



Grace Multiplied

Study of 1 Peter



1 Peter 1:1-2

ESV

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Theme

God is multiplying his grace in you
and through you in difficult places
and circumstances so you will bless
others

Agenda

The setting of Peters' Letter

- Who wrote the letter
- When was it written
- Who was Peter addressing

What is His Subject?

- Introduction
- Questions He Answers

Class Outline

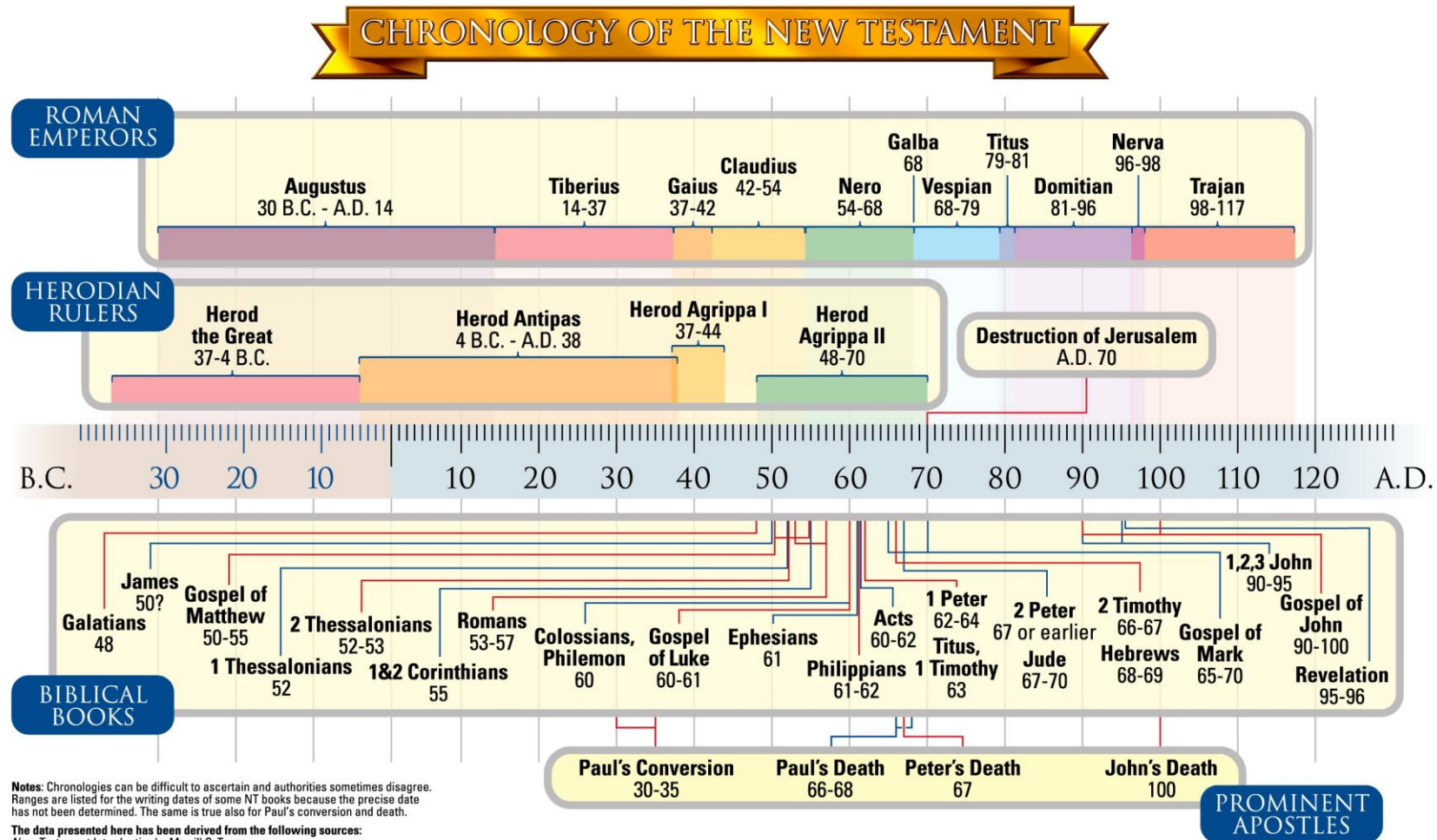
Class Approach

Next Week

Author

- Peter was the son of Jonas (Mt. 16:17; Jn. 1:42), was originally named Simeon (Mk. 1:16, Jn. 1:40), and was a fisherman who lived in Bethsaida and Capernaum. His brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus (John 1:40).
- Peter was married, and his wife may have accompanied him during his ministry (Mark 1:29-31; 1 Cor. 9:5).
- Jesus renamed him Peter / Cephas which means “rock” or “stone” (Jn 1:42; Mt. 16:18). Peter was the leader among the apostles and in the early church, including preaching on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
- According to tradition, He was crucified, but pled to be crucified upside down because he said that he was not worthy to die the death of his Lord. He was granted this final request and died in 67-68AD.
- **Internal Evidence:** the author was a “witness of the sufferings of Christ” (2:23, 5:1; Mt. 26:58-69) and was writing from “Babylon” (Rome) which is consistent with early church testimony of Peter’s ministry (5:13).
- **External Evidence:** 2 Peter claims to be the second letter written by Peter. Aside from this, numerous other sources from the early church quote from 1 Peter and claim the Apostle was the author.²
- The phrase “by Silvanus” (5:12) refers to Silvanus being the one whom Peter personally commissioned to carry the letter, not that he was the secretary / amanuensis who penned the letter.

When (AD 64-68)



Peter, probably writing from Rome (called "Babylon" in 5:13), addressed 1 Peter to believers in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. These names all referred to Roman provinces in Asia Minor, north of the Taurus Mountains.



This Area was the Focus of much of the Writing in the New Testament

- Paul
 - The letters to the Galatians, Ephesians, and Colossians
- John
 - Revelation - "seven letters to the churches"



Audience

- Most scholars are convinced that the recipients of 1 Peter were primarily Gentiles.
 - The reference to their “former ignorance” (1 Pet. 1:14)
 - “the futile ways inherited from your forefathers” (1 Pet. 1:18) suggests a pagan past that would not fit with Jewish readers.
 - The former lifestyle of the readers (1 Pet. 4:3–4) fits with Gentiles rather than Jews. There
 - There were also some Jewish Christians in these churches, for Jewish residents of “Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia” were present at Pentecost and heard the gospel at that early date (Acts 2:9; see ESV Study Bible note on Acts 9:19b–20).
 - Though the recipients may have been literally “exiles” (1 Pet. 1:1, 17; 2:11), it is more likely that Peter speaks figuratively here: they are spiritual exiles awaiting their heavenly inheritance.

What was Happening

The Great Fire in Rome AD 64

- The fire destroyed most of Rome
- The Emperor Nero was believed to be responsible despite his efforts to provide aid after the fire
- He eventually blamed the Christians for the fire as a scapegoat.
- Christianity changed from just being considered a sect of Judaism to a forbidden religion

The Roman province of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) became a hot bed of church growth.

- Early in the second century, the Roman governor of the provinces of Pontus and Bithynia (both named in 1 Peter) would write a letter to the emperor Trajan in which he expressed concern about the growth of the movement that he labeled “Christians,” the first pagan reference to Christianity.

Christians were experiencing mistreatment and some persecution

- 1 Peter says nothing about Christians suffering physically for their faith. The focus is on the verbal abuse and discrimination they receive because of their Christian commitment
- Of course, verbal abuse easily leads to physical mistreatment, and it is possible that some of the believers to whom Peter wrote were suffering physical abuse for their faith as well

Grace Multiplied

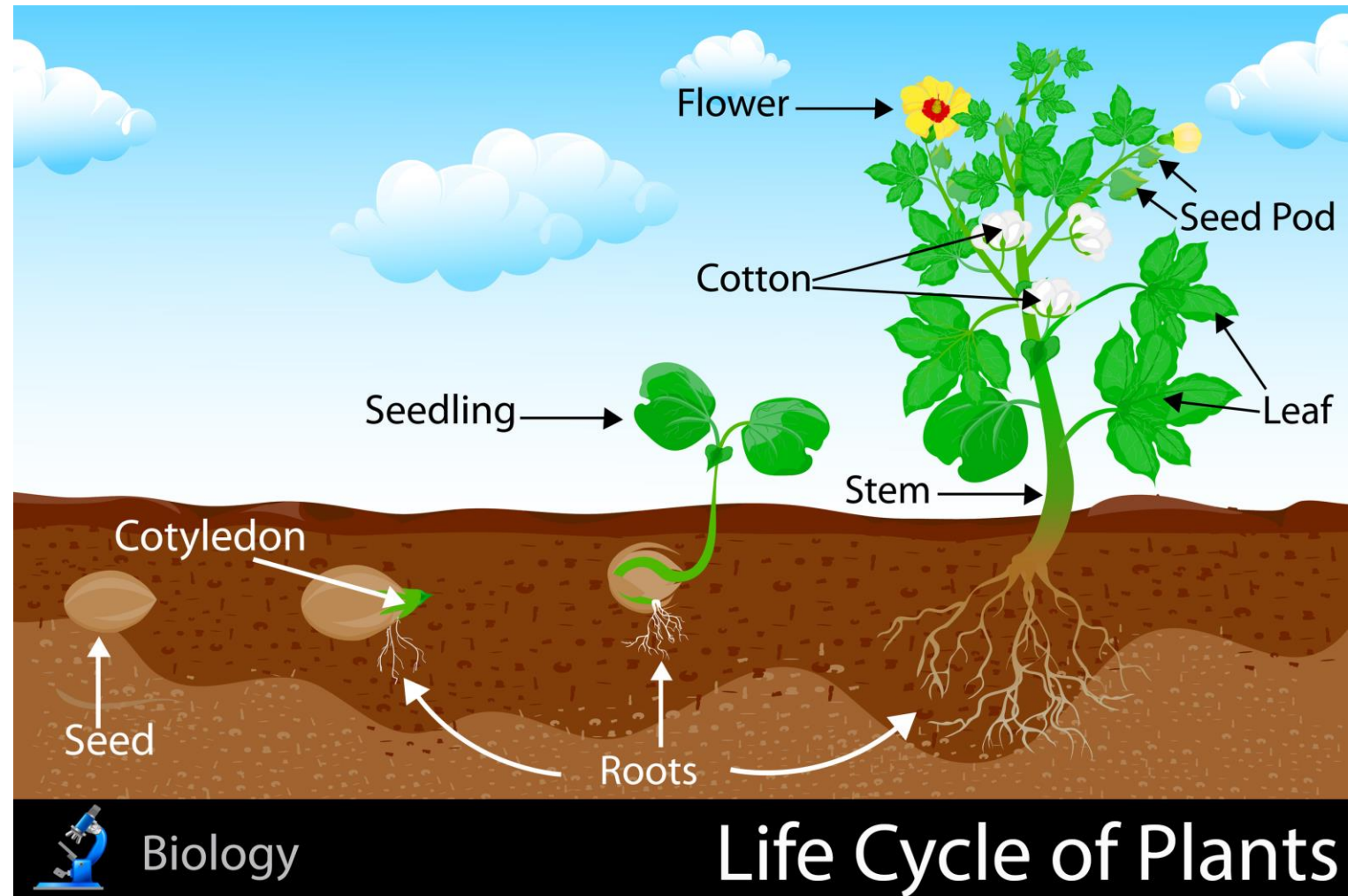
² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Peter's Introduction



Plant Analogy



Grace Multiplied

- No “Fake it to you make it”
- Grace must be multiplied in you before you can multiply it to others
- This process happen amongst the weeds (parable of the Wheat and the Tares)



Peter Answers Many Questions in This Letter

What does it mean
to be born again

How can you know
that your faith in
authentic

Why angels long to
grasp what you
have experienced

How to prevail in
your struggle with
temptation

What is the secret
to overcoming fear

What is your place
in God's purpose

What is Christian
Freedom

How are we to
respond to abuse
and injustice

Why God
sometimes tunes
out our prayers

What is some
Wisdom to win
unconverted family
members

How can Christ
speak to others
through you

How to make a
decisive break with
sin

How to identify
your spiritual gifts

Why your
obedience matters
today

What do I do with
unanswered
questions

How your struggles
can be your
greatest
encouragement

How to cultivate
spiritual growth

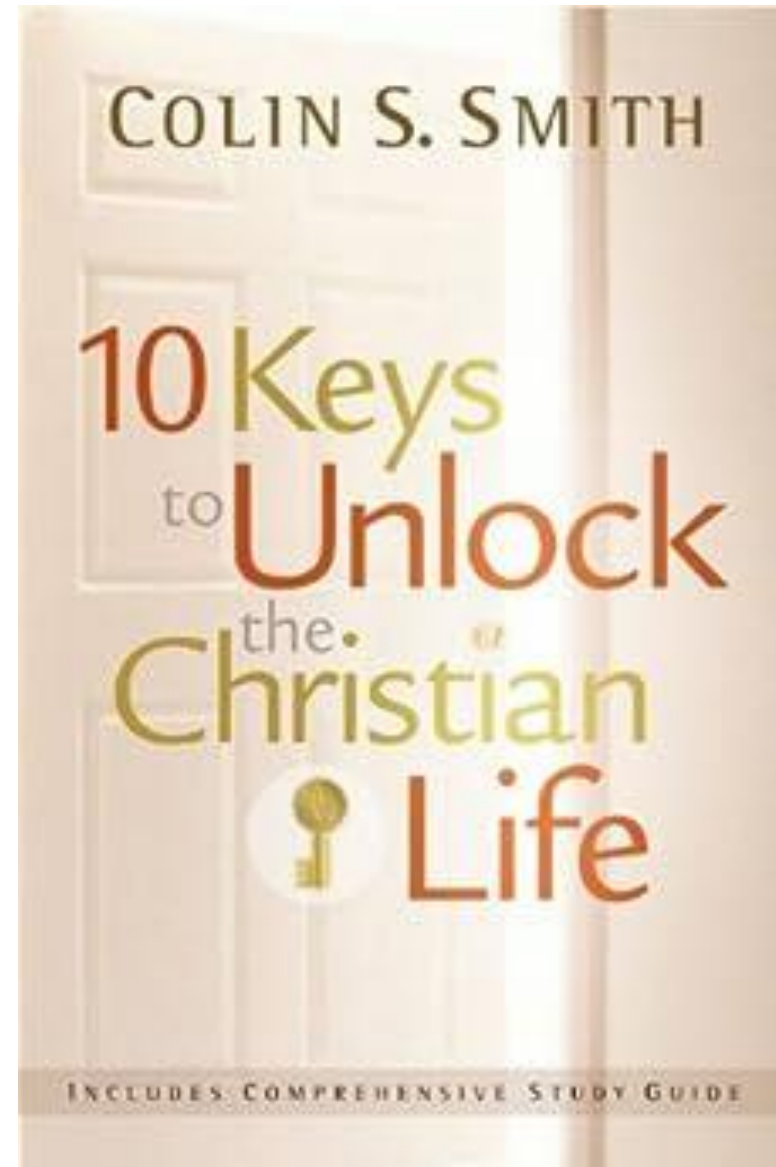
How to detect
pride in my life

Why Christ wants
you a part of His
Church

How to pray for
Christian Leaders

What will my
future life with
Christ look like?

Our Class
is based
on this
book



Class Outline

October 1
Class Introduction

October 8
New Birth
(1 Peter 1:1-12)

October 15
New Life
(1 Peter 1:13-2:3)

October 22
New Purpose
(1 Peter 2:4-12)

October 29
New Freedom
(1 Peter 2:13-25)

November 5
New Relationships
(1 Peter 3:1-12)


November 12
New Confidence
(1 Peter 3:13-22)

November 19
New Urgency
(1 Peter 4:1-11)

November 26
New Reality
(1 Peter 4:12-19)

December 3
New Humility
(1 Peter 5:5-7)

December 10
New Destiny
(1 Peter 5: 1-4, 8-14)

A pair of black-rimmed glasses with round lenses is resting on an open book. A red ribbon bookmark is visible on the left side of the book. The background is blurred, showing a wooden surface and some other books.

One Book Discipleship Course

- Christian Growth = Discipleship
- A discipleship course that God set's the agenda.
- 1 Peter is God's discipleship manual which we will look at unedited!



Growing in Grace by Studying God's Word

- Hearing
- Reading
- Study
- Scripture memorization
- Mediate

Discipleship Bible Study Checklist

- ☐ I regularly listen to someone who is skilled in teaching the Scripture
- ☐ I make time to read the Bible on a regular basis
- ☐ I memorize selected portions of the Scriptures
- ☐ I set aside time to ask questions and meditate on the Bible
- ☐ I often make practical applications from what I read or study
- ☐ I'm involved with others in discussing the Bible study
- ☐ I explore new approaches to meditate on the Scriptures
- ☐ I regularly think about how the Bible applies to my daily life

Application Opportunity For You

- Read the passage and Reflect
 - Key Verse
 - Application Points
 - Prayer
- Memorize the selected passage
- Get with a friend and share with each other

Read. Record. Reflect. Respond

Be still, seek my face. Listen carefully and respond accordingly. Psalm 46:10; 27:2; Eccl. 5:1; Exodus 3

Date: _____

Read ~ (passage I read today): _____

Record ~ (Best truth I marked today): _____

Reflect ~ (What the Spirit is telling me from this passage - application) _____

Respond ~ (Talk to God about it): _____



Passages to Memorize

New Birth: 1 Peter 1:3-5	3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
New Life: 1 Peter 1:13	13 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.
New Purpose: 1 Peter 2:9-10	9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
New Freedom: 1 Peter 2:16	16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.
New Relationships: 1 Peter 3:8	8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Passages to Memorize

New Confidence: 1 Peter 3:15-16	¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.
New Urgency: 1 Peter 4:7-9	7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.
New Reality: 1 Peter 4: 12-13	12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
New Humility: 1 Peter 5:5	In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."
New Destiny: 1 Peter 5:8-10	8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you

Next Week

Topic: New Birth

Passage to Study - 1 Peter 1:1-12

Passage to Memorize - 1 Peter 1:3-5

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.