develops to carry that out. (See Goals chart)
  - C. A person's Attitude About God with the realization that other people cannot satisfy leads to searching for an Antidote Against Pain, which sadly is how people often Approach Relationships.
  - D. When the Deepest Story of our life is Doubting God, it reveals our Inner Story and the personal Methodology developed to cope is what becomes our Present Story, or how we function in life to Survive.
  - E. Those who Doubt God are self-serving, thus becoming self-protective and self-centered.

7. We also need to understand our Godly Structure and that is at war with our Fallen Structure.
  - A. The Godly Structure starts with \_\_\_\_\_ in God, which should lead to Quietness, Trust, and Worship.
  - B. Instead of Needing Others to satisfy our cravings, we are free to Love Them and develop a Freedom from \_\_\_\_\_ on what others do or think. John 13:34-35
  - C. Instead of Hating Others for not supplying all our needs, we learn to Accept Others which leads to \_\_\_\_\_ in Relationships. Rom 15:7
  - D. Instead of Self-Hate, we Judge Ourselves, leading to Repentance and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. 2 Cor 13:5
  - E. Instead of an attitude of Survival, we develop an attitude of Obedience toward God. This leads to Humble \_\_\_\_\_ and Joy. John 14:15,22,23
  - F. Instead of developing a Methodology for Survival, we develop an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_ that is Wise and Others Centered. Php 2:3-8
8. There is quite a distinction between the Fallen and Godly Structures.
  - A. Instead of an attitude of Self-Service we have an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Instead of seeking an Antidote Against Pain for the purpose of Self-Protection we are able to \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. 2 Pet 3:18
  - C. Instead of approaching others with Self-Centered personality traits, we can become \_\_\_\_\_ people.
9. "Bearing our Burdens" is exactly what Christ did for us on the cross, so how could someone be conformed to His image and not be willing to help others?  
Eph 5:1; 1 Cor 11:1

## The Christian Life of the Last Days (or for any day)

1. The Revelation. Olivet Discourse. Matt 24:1-25:46
2. The Rich: Jas 5:1-11
3. The Rebellious: 2 Tim 3:1-17
4. The Rewards. 2 Tim 4:1-8
5. The Results. 2 Pet 1-3
6. The Reminder. Jude

### 2 Peter Introduction

#### **Author and Title:**

The author clearly identifies himself as Simon Peter (1:1). A number of other internal evidences point to the apostle Peter as the author. In a very personal section, almost as the final testament of a dying father, he uses the first-person singular referring to himself (1:14), declares himself as an eyewitness of the transfiguration (cf. 1:16-18 with Matt. 17:1-5), asserts this letter is his second one to his readers (3:1), and shows his personal acquaintance with the apostle Paul whom he calls, “our dear brother” (3:15).

This epistle is titled “Second Peter,” to distinguish it from the first letter written by Peter.

#### **Recipients:**

This is the second of two letters Peter wrote to this group of believers (see 3:1) as a kind of final testament, warning, and “last day” letter (1:14; 2:1f.; 3:3), written at the close of the apostle’s career (1:12-14). He was writing to Christians of like precious faith, undoubtedly, to Jewish and Gentile churches of “Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” (1 Peter 1:1).

#### **Date: A.D. 67-68**

As a kind of farewell letter, Peter wrote this epistle at the end of his career. According to the early church historian, Eusebius, Peter was martyred during Nero’s persecutions (about A.D. 67–68). The letter was most likely written one of these years.

#### **Theme and Purpose:**

As the apostle Paul warned of the coming dangers of apostasy in the later years of his life and ministry (2 Timothy), so Peter also warned of the ever-rising dangers of false teachers as was predicted by the prophets, by the Lord Himself, and His apostles (2:1; 3:1-3). The purpose of this short letter is found in this very issue, this rise of false teachers. Thus, the purpose is one of warning against these dangers facing the church.

Seeing that God has provided all that is needed for life and godliness (1:3), 1 Peter is a passionate plea for his audience to grow and mature in Christ, to be neither idle nor unfruitful

(1:8), and with this as a foundation, to guard against the rising tide of false teachers. This was precipitated by the fact that Peter knew his time on earth was short (1:13-15) and that the body of Christ faced immediate danger (2:1-3). Thus, Peter desired to refresh their memories and stir their thinking (1:13; 3:1-2) so that they might have his teaching firmly in mind (1:15). To do this, he carefully described mature believers, encouraging them to grow in grace and knowledge of the Savior (cf. 1:2-11; 3:18). As a further foundation for handling false teachers, he reminded them of the nature of God's Word as their sure foundation (1:12-21) and then warned against sure coming dangers of false teachers whom he also carefully described along with their sure judgment (chap. 2). Finally, he encouraged his readers with the certainty of Christ's return (3:1-16). With this final emphasis on the return of the Lord, Peter gave a final challenge. "Therefore, dear friends, since you are waiting for these things, strive to be found at peace, without spot or blemish, when you come into his presence... Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard that you do not get led astray by the error of these unprincipled men, and fall from your firm grasp on the truth. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the honor both now and on that eternal day" (3:14, 17-18).

### **Christ as Seen in 2 Peter:**

Peter speaks of Christ as the source of life and godliness, and, in keeping with the focus, he speaks of Christ as "Lord and Savior" four times, and speaks of Him as "Lord" fourteen times. In addition, he refers to the glorious transfiguration on the holy mountain and looks forward to the Savior's second coming. At this time the whole world will see that which Peter and the other two disciples were privileged to see on that holy mountain.

### **Outline:**

- 1. Greetings (1:1-2)**
- 2. The Development or Cultivation of Christian Character (1:3-21)**
  - A. The Christian's Growth. 1:3-11**
  - B. A True Teacher's Heart. 1:12-15**
  - C. A True Teacher's Witness. 1:16-18**
  - D. A True Teacher's Subject Matter. 1:19-21**
- 3. The Denouncement or Condemnation of False Teachers (2:1-22)**
  - A. Their Rise To Prominence. 2:1-3**
  - B. Their Pending Judgment. 2:4-9**
  - C. Characteristics of Unbelieving False Teachers. 2:10-16**
  - D. Characteristics of Believing False Teachers. 2:17-22**
- 4. The Design and Confidence for the Future. 3:1-18**
  - A. Exposure of a False Teaching. 3:1-7**
  - B. The Truth About That Teaching. 3:8-10**
  - C. Application of That Truth. 3:11-13**
  - D. Exhortations To Spiritual Growth. 3:14-18**

## 2 Peter 1

### Elements of Christian Growth

#### Outline:

1. Greetings (1:1-2)

#### 2 Pet 1:1 = The Writer and Recipients.

**C.T./L.T. = Simon Peter, a bondservant (DOULOS) and apostle (APOSTOLOS) of Jesus Christ, to those having received (LAGCHANW) by divine allotment an equally valuable faith (ISOTIMOS), by the righteousness of our God even Savior, Jesus Christ:**

#### Summary:

1. Peter is under authority and has authority.
2. He is under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. He writes to those who are Believers like himself and the others he knows-be they Gentile or female.
4. Peter knows this letter will go to people he does not know.
5. The gift of salvation he received came from the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, and was received by faith, which is Peter's way of describing Justification.
6. Thus it is a picture of receiving the grace of God and of the Believer's equality in Christ Jesus.
7. Peter, the bondservant, knows how to use his freedom in Christ. 1 Pet 2:15-16
8. Peter has lived the words of Christ. Matt 5:6,10
9. The importance of God's righteousness is revealed as we grow in faith. Rom 1:17

#### 2 Pet 1:2 = Greetings.

Grace and peace be multiplied (**Aor Pas Opt = expresses a desire for them to have something they are lacking in; add "may"**) to you in the knowledge (**EPIGNOSIS = 20x; full knowledge**) of **(the) God and (even) of Jesus our Lord;**

**C.T./L.T. = May grace and peace be multiplied (PL8THUNW) to you in the full knowledge (EPIGNWSIS) of the God even Jesus our Lord;**

#### Summary:

1. Peter desires that God's grace and peace be manifested in new ways to the recipients of this epistle.
2. He connects the increase of grace and peace in a person's life to a closer relationship with the Lord.
3. Peter is now going to provide information that can lead them into this closer relationship.
4. God likes to multiply opportunities for your harvest. 2 Cor 9:10-11
5. Sadly, most people of the last days will multiply lawlessness instead of increasing the harvest. Matt 24:11-12

1. Greetings (1:1-2)
2. The Development or Cultivation of Christian Character (1:3-21)
  - A. The Christian's Growth. 1:3-11

**2 Pet 1:3 = All We Need Is From God.**

**C.T./L.T. = since (HWS) His divine (THEIOS) power (DUNAMIS) has granted by decree (DWREOMAI) to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the full knowledge (EPIGNWSIS) of Him who called us to His own glory and virtue (ARET8).**

**Summary:**

1. God's inherent power is behind the decree that we who have this faith also have everything we need.
2. It is not a decree that we will have these things but that by decree we already have them.
3. "Life" is a word that connotes the quality of existence, not simply existence.
4. "Godliness" is a respect for the One who gave us this life.
5. As we should expect, Satan attacks these two things. 2 Tim 3:5
6. We grasp life and godliness through a full knowledge of our God, the Lord Jesus Christ.