

1ST PETER

¹ Peter, apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen men, to the comelings of scattering abroad, [*or the chosen guests, or comelings, of dispersion, or the scattering abroad*], of Pontus, of Galatia, of Cappadocia, of Asia, and of Bithynia,

² by the before-knowing [*or the prescience*] of God, the Father, in hallowing of Spirit, by obedience, and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, grace and peace be multiplied to you.

³ Blessed *be* God, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which by his great mercy begat us again into living hope, by the again-rising of Jesus Christ from death,

⁴ into heritage uncorruptible, and undefouled, and that shall not fade, that is kept in heavens for you,

⁵ that in the virtue of God be kept by the faith into health, and is ready to be showed in the last time.

⁶ In which ye shall make joy, though it behooveth now a little to be sorry in diverse temptations;

⁷ that the proving of your faith be much more precious than gold, that is proved by fire; and be found into praising, and glory, and honour, in the revelation of Jesus Christ.

⁸ Whom when ye have not seen, ye love; into whom also now ye not seeing, believe; but ye that

believe shall have joy, and gladness that may not be told out, and ye shall be glorified,

⁹ and have [*or bring again*] the end of your faith, the health of your souls.

¹⁰ Of which health prophets sought [*out*], and searched into, that prophesied of the grace to coming in you [*or the grace to come into you*],

¹¹ and sought which either what manner time the Spirit of Christ signified in them, and before-told those passions that be in Christ, and the latter glories.

¹² To which it was showed, for not to themselves, but to you they ministered those things, that now be told to you by them that preached to you by the Holy Ghost, sent from heaven, into whom angels desire to behold.

¹³ For which thing be ye gird the loins of your soul, sober, perfect, *and* hope ye into that grace that is proffered to you by the showing of Jesus Christ,

¹⁴ as sons of obedience, not made like to the former desires of your unknowingness [*or your ignorance*],

¹⁵ but like him that hath called you holy; that also yourselves be holy in all living;

¹⁶ for it is written, Ye shall be holy, for I am holy.

¹⁷ And if ye inwardly call him Father, which deemeth without acception of persons by the work of each man, live ye in dread in the time of your pilgrimage [*in earth*];

18 witting that not by corruptible gold, either silver, ye be bought again of your vain living of fathers' tradition,

19 but by the precious blood as of the lamb undefouled and unspotted, Christ Jesus,

20 that was known before the making of the world, but he is showed in the last times, for you

21 that by him be faithful in God; that raised him from death, and gave to him everlasting glory, that your faith and hope were in God.

22 And make ye chaste your souls in obedience of charity, in love of brotherhood; of simple heart love ye together more busily.

23 *And be ye born again, not of corruptible seed, but [of] uncorrupt-ible, by the word of living God, and dwelling into without end.*

24 For each flesh *is* hay, and all the glory of it *is* as the flower of hay; the hay dried up, and his flower felled down;

25 but the word of the Lord dwelleth *[into]* without end. And this is the word, that is preached to you.

CHAPTER 2

1 Therefore put ye away all malice, and all guile, and feignings *[or simulations]*, and envies, and all backbitings *[or detractions]*;

2 as now born young children, reasonable, without guile, covet ye milk *[of full teaching]*, that in it ye wax into health;

3 if nevertheless ye have tasted, that the Lord is sweet.

⁴ And nigh ye to him, that is a living stone, and reprov'd of men, but chosen of God, and honoured;

⁵ and ye yourselves as quick stones, be ye above builded into spiritual houses, and an holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

⁶ For which thing the scripture saith, Lo! I shall set [*or put*] in Zion the highest cornerstone, chosen and precious; and he that shall believe in him, shall not be confounded.

⁷ Therefore honour to you that believe; but to men that believe not, the stone whom the builders reprov'd, this is made into the head of the corner;

⁸ and the stone of hurting, and the stone of stumbling, to them that offend to the word, neither believe *it*, in which they be set.

⁹ But ye *be* a chosen kin [*or ye be a kind chosen*], a kingly priesthood, holy folk, a people of purchasing, that ye tell the virtues of him, that called you from darkneses into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ Which sometime were not a people of God, but now ye be the people of God; which had not mercy, but now ye have mercy.

¹¹ Most dear, I beseech you, as comelings [*or as guests*], and pilgrims, to abstain you from fleshly desires, that fight against the soul;

¹² and have ye your conversation [*or your life*] good among heathen men, that in that thing that they backbite of you, as of mis-doers, they behold

you of good works, and glorify God in the day of visitation.

¹³ Be ye subject to each creature of man, for God; either to the king, as to him that is higher [*or is more worthy*] in state,

¹⁴ either to dukes, as to those that be sent of him to the vengeance of mis-doers, and to the praising of good men [*or of good deeds*].

¹⁵ For so is the will of God, that ye do well, and make the unknowing-ness of unprudent [*or unwise*] men to be dumb.

¹⁶ As free men, and not as having freedom the covering of malice, but as the servants of God.

¹⁷ Honour ye all men, love ye brotherhood, dread ye God, honour ye the king.

¹⁸ Servants, be ye subject in all dread to lords, not only to good and to mild, but also to tyrants.

¹⁹ For this is grace, if for conscience of God any man suffereth heavinesses [*or sorrows*], and suffereth unjustly.

²⁰ For what grace is it, if ye sin, and be buffeted, and suffer? But if ye do well, and suffer patiently, this is grace with God.

²¹ For to this thing ye be called. For also Christ suffered for us, and left ensample to you, that ye follow the steps of him.

²² Which did not sin, neither guile was found in his mouth.

²³ And when he was cursed, he cursed not; when he suffered, he menaced not; but he betook himself to him, that deemed him unjustly.

²⁴ And he himself bare [*or suffered*] our sins in his body on a tree, that we be dead to sins, and

live to rightwiseness, by whose wan wound ye be healed.

²⁵ For ye were as sheep erring, but ye be now turned to the shepherd [*or but ye be converted now to the shepherd*], and bishop of your souls.

CHAPTER 3

¹ Also women be they subject to their husbands; that if any man, *that is, husbands*, believe not to the word, by the conversation of women they be won without word.

² And behold ye in dread your holy conversation.

³ Of whom be there not without-forth curious adorning of hair, either doing about of gold, either adorning of clothing;

⁴ but that that is the hid man of heart, in uncorruption, and of mild spirit, [*or in uncorruptibility of quiet and mild spirit*], which is rich in the sight of God.

⁵ For so sometime holy women hoping in God adorned themselves, and were subject to their own husbands.

⁶ As Sarah obeyed to Abraham, and called him lord; of whom ye be daughters well-doing, and not dreading any perturbation.

⁷ Also men dwell together, and by knowing [*or science*], give ye honour to the woman's frailty, [*or to her vessel*], as to the more feeble, and as to even-heirs of grace and of life, that your prayers be not hindered.

⁸ And in faith all of one will, in prayer be ye each suffering with other, lovers of brotherhood, merciful, mild, meek; [*Forsooth in faith all of one*

understanding, or will, in prayer be ye compassionate, or each suffering with other; lovers of fraternity, merciful, mild, meek;]

⁹ not yielding evil for evil, neither cursing for cursing, but on the contrary blessing; for in this thing ye be called, that ye wield blessing by heritage.

¹⁰ For he that will love life, and see good days, constrain his tongue from evil, and his lips, that they speak not guile [*or that they speak no guile*].

¹¹ And bow he from evil, and do good; seek he peace, and perfectly follow it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord *be* on just men, and his ears on the prayers of them; but the cheer [*or the face*] of the Lord *is* on men that do evils.

¹³ And who is it that shall annoy you, if ye be pursuers and lovers of goodness?

¹⁴ But also if ye suffer anything for rightwiseness, ye be blessed; but dread ye not the dread of them, that ye be not disturbed [*or distroubled*].

¹⁵ But hallow ye the Lord Christ in your hearts, and evermore be ye ready to [*do*] satisfaction to each man asking you reason of that faith and hope that is in you, but with mildness, and dread,

¹⁶ having good conscience; that in that thing that they backbite of you, they be confounded, which challenge falsely your good conversation in Christ.

¹⁷ For it is better that ye do well, and suffer, if the will of God will, than doing evil. [*Soothly it is better; if the will of God will, ye well-doing, to suffer; than evil-doing.*]

18 For also Christ once died for our sins, he just for unjust, that he should offer to God us [*or should offer us to God*], made dead in flesh, but made quick in Spirit.

19 For which thing he came in Spirit, and also to them that were enclosed together in prison;

20 which were sometime unbelieve-ful, when they abided the patience of God in the days of Noah, when the ship [*or the ark*] was made, in which a few, that is to say, eight souls were made safe by water.

21 And so baptism of like form maketh us safe; not the putting away of the filths of flesh, but the asking of a good conscience in God, by the again-rising of our Lord Jesus Christ,

22 that is in the right half of God, and swalloweth death, that we should be made heirs of everlasting life. He went into heaven, and angels, and powers, and virtues be made subject to him.

CHAPTER 4

1 Therefore for Christ suffered in flesh, be ye also armed by the same thinking; for he that suffered in flesh ceased from sins,

2 that that is left now of time in flesh live not now to the desires of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time that is passed is enough to the will of heathen men to be ended, which walked in lecheries, and lusts, in much drinking of wine, in unmeasurable [*or oft*] eatings, and drinkings, and unleaveful worshipping of maumets [*or of idols*].

⁴ In which now they be astonied, in which thing they wonder, for ye run not together into the same confusion of lechery, and blaspheme.

⁵ And they shall give reason to him, that is ready to deem the quick and the dead.

⁶ For why for this thing it is preached [*or it is evangelized*] also to dead men, that they be deemed by men in flesh, and that they live by God in Spirit.

⁷ For the end of all things shall nigh. Therefore be ye prudent, and wake ye in prayers;

⁸ before all things have ye charity each to other in yourselves always lasting; for charity covereth the multitude of sins.

⁹ Hold ye hospitality together with-out grutching;

¹⁰ each man as he hath received grace, ministering it into each other [*or ministering each to other*], as good dispensers of the manyfold grace of God.

¹¹ If any man speaketh, *speake* he as the words of God; if any man ministereth, as of the virtue which God ministereth; that God be honoured in all things by Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom is glory and lordship into worlds of worlds. Amen.

¹² Most dear *brethren*, do not ye go in pilgrimage in fervour, that is made to you to temptation, as if any new thing befall to you;

¹³ but commune ye with the passions of Christ, and have ye joy, that also ye be glad, and have joy in the revelation of his glory.

¹⁴ If ye be despised for the name of Christ, ye shall be blessed; for that that is of the honour,

and of the glory, and of the virtue of God, and the Spirit that is his, shall rest on you.

¹⁵ But no man of you suffer as a manslayer, either a thief, either curser, either a desirer of other men's goods [*or things*];

¹⁶ but if *he suffer* as a christian man, shame he not, but glorify he God in this name.

¹⁷ For time is, that doom begin at God's house; and if *it begin* first at us, what end *shall be* of them, that believe not to the gospel?

¹⁸ And if a just man scarcely shall be saved, where shall the unfaithful man and the sinner appear?

¹⁹ Therefore and they that suffer by the will of God, betake their souls in good deeds to the faithful Maker of nought.

CHAPTER 5

¹ Therefore I, an even-elder man, and a witness of Christ's passions, which also *am* a communer of that glory, that shall be showed in time to come; beseech the elder men, that be among you,

² feed ye the flock of God, that is among you, and purvey ye, not as constrained, but willfully, by God; not for love of foul winning, but willfully,

³ neither as having lordship in the clergy, but that ye be made ensample to the flock, of will [*or by intent*].

⁴ And when the prince of shepherds shall appear, ye shall receive the crown of glory, that may never fade.

⁵ Also, ye young men, be ye subject to elder men, and all show ye together meekness; for

the Lord withstandeth proud men, but he giveth grace to meek men.

⁶ Therefore be ye meeked under the mighty hand of God, that he raise you in the time [*or in the day*] of visitation,

⁷ and cast ye all your busyness into him, for to him is care of you.

⁸ Be ye sober, and wake ye, for your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion goeth about, seeking whom he shall devour.

⁹ Whom against-stand ye, strong in the faith, witting that the same passion is made to that brotherhood of you, that is in the world.

¹⁰ And God of all grace, that called you into his everlasting glory, you suffering a little [*in Christ Jesus*], he shall perform, and shall confirm, and shall make firm.

¹¹ To him *be* glory and lordship, into worlds of worlds. Amen.

¹² By Silvanus, [*a*] faithful brother to you as I deem, I wrote shortly; beseeching, and witnessing that this is the very grace of God, in which ye stand.

¹³ The church that is gathered in Babylon, and Marcus, my son, greeteth you well.

¹⁴ Greet ye well together in holy kiss. Grace *be* to you all that be in Christ. Amen.

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Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "()", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

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