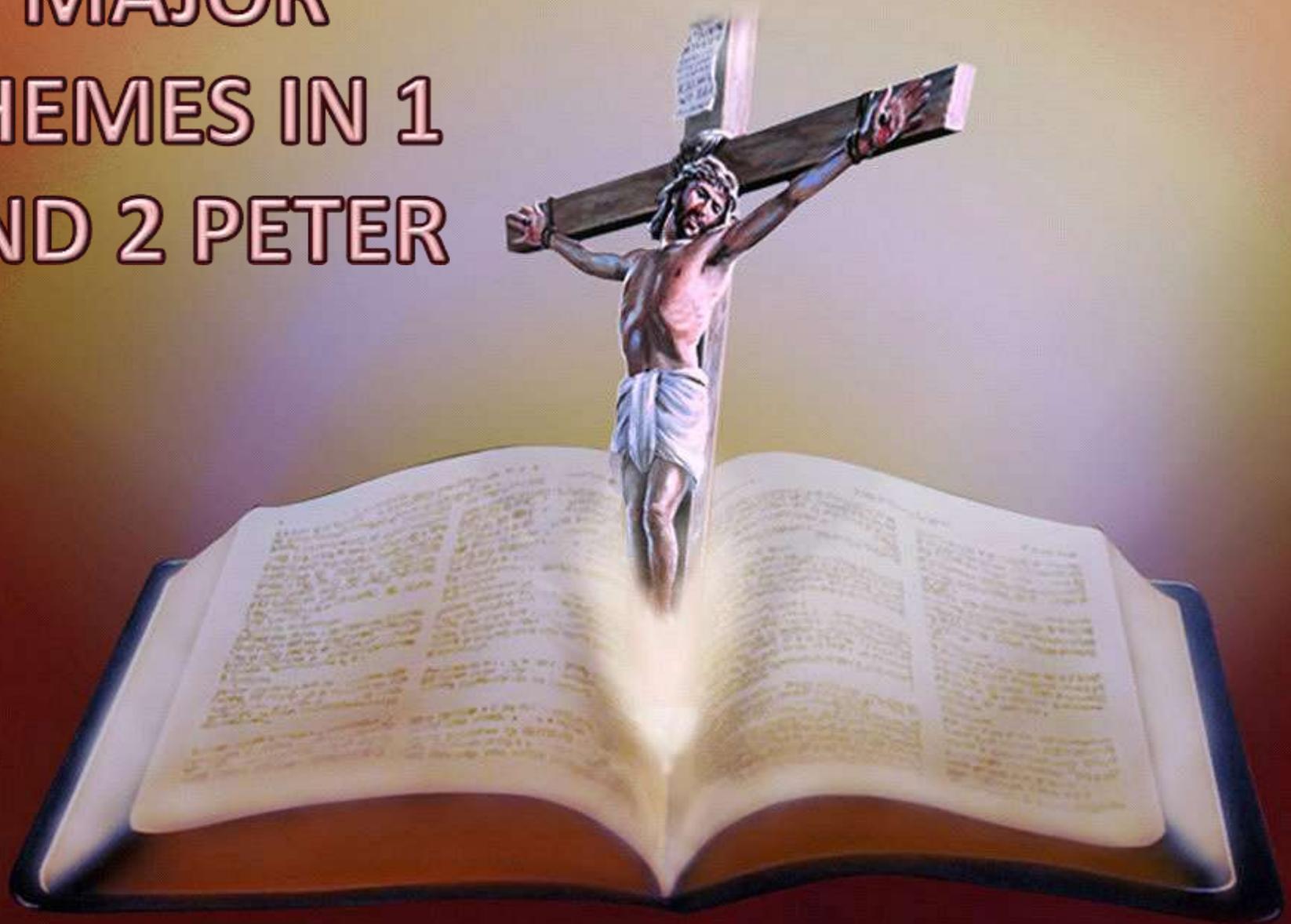


# MAJOR THEMES IN 1 AND 2 PETER



Lesson 13 for June 24, 2017

**The epistles of Peter are practical letters. There are five main themes in them:**



**Jesus our suffering Savior.**

**How should we live?**

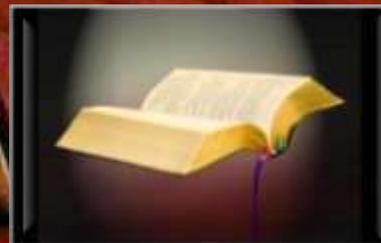


**Hope in the Second Coming.**

**Order in society and in the Church.**



**The primacy of Scripture.**



# JESUS OUR SUFFERING SAVIOR

“whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:8-9)

“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18)

“elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:2)



Peter understood that salvation is Jesus—innocent—dying in our place. His precious blood cleans us from sin and transforms us.

We can accept that salvation by faith. There is nothing we can do to deserve it, since He did everything. How will you respond to such a great love?

# HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?

“Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live.” (2 Peter 3:11 NLT)

## Our motivation to be holy.

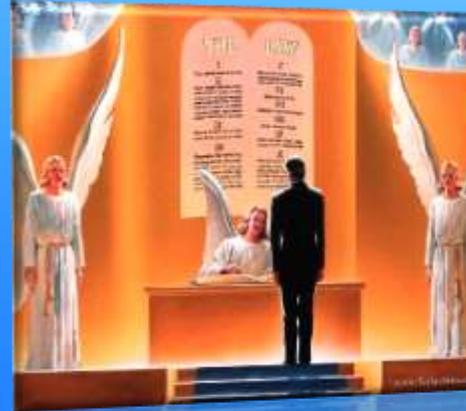
- Since the judgment is near and the wicked will be destroyed, we should long for holiness (1P. 1:17; 4:7; 2P. 3:11).

## Why we are holy.

- We are holy because God is holy, and the Spirit works in us to sanctify us (1P. 1:2, 15-16).

## Living as holy people.

- Peter wrote about what we should and shouldn't do. And we should do everything in a humbly and loving way (1P. 2:1; 3:8-9; 4:7-11; 2P. 1:5-7)

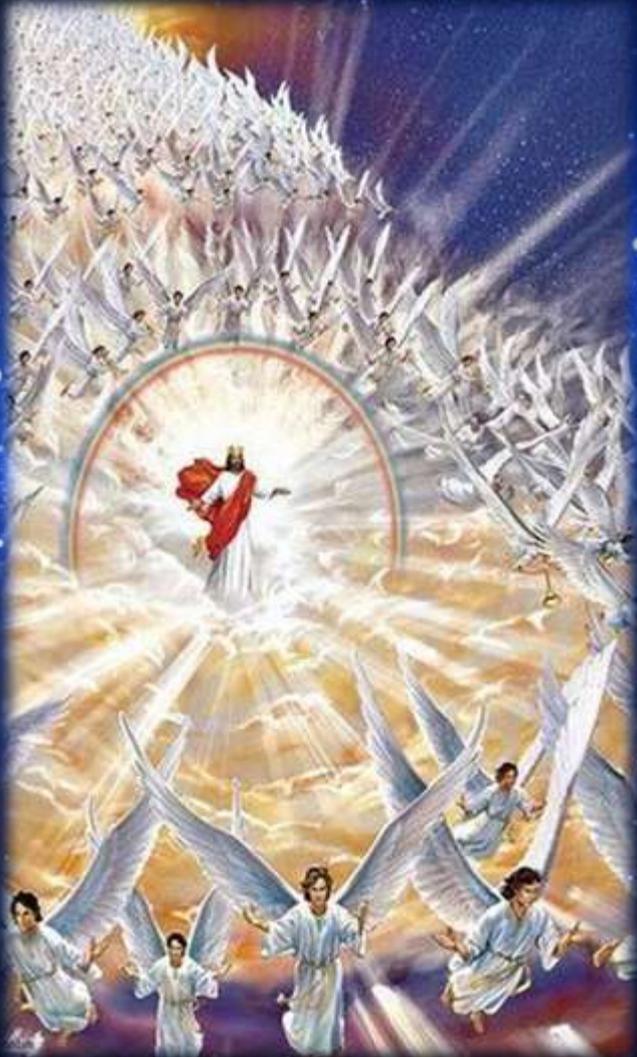


Above all, Peter encouraged us: “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7).

# HOPE IN THE SECOND COMING

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up." (2 Peter 3:10)

Peter knew his audience was suffering persecution, so He inspired them to look forward and see that they will be vindicated in the future.

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- A. The Father will judge everyone impartially (1P. 1:17).
  - B. Jesus will judge the living and the dead (1P. 4:5).
  - C. The Judge begins at the house of God (1P. 4:17).
  - D. The wicked will be destroyed (2P. 3:7).
  - E. Those making fun of the Second Coming aren't right (2P. 3:1-7).
  - F. The Second Coming is "delayed" because God wants people to repent and be saved (2P. 3:9).

No matter the circumstances around us, we must go on in faith and obedience.

# ORDER IN SOCIETY

*"For the sake of the Lord submit yourselves to every human authority: to the Emperor, who is the supreme authority, and to the governors, who have been appointed by him to punish the evildoers and to praise those who do good."*

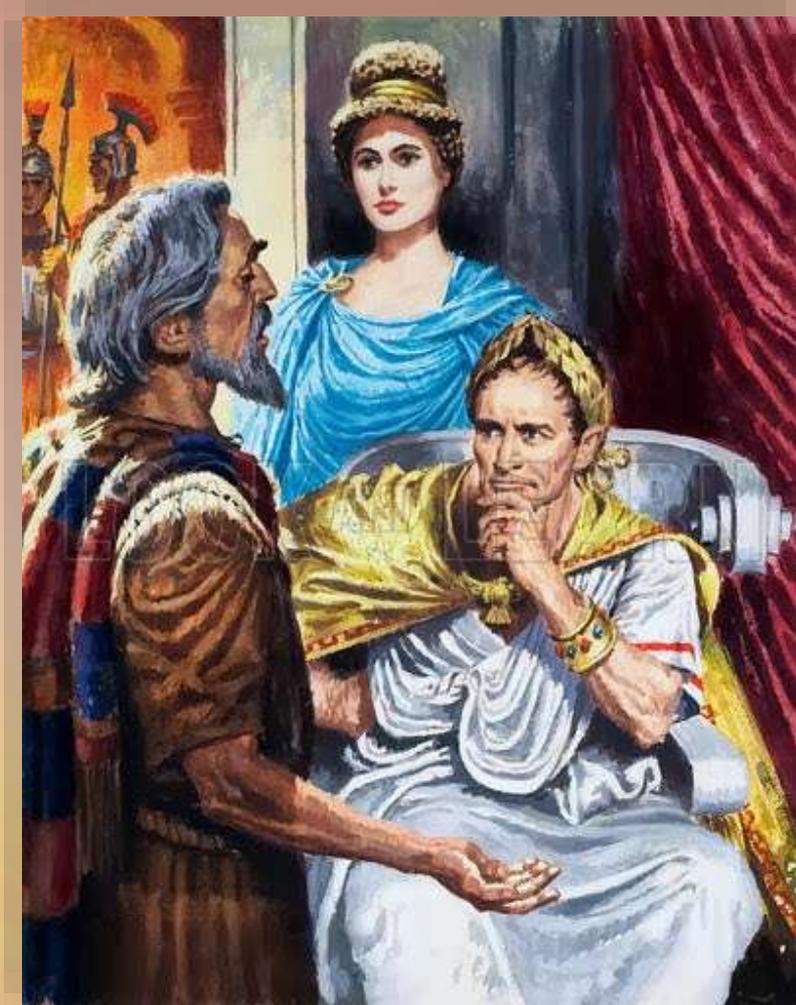
*(1 Peter 2:13-14 GNT)*

**The worldly authorities have been set by God to slow down evil.**

**Christians must obey the civil authorities in everything that doesn't contradict God's Law.**

**Christians should act like exemplary citizens even when authorities abuse of the people.**

**That way, those who want to harm them will have no excuse  
(1P. 2:11-21).**



# ORDER IN THE CHURCH



**“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly.” (1 Peter 5:2)**

**We must accept the church authorities like we respect the civil ones.**

**Elders have been set by God to take care of the flock.**

**They must act with humbleness, to feed the Church and to train others to use their spiritual gifts for God’s glory (1P. 5:1-5).**

# THE PRIMACY OF SCRIPTURE

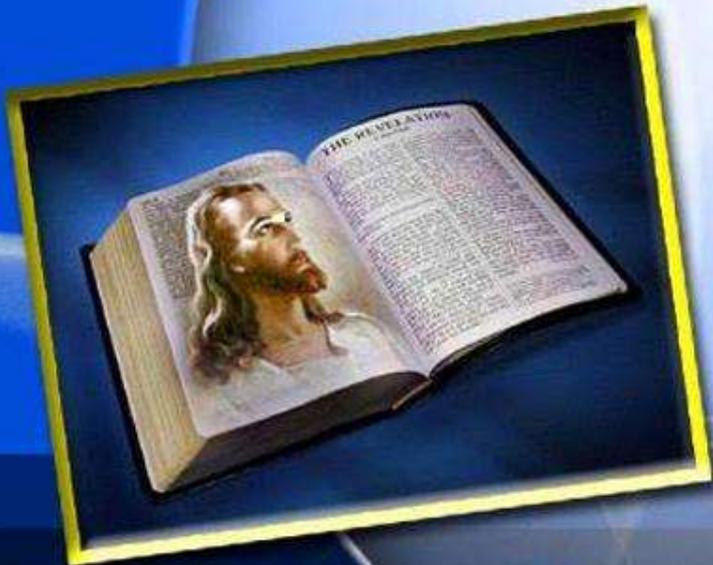
**“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”  
(2 Peter 1:19)**

**Just like Paul, Peter stresses the importance of Bible study as the main source of doctrinal and moral authority (2Tim. 3:16; 2P. 1:19).**

**When we read the Bible, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to show us its true interpretation (2P. 1:20-21).**

**We must read the Bible to find spiritual truths and not to justify our behavior by twisting its true meaning (2P. 3:15-16).**

**The main theme in the Bible is Jesus and the salvation we receive by His expiatory death (1P. 1:10-12).**



**“In the later years of his ministry, Peter was inspired to write to the believers ‘scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.’ His letters were the means of reviving the courage and strengthening the faith of those who were enduring trial and affliction, and of renewing to good works those who through manifold temptations were in danger of losing their hold upon God. These letters bear the impress of having been written by one in whom the sufferings of Christ and also His consolation had been made to abound; one whose entire being had been transformed by grace, and whose hope of eternal life was sure and steadfast.”**

E.G.W. (The Acts of the Apostles, cp. 51, p. 517)