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# TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

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YOUR INHERITANCE  
IN HEAVEN IS  
*incorruptible, indestructible,  
and undefiled.*

ITS VALUE WILL NEVER FADE.

THE TRINITY GUARDS  
*this treasure for you.*

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



**THRU**the**BIBLE**



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

## WHERE'S THE HOPE?



Dr. J. Vernon McGee  
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This excerpt is from our  
**1 Peter Bible Companion,**

Download a free copy at [TTB.org/1Peter](https://www.TTB.org/1Peter)  
or buy a print copy at [store.TTB.org](https://www.store.TTB.org).

Some people call Peter “the ignorant fisherman,” but no man who had spent three years in the school of Jesus could be called ignorant. The Epistles of Peter confirm this. In the first few verses of his letter he deals with the great doctrines of election, foreknowledge, sanctification, obedience, the blood of Christ, the Trinity, the grace of God, salvation, revelation, glory, faith, and hope. So much doctrine crowded into a few verses! The way in which he handles these great themes of the Bible reveals he was no ignorant fisherman. Peter writes very literally and practically. He gets down to where the rubber meets the road, right down on the asphalt of life.

Peter wrote these two letters between A.D. 64 and 67, after bloody Nero had come to the throne and persecution was already spreading through the Roman Empire. According to tradition, Peter himself suffered and died as a martyr, “a witness.”



Simon Peter likely never went to Rome. He wasn't the apostle who opened up that territory. Likely Paul founded the church at Rome, not Peter. Judging by the people they addressed in their letters, Peter went east while the apostle Paul went west. Peter's ministry was primarily to the *diaspora*, believing Jews living in Asia Minor, particularly in Babylon. Babylon was still a great city there on the Euphrates River, and many of the Jews had remained there after the end of the captivity. Only a very small group of Jews returned to their land—fewer than 60,000. When severe persecution of Jews and Christians began under Claudius in Rome, Jews escaped to Babylon. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, and Simon Peter was the apostle to Israelites who had turned to Jesus Christ.

Peter wrote these two letters to people who were suffering. He may deal with a lot of weighty subjects, but the core message is Christian hope in the time of trial. As an eyewitness to Jesus' suffering, Peter has a lot to say about it. He also speaks to us out of his own suffering experiences, but he knew the sweetness of them, how they firmed his beliefs and strengthened his faith. When Peter writes about suffering, he emphasizes the joy and testifies to God's goodness.



Even in this letter about suffering, Peter begins with gratefully praising and adoring God. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” This word “blessed” is similar to the word “eulogy.” It’s never used to refer to man, but always about praising God. We praise God because He’s given us a *living* hope, a hope that rests upon the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And did you know it was the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead?!

Whenever you study Peter’s preaching, you’ll see the resurrection of Christ. It was his great theme on the Day of Pentecost and in all of his letters. He said in effect, “*All you have seen here today is because Jesus, whom you crucified, has come back from the dead.*” And when he writes his epistles, he anchors us in Jesus’ resurrection. He was a witness, and he never forgot it.

Peter has described to us what God has done for us in the past. Now he moves into the future.

Do you realize you have an inheritance reserved for you in heaven? The Trinity guards it for us. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are taking care of it for us. This treasure is incorruptible, indestructible, and undefiled. It can’t be gotten illegally, no enemy can take it away from us, nor can it be damaged in any way—no rust, no moth, no germ, no fire can touch it. Its value will never fade away. We won’t inherit it and then find it to be worthless.

THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN  
*live the Christian life*  
IS BY THE POWER OF  
THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BECAUSE  
YOU ARE KEPT BY  
*the power of God.*

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



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Imagine how precious this promise was to the Jewish Christians who were suffering trial and persecution for their faith. They had been forced to leave their homelands and whatever inheritance would have been theirs. Now they can praise God as the Father of the incarnate Son, the Lord Jesus, the Author of the new creation and of a spiritual redemption. He's the one who gives them a living hope, a hope that will never die. He has begotten us and made us His sons through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. And He's the one who reserves this inheritance for us—not on earth but in heaven.

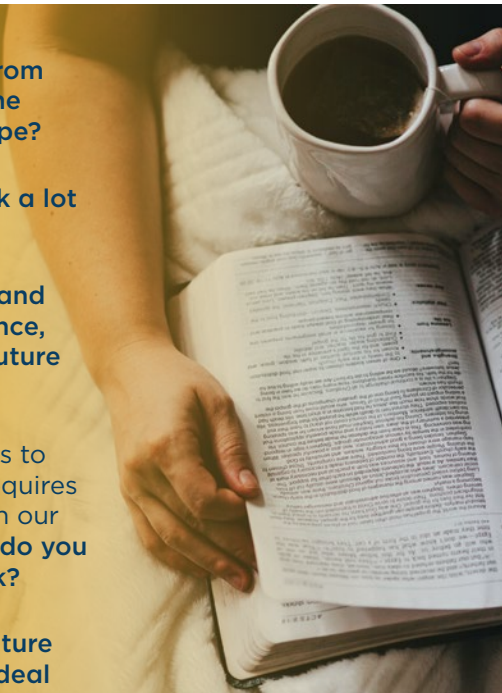
Peter reminds us of an amazing truth wrapped up in a wonderful word, *kept*. Our salvation is “kept by the power of God through faith.” Jesus Christ protects and shields our salvation through God’s power until the day we are delivered to heaven.

The only way you can live the Christian life is by the power of the Holy Spirit and because you are *kept by the power of God*—right on through until the day when Jesus presents you to His Father. As we are going to see, the hope we have is completely based on the personal relationship we have with Jesus Christ.



## MY TURN

- 1 How can the change in Peter, from the disciple in the Gospels to the writer of the epistle, give us hope?
- 2 Why do you think Peter will talk a lot about suffering in this letter?
- 3 How should God’s sovereignty and foreknowledge give us confidence, even though we can’t see the future that God sees?
- 4 The Holy Spirit works in our lives to bring us to maturity, but that requires us to cooperate with His work in our lives. In what areas of your life do you need to allow the Spirit to work?
- 5 How can the knowledge of a future heavenly inheritance help you deal with suffering today?



# FROM TRADITION TO TRUTH:

## HOW GOD'S WORD IS TRANSFORMING LIVES IN TIGRAY



**Gregg Harris**  
THRU the BIBLE President

Our trip to Ethiopia was an incredibly rich experience of seeing God at work through our newly-birthered Radio Home Group movement in this great country! In last month's article, I shared just a few of the interactions we had with pastors and Home Group leaders in the southern portion of the country. **So many testified to the power of God's Word in transforming the lives of the thousands who listen to Dr. McGee's teaching in their mother tongue.**

For the second half of our trip, we flew to Mekelle, the capital of Tigray in the northern Ethiopian region. This city serves as a cultural, political, and economic hub for the Tigrayan people, one of Ethiopia's largest ethnic groups. In some ways, it felt as if we had flown to a different country.

**Tigrayans and Amharas are largely Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, with variations in local customs. Oromo people practice a mix of Islam, Christianity, and traditional spirituality. We have Radio Home Groups in all three of these languages.**

Our local ministry team emphasizes bringing the gospel to the people in the Orthodox church, because their practices are much closer to witchcraft and superstition than anything biblical. As we traveled around the Tigray region, we repeatedly heard Orthodox priests referred to as magicians!



**Tigrinya is spoken by Tigrayans, Amharic** (Ethiopia's official language) **by Amharas, and Oromo by the Oromo** (Ethiopia's largest ethnic group). **Each has its own script and cultural significance.**



**Our local partner has distributed Bibles to 55,000 of the 120,000 Orthodox priests in this region. Many of these men are becoming born again as they gain direct exposure to the Word of God.** We heard multiple stories of the Orthodox church actively keeping people away from the Bible and persecuting those who come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Many of the believing priests are staying inside the church as missionaries to bring the gospel to those who call themselves Christians but know nothing of the Bible.

**At one of our events, I had the privilege of bringing a message to more than 100 Radio Home Group leaders. Their hunger for God's Word was evident.**



**I met a priest who is so bold in sharing Christ that our partners are concerned he will be expelled from the church!** He has personally handed out 280 Bibles. Many of these converted priests are forming Radio Home Groups and helping people systematically learn about God's truth.



**I met a man who serves as a coordinator of Radio Home Groups for the Tigray region.** He works "underground" with many in the Orthodox church.



**One woman testified that she took a media player to her village and had everyone listen.** She said the entire village wants to form Home Groups and she invited us to come with players and training to meet their hunger for God's Word.



**Another man I met drives a motorcycle taxi and plays THRU the BIBLE so every passenger can hear it.** He said that an Orthodox priest was converted by listening to Dr. McGee's guidelines programs!

**Friends, the hunger for God's Word in Ethiopia is extraordinary. Thanks to your prayer and financial support, we are handing out the Bread of Life in this part of the world.**

# J E S U S I N

## 1 Peter

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

### THERE'S POWER IN THE BLOOD

There is often a silence about the blood of Christ in our church circles. As long as the blood of the Lord coursed through His veins, it had no saving value for us; but when that precious blood was shed, Christ Jesus gave His life. He shed His blood so we might have life.

Peter is writing to Jews who had been brought up in Judaism. They knew the Old Testament and understood how the high priest on the Day of Atonement took blood with him into the Holy of Holies, and that he sprinkled the blood seven times on the mercy seat. When He died, the Lord Jesus Christ took His own blood to the throne of God (the throne at which we are judged as guilty sinners), and He sprinkled it there. **He gave His life and paid the penalty for us. Now that throne of judgment is the throne of grace where we can come and receive salvation.**

Until the meaning of the blood of Christ has been explained, the gospel has not been preached. Talking about blood may be aesthetically offensive, but the real offense of the Cross is that He shed His blood. Of course it is not pretty, but your sin isn't either. **Our ugly sin is what made it necessary for Christ to die for us. Today we have a living hope because of the blood of Christ shed for us. He died so we might live; He paid our penalty.**

**Simon Peter is not talking about something theoretical. He knows about grace and peace through the blood of Christ because Jesus Himself told him about it. He knows it because he watched Jesus die; he saw where He was buried, and he saw the resurrected Christ.** The weak, fearful man has now become a rock-man. He could stand at the Day of Pentecost and preach about Christ's death and resurrection. He could go to jail, be persecuted, write an epistle like this, and finally be crucified for the gospel.

***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***



# WHY STUDY 1 PETER?

On air **MARCH 18-APRIL 7**  
or anytime online, by podcast,  
or by mobile app.

First Peter was written in the fires of suffering—both his own and the first century church. But there’s beauty coming from these ashes—in the lives of those who suffer for Jesus’ sake.

*Suffering* (15x) and *glory* (10x) are key topics in this first letter from the pastor/apostle Peter to a church needing comfort. And Peter knows what he’s talking about. He doesn’t talk theory, but instead he shares out of his own experience.

*“Peter has been called the ignorant fisherman—but Peter’s letters reveal his three years in Jesus’ school changed him. When he first met Jesus, Peter was bungling, fumbling, and stumbling. He had been impetuous, but now as we meet him in his letters, 30 years later, Peter is a patient pastor.”* –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

## TEACHING POINTS IN 1 PETER:

- How to live daily, holy lives
- Why we should live holy lives
- Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith
- Suffering tests our faith to see if it’s real
- The Holy Spirit leads us to the truth

*Grace* AND *peace* BE MULTIPLIED TO YOU  
IN THE *knowledge of God*....

2 PETER 1:2

## LOOK HOW MUCH DOCTRINE CROWDS JUST THE FIRST VERSE OF 1 PETER 1:

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ ELECTION            | ✓ THE GRACE OF GOD |
| ✓ FOREKNOWLEDGE       | ✓ SALVATION        |
| ✓ SANCTIFICATION      | ✓ REVELATION       |
| ✓ OBEDIENCE           | ✓ GLORY            |
| ✓ THE BLOOD OF CHRIST | ✓ FAITH            |
| ✓ THE TRINITY         | ✓ HOPE             |





### Grace and Peace

Following in the footsteps of the men who wrote the letters of the New Testament, let me greet you as they did—*Grace and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ*. As we study the letters of 1 & 2 Peter on the Bible Bus in the coming months, it struck me that this greeting says a lot about the recipients of the New Testament letters.

Every Greek knew the word *charis*—or “grace”—simply meant, “Hello!” The “grace to you” phrase Peter used took it one step deeper, essentially saying “greetings from God the Father and Jesus Christ” to explain where this grace was coming from. And every Jew knew the traditional Jewish greeting *shalom*, which means “peace.”

**With this combo greeting of “*charis* and *shalom*” in almost every New Testament epistle, it was clear that God intended these letters were for everyone in the ancient world, and He wanted everyone to feel included.**

We’re finding the same is true on the Bible Bus as we take His Word and Dr. McGee’s teaching into languages where it’s never before been heard or studied. The people receive it as a message to them. **The Spirit uses it to communicate God’s grace and peace in personal ways. Language is never a barrier for the Lord.**

Only two things are eternal: God’s Word and people. Thank you for investing in both as together we take God’s whole Word to the whole world.

Grateful for your partnership,

Gregg Harris  
THRU the BIBLE, President



# WHY STUDY JOEL?

On air **MARCH 6-17**  
or anytime online, by podcast,  
or by mobile app.

Nothing feels worse than being far away from God. You don't even know that's what's wrong until you come back to Him. God pleads for you to come to Him.

*"The book of Joel is like an atom bomb—not very big, but potent and powerful. Don't ask me why God does it this way—ask Him. I don't know and you don't either. God doesn't turn in a report at the end of the week to get our approval on what He's been doing. We don't have to like it; we are in His world."* –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

## KEY VERSE

*... Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved ....* –Joel 2:32

**GOD'S PURPOSES IN JOEL:** He wants to fix what is broken in you (2:25).

His discipline opens the door to hope—beyond where you could ever go on your own.

JOEL'S MESSAGE:

*Don't trade in God  
for anything less  
than Him.*

**WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU  
TURN BACK TO GOD (2:12-13):**

- ✓ He's **gracious** and **compassionate**
- ✓ He's **slow to anger**
- ✓ He's abounding in **faithful love**
- ✓ He **relents from sending disaster**

*An invasion of locusts swarm Israel, previewing what's coming if they don't turn back to God.*





# STORIES FROM THE BIBLE BUS

## GUINEA

*“My life is divided. On the one hand, there’s the mosque, the daily prayers, and the Koran that I recite with devotion. On the other, there’s your program. **Every day, far from eavesdroppers, I turn my radio to the program to hear about Jesus, His life, and His miracles. They tell of how He healed the sick and forgave sinners.***

*“I ask myself questions that I would never dare say out loud. Who is Jesus, really? Why do Christians worship Him so much? And why, despite being a Muslim, am I drawn to these stories of grace and redemption?*

*“I don’t yet know where all this will lead me. But I continue to listen in secret, to ask questions, and to search for the truth. Maybe one day I’ll come out of the shadows and walk in the light of Jesus. Thank you and may Allah bless you.”*

**From Abdou**, who listens from Guinea  
in the Pulaar language



**BE SURE TO LISTEN ON MARCH 25 AS  
GREGG HARRIS AND STEVE SHWETZ**

share this and other moving stories from our THRU the BIBLE family in Muslim-dominant Guinea. Get on the Bible Bus on your favorite Christian radio station, at [TTB.org](http://TTB.org), or in our app.



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All Scripture is from the New King James Version  
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