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1 PETER

Unshakable: Standing Firm in a Shifting World

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

I. Five Reasons You Can Benefit from Studying 1 Peter

- **Encouragement in Suffering:** 1 Peter offers hope and guidance for enduring trials and persecution while remaining faithful to Christ.
- **Understanding Identity in Christ:** It emphasizes believers as a chosen people, royal priesthood, and strangers in the world, helping Christians ground their identity in God's purposes.
- **Practical Christian Living:** The epistle provides practical instructions on holy living, relationships, and submission to authority, applicable in all cultural contexts.
- **Strength for Witnessing:** It teaches how to live in such a way that our lives are a testimony to unbelievers, even in challenging circumstances.
- **Perspective on Hope and Glory:** Peter reminds believers of their eternal inheritance, motivating perseverance and godliness.

II. Why Peter Wrote this Letter

- Peter wrote 1 Peter to encourage Christians undergoing suffering and persecution.
- His goal was to strengthen their faith, remind them of their hope in Christ, and instruct them on how to live righteously in a hostile world.

III. Peter's Target Audience

- Peter addressed his letter to Christians scattered throughout **Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia** (1 Peter 1:1), regions in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey).

- These believers were likely a mix of Jewish and Gentile Christians living as a minority in a society hostile to their faith.

IV. When Was 1 Peter Written?

- 1 Peter is generally believed to have been written between **A.D. 62 and 64**, before the outbreak of Nero's intense persecution of Christians in Rome.

V. Issues Addressed in 1 Peter

- **Suffering and Persecution:** Encouraging believers to endure suffering for their faith with hope and trust in God (1 Peter 4:12-19).
- **Holiness and Identity:** Reminding Christians of their new identity in Christ and the call to live holy lives (1 Peter 1:13-25).
- **Christian Conduct:** Practical guidance on relationships, submission to authority, and marriage (1 Peter 2:13-3:7).
- **Faithfulness in Trials:** Encouraging steadfastness and the proper response to opposition (1 Peter 5:6-10).
- **Church Leadership:** Exhorting elders to shepherd the flock willingly and with humility (1 Peter 5:1-5).

VI. Outline of 1 Peter

A. Salutation and Opening Praise (1 Peter 1:1-2)

- Greeting and recognition of God's work in believers' lives.

B. The Hope of Salvation (1 Peter 1:3-12)

- A living hope through Christ's resurrection.
- Inheritance and joy in the midst of trials.

C. Call to Holy Living (1 Peter 1:13-2:12)

- Be holy as God is holy.
- Love one another earnestly.
- Living as a chosen people and spiritual house.

D. Christian Conduct in the World (1 Peter 2:13-3:12)

- Submission to authorities and masters.
- Instructions for spouses.
- Unity and humility among believers.

E. Suffering for Christ (1 Peter 3:13-4:19)

- Responding to suffering with gentleness and hope.
- Rejoicing in suffering as sharing in Christ's sufferings.

F. Exhortations for the Church (1 Peter 5:1-11)

- Instructions to elders and younger believers.
- Encouragement to resist the devil and stand firm in faith.

G. VII. Closing Remarks (1 Peter 5:12-14)

- Final greetings and blessings of peace.

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