1 and 2 Peter L11 – Lessons 7-10 Study Summary

Lesson 7 – 1 Peter 3:13-22 Persecution and the Victorious Jesus Christ

Q2 – We are ALWAYS to be prepared to share and defend our faith with anyone who asks us about the hope we have as believers. We are to do this with gentleness and respect. Our demeanor should be one of a humble servant, not testy and argumentative.

Q3 – If we are to suffer, let it be for doing good --- if that is God's will. It does not glorify Jesus for a Christian to suffer for doing evil. Our good works should stand by themselves, shaming those who go after us without just cause.

Q8 – Today, Jesus is in heaven at the right hand of the Father. Angels, authorities and powers have been subjected to Him, but Hebrews indicates this hasn't been completed yet. (This will be finished when Judgment Day arrives.)

Lesson 8 – 1 Peter 4:1-8 Put your past in the past; Live a Loving Life in Christ

Q1 – We are to remember that Jesus suffered for His faith during His ministry years, culminating in His crucifixion. We need to prepare ourselves and our hearts and minds for that eventuality, too. Living by faith --- and against sin --- will lead to personal suffering and attacks.

Q3, 4 – Before being saved, many believers were guilty of sinful living like Gentiles (non-believers) today. They are described as living immorally and consumed by inner lusts, getting drunk, going to sex parties, carousing in groups at night (e.g., bar hopping), and practicing detestable idolatry. Now, when we refuse to join them, they slander and verbally abuse us. --- And, if we used to do any of these things with our (former) unsaved friends, we usually lose those friendships. They often feel like we are judging them and their standards by the new behavior standards we embrace.

Q5 – However, the "last word" belongs to God at the final Judgment, who will judge the living and the dead. Each individual must give an account of himself/herself to The Judge.

Q7 – The "end" of all things is near; that is, this earth and heaven will be destroyed and replaced by a new heaven and earth. Mankind will face God's judgment. 2 Peter adds that God's Judgment Day will come upon us like a thief, with us unprepared, unaware the end was near. What we interpret as a delay is actually God's enduring patience for mankind to come to salvation.

Q8 – Self-controlled living and alert minds have an impact on our personal prayers. By showing self-restraint (towards personal sin), our prayers will be effective and powerful.

Q9 – Love covers a multitude of sins. Recalling 1 Corinthians 13, love keeps no record of wrongs, while believing and hoping in all things. It is essential in relationships as we work through the wrongs we do to one another, accidentally or purposefully. The command here is to love one another earnestly (genuinely). Ephesians 4:2-3 points to love as the key to working with the differences we have as individuals and developing unity in the Holy Spirit, producing peace.

Lesson 9 – 1 Peter 4:9--19 Gifts and Trials, Blessings and Sufferings!

Q2 – According to Peter's verses, the three purposes of spiritual gifts for believers are: 1) To serve one another; 2) To show oneself as a good steward of God's gifts; and 3) To glorify God through Jesus. God's gifts are never for self-serving purposes or to bring glory to the individual believer!

Q6 – If we suffer as Christians, we are told not to be ashamed, and to be sure to give God glory in Jesus' Name.

Q7 – Christians will be judged according to their good works ("wages according to labor", also read 1 Corinthians 3:1-15). The foundation of faith is Jesus, God's Cornerstone. Each believer builds on this foundation by his/her good works, teachings, testimony, etc…, and these things will be tested by God's fire. If God sees that what we did had a genuineness, a correct permanent impact, He will "reward" us. If it fails God's scrutiny (self-serving works…?), then heavenly rewards will be lost --- though salvation for genuine faith will still be provided.

Q8, 9 – Hell was created for the Devil and his angels, but unbelievers will spend eternity there (Matthew 25:41). Salvation comes from believing in God's only Son, Jesus, the Christ. Salvation is a gift from God to those committing to a life-changing (born again), personal faith in Jesus.

Lesson 10 – 1 Peter 5:1-14 True Shepherds Model Humility

Q1 – Peter counsels church leaders to: 1) "shepherd" the flock God has given them; 2) serve their congregations willingly, not grudgingly; 3) be zealous for God, not working in Christian ministry simply as a job (a means to make a living); and 4) demonstrate servant leadership among God's flock rather than domineering over them (i.e., having the congregation serve the pastor!).

Q2, 3 – Psalms teaches that shepherds lead, guide, protect and comfort. Jeremiah points to ensuring sheep are fed and fully accounted for. John says shepherds know their sheep and the sheep hear and follow them. When danger is present, the shepherd will sacrifice himself, if necessary, to save and protect them. A faithful, servant-pastor's reward will be an unfading crown of glory bestowed by Jesus Himself, the Chief Shepherd.

Q4 – The main characteristic of healthy church spirituality is humility (yielded and obedient service), not only in relation towards God, but to one another in the congregation. God's blessing is to exalt us with His mighty hand…at the proper time.

Q5, 6 – Peter urges believers to cast their cares upon Jesus because He cares for us. Peter also cautions believers to be alert and watchful for the Devil's efforts to devour us. We must stand firm and resist him (the Devil).