

# *The Role of the Mind in the Life of Faith*

## **The First Letter of Peter**

Adult Bible Study  
Msgr Charles Pope

- I. Background
  - A. Author is Simon Peter
  - B. Date is approximately 67 AD
  - C. Purpose of the Letter - to console and instruct Christians in the far-flung regions of the empire who were suffering from the First widespread persecution under Nero. Nero established the persecution in response to the fire in Rome in 64.
  - D. Peter exhorts and instructs the faithful in order that their minds be renewed and that they see and understand things in a new way.
  - E. For our purposes we shall explore the instructions of this letter as the description of the New Mind that comes to us in our baptism. Due to the transformative power of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we receive the mind of Christ and begin to see and understand things in a new way.
  - F. Consider some New Testament teachings on the mind
    1. Sin distorts and darkens the mind making it hostile to God and his teaching
      - a. Rom 1:21 *but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a base mind and to improper conduct. They were filled with all manner of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity, they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.*
      - b. 2 Cor 4:4 *the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God.*
      - c. Eph 4:17 *Now this I affirm and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; they are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart; they have become callous and have given themselves up to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of uncleanness. You did not so learn Christ!--*
      - d. Titus 1:15 *To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and consciences are*

*corrupted.*

2. Sin and the flesh make the mind hostile to God
  - a. Rom 8:5 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit....7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot;*
  - b. Phil 3:18 *For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.*
  
3. There is a call to receive a new mind and to grow in this new mind
  - a. Rom 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
  - b. 1 Cor 2:16 *For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. But I, brethren, could not address you as spiritual men, but as men of the flesh, as babes in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not ready for it; and even yet you are not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving like ordinary men?*
  - c. 1 Cor 15:34 *Come to your right mind, and sin no more. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.*
  - d. Eph 4:22 *Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*
  - e. Col 3:3:1 *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

II. Chapter One - having a vision for your life

A. The Consequences of our Calling

1. **1:1 *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen sojourners of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 in the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification by the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ: may grace and peace be yours in abundance.***
2. Note the vision -
  - a. A Christian is chosen in the foreknowledge of God
  - b. A Christian is sanctified (set apart) so that the following Consequences ensue
    - (1) They are washed clean by the blood of Christ
    - (2) They are, by this power, enabled to obey God
3. This is a Way of thinking, of seeing and understanding
4. Compare it to the worldly vision which emphasizes
  - a. That life is more a matter of a chance coming together of atoms, blind evolution etc.
  - b. That faith is more a matter of chance (where you were born, how you were raised etc.)
  - c. That obedience is unnecessary
  - d. Or even if obedience is important, it is human achievement.

B. The Parameters of our Place

1. **3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you 5 who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.***
2. Here is a mind that has been touched. Peter is able to see through faith and revelation what God has in store for the faithful.
3. Do you have this vision?
4. Peter couldn't look it up. He had to write it! This means he had to experience it, let his mind be touched and write it down.
5. It is precious that he did write it but the question is, "Is this vision also in our minds? Or is it just on the pages of our Bible?"

C. The Significance of our Suffering

1. **6 *In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, 7 so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Although you have not seen him you love him; even though***

*you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 as you attain the goal of (your) faith, the salvation of your souls. 10 \* Concerning this salvation, prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and investigated it, 11 investigating the time and circumstances that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the glories to follow them. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you with regard to the things that have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you (through) the holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels longed to look.*

2. Ok Here is how to think about suffering:
    - a. This how to perceive it -
      - (1) your faith is being tested and perfected through it
    - b. This is how to persevere in it
      - (1) Despite your suffering which you see, set your faith on Christ, even though you do not see him
      - (2) Focus on the Joy of what shall be as Christ has already shown
      - (3) Know by faith that suffering leads to glory
    - c. This is how precious it is.
      - (1) You have a vision that the ancients lacked
      - (2) Angels longed to see this time of grace
  3. Again, note the appeal to the mind. Here is how to think of and understand suffering. There are many other such appeals in Scripture. Here is but one:
    - a. *The first and the last, who once died but came to life, says this: "I know your tribulation and poverty, but you are rich. Do not be afraid of anything that you are going to suffer. The devil may throw you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will face an ordeal. Remain faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Rev 2:8-10)*
  4. The World simply rejects suffering and is an enemy of the Cross of Christ.
- D. The Mandates for our Mind
1. ***13 Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, live soberly, and set your hopes completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 Like obedient children, do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance***
  2. Regarding our minds we are given the following instructions.
    - a. Gird up the loins -

- b. Live soberly
- c. Set your hopes completely on the glory of Jesus Christ
- d. Be obedient
- e. Reject your former ignorance
- f. Accept the invitation and power to become holy

E. The Power of the Precious Blood

1. ***15 but, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, 16 for it is written, "Be holy because I (am) holy." 17 Now if you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, 18 realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold 19 but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb...22 Since you have purified yourselves by obedience to the truth for sincere mutual love, love one another intensely from a (pure) heart. 23 You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and abiding word of God, 24 for: "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the field; the grass withers, and the flower wilts; 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever." This is the word that has been proclaimed to you.***
2. There is a call to be holy and we will be judged by our response to this call. There cannot be excuses since a new power is available to us.
3. Our minds must grasp this and stop making excuses. We must reverence (reveror in Latin means to have a respectful fear) for the day of judgement and the call we have received.
4. This is because there is a power available to us to by the precious blood. We no longer live in futility. Our minds must grasp this.
5. This power enables us to
  - a. Obey the truth
  - b. Have sincere and mutual love
  - c. Persevere unto the end, despite our human limitations

F. The Foundation of our Faith

1. ***20 He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, 21 who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.***
2. Jesus was known by the Father from all eternity.
3. But now he is revealed to you so that you too may know him and by this have hope and saving faith.

III. Chapters Two and Three

A. Having spoken of a vision for our life and appealing to our minds to accept this vision Peter now turns to a vision for our life as a member of the Body of Christ, the Church, and, by extension, as a member of the wider community of the world. Yet note this, our relationship with the world always presupposes our deeper relationship with Christ and his body the Church.

B. Let go and Long for

1. ***2:1 Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, insincerity, envy, and all slander; 2 like newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk so that through it you may grow into salvation, 3 for you have tasted that the Lord is good.***

C. The Call to communion

1. ***4 Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, 5 and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it says in scripture: "Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame." 7 Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall." They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny. 9 But you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were "no people" but now you are God's people; you "had not received mercy" but now you have received mercy.***

D. Ways to Witness

1. Self Control -

a. ***11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and sojourners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against the soul...16 Be free, yet without using freedom as a pretext for evil, but as slaves of God.***

2. Uprightness -

a. ***12 Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that if they speak of you as evildoers, they may observe your good works and glorify God on the day of visitation.***

3. Respectfulness -

a. ***13 Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether it be to the king as supreme 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the approval of those***

*who do good. 15 For it is the will of God that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of foolish people...17 Give honor to all, love the community, fear God, honor the king.*

4. Under authority -

a. *18 Slaves, be subject to your masters with all reverence, not only to those who are good and equitable but also to those who are perverse. 19 For whenever anyone bears the pain of unjust suffering because of consciousness of God, that is a grace. 20 But what credit is there if you are patient when beaten for doing wrong? But if you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God.*

5. Exemplifying Christ

a. *21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

6. Having Well ordered Families

a. Wives -

(1) *3:1 Likewise, you wives should be subordinate to your husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct 2 when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior. 3 Your adornment should not be an external one: braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes, 4 but rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm disposition, which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God once used to adorn themselves and were subordinate to their husbands; 6 thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord." You are her children when you do what is good and fear no intimidation.*

b. Husbands -

(1) *7 Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in understanding, showing honor to the weaker female sex, since we are joint heirs of the gift of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

7. The Miracle of Unity and love
- a. ***8 Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. 9 Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.***
- E. Don't Block your Blessings -
1. ***10 For: "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep the tongue from evil and the lips from speaking deceit, 11 must turn from evil and do good, seek peace and follow after it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears turned to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against evildoers."***
- F. Persecution or Praise, either way you're blessed!
1. ***13 Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts....17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.***
- G. Train for Testimony -
1. ***Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, 16 but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame.***
- H. In the likeness of the Lord
1. ***18 For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the spirit. 19 In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, 20 who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. 21 This prefigured baptism, which saves you now.***
- I. The Blessings of Baptism -
1. ***It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.***

#### IV. Chapter Four

##### A. Forget the Flesh

1. ***1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same attitude (for whoever suffers in the flesh has broken with sin), 2 so as not to spend what remains of one's life in the flesh on human desires, but on the will of God. 3 For the time that has passed is sufficient for doing what the Gentiles like to do: living in debauchery, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and wanton idolatry. 4 They are surprised that you do not plunge into the same swamp of profligacy, and they vilify you; 5 but they will give an account to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead.***
2. There is a vision and power in the cross.
3. There is a cross in renouncing sin. People who want a cross-less Christianity often object to our moral vision as too challenging, too demanding. Many Christians simply fold in embarrassment at such reactions and fail to preach our moral vision. This embarrassment at the cross is a significant problem today. This passage is clear, to come away from a life of passionate self indulgence involves accepting the cross and the freedom of self control. It will involve suffering from within and without.

##### B. The Power of Preaching

1. ***6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead that, though condemned in the flesh in human estimation, they might live in the spirit in the estimation of God.***
2. Two traditions exist as to what is meant by “the dead”
  - a. Those who are dead in sin
  - b. Those in Sheol who died before the coming of Christ

##### C. Premise and Practices

1. Premise - ***7 The end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers.***
  - a. We'll discuss in class what is meant by the end of all things
  - b. Serious - *sophrosune* - from the Greek *Sozein* - meaning to keep safe, and *phronesis* - meaning the mind
  - c. Sober - *nephein* a sober mind is characterized by a mind that frivolous or irresponsible, that does not act impulsively and is not inordinately under the sway of various passions and emotions. It is a mind that is clear and able to discern the data it receives whether from within or without.
  - d. Without these, deep prayer is not possible.
2. Practices -
  - a. ***8 Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because***

***love covers a multitude of sins.***

- (1) At one level, love overlooks many faults
- (2) At another level love atones for sin.
- (3) At another level, love prevents sins

***b. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaining.***

- (1) Hospitality was a basic virtue in the ancient world due to several factors
  - (a) travel was more difficult and unpredictable
  - (b) When night fell it was very dark and travel stopped (unless perhaps there were a full or bright moon).
  - (c) stores were less common
  - (d) travel was dangerous due to robbers

***c. 10 As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. 11 Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

- (1) A sober mind appreciates that God has given us gifts for others benefit not merely our own. We will be judged on how we have used these gifts.
  - (a) cf. Parable of the talents
- (2) Since the end of things is near, our most fundamental work is to assist each other toward eternal life

***d. 12 Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.***

- (1) A sober mind realizes the inevitability of suffering and persecution for one who walks in the paths of the Lord Jesus.
- (2) John 15:19 *If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.*
- (3) Luke 6:26 *"Woe to you, when all men speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.*

- (4) Mark 13:13 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake.

***e. 15 But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer. 16 But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name.***

- (1) Not all suffering is a sign that we are of God. There is suffering that comes from bad behavior and this is not commended

- (2) But the suffering that comes due to our Christian walk is a sign of glory

(a) Mat 5:11 *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

***f. 17 For it is time for the judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, how will it end for those who fail to obey the gospel of God? 18 "And if the righteous one is barely saved, where will the godless and the sinner appear?" 19 As a result, those who suffer in accord with God's will hand their souls over to a faithful creator as they do good.***

- (1) There is a judgement upon this world. If we stand with the world and it's ways we will share it's condemnation

- (2) If we obey the gospel of God we will share it's reward.

- (3) How sober are you about the fact that the end is near and what that end shall be?

V. Chapter 5 - Final Advice

A. Advice to Presbyters - *1 So I exhort the presbyters among you, as a fellow presbyter and witness to the sufferings of Christ and one who has a share in the glory to be revealed. 2 Tend the flock of God in your midst, overseeing not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. 3 Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

1. Who were the presbyters? The Greek word means elder. But we are probably talking about more than the chronologically advanced here. What is likely meant here were officially appointed leaders who received such an appointment by an ordination rite, the laying on of hands.

a. Acts 14:22 *Paul and Barnabas, confirmed the souls of the disciples, and exhorted them to continue in the faith, and said that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.*

b. Titus 1:5 *The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.*

c. James 5:14 *Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;*

2. Key phrases or words:

a. **Tend** - the Greek word means to tend as a shepherd, feed.

b. **Oversee** - here is the word for bishop (episcopus) The word for priest and bishop tended to be interchangeable in these early texts

c. **Not by constraint** - a man can shepherd a people because he loves them or angrily, unwillingly or grudgingly. The invitation is for a priest to love the people he serves.

d. **Not for profit** - Money, power and popularity can taint or thwart the prophetic mission of the priest

e. **Do not lord it over** - Power can be intoxicating and lead to insensitive or bad behavior.

(1) Mat 23:4 *They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have*

*men call them 'Rabbi.'*

(2) Mat 20:25 *But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

- f. Be examples - be a living gospel, not just a word smith
- g. You will receive - don't just count the cost, exult in the reward.

B. Advice to other Church leaders - 5 ***Likewise, you younger members, be subject to the presbyters.***

- 1. What is meant here? Young people or lower ranking members of the leadership? It is not certain.
- 2. But again, note the vision that there is a place to be subject. The Church is not presented as a democracy in the scriptures. Rather it is a hierarchy

C. Advice to all the members -

- 1. Humility - ***And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for: "God opposes the proud but bestows favor on the humble." 6 So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time 7 Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you..***
  - a. To humble is to accept and reverence the truth about ourselves. To know our gifts and place them at the service of others. To know our need for others and accept what they offer.
  - b. Further, humility accepts our need for God and prays to him regarding all our concerns.
- 2. Sober vigilance -
  - a. ***8 Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for (someone) to devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings.***
  - b. Sober - we have discussed the meaning of this word several times already. It is a very precious word which has some of the following meanings
    - (1) To have a clear mind which grasps what is really going on
      - (a) Within us
      - (b) Outside us

(2) To not be under the sway or of or addiction to passions

- c. In this case we must have a clear mind to understand that the devil is on his job. We have an enemy and we must learn his tactics, regard his power, and persistently resist him through the gift of our faith. This calls for sobriety. He is our enemy though he often masquerades as a friend. But he is our enemy. He appeals to our mind to deceive us. We must have sobriety, a clear mind, to understand that he is wrong and out for our destruction.

3. Perspective -

- a. ***10 The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ (Jesus) will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little. 11 To him be dominion forever. Amen.***
- b. In our struggle against sin and other negative forces in our life we can be discouraged if we don't take the long view. Most things are hard at first but become easier with time. Virtue takes effort to develop but in the end we are stronger and do it without thinking. Making changes in our life will require initial suffering but God will see us through and make us stronger after awhile.
- c. An old Gospel song draws on this text: Oh my brother be encouraged, God will strengthen your soul. Storm clouds will pass away, the sun is gonna shine after awhile.

4. Perseverance -

- a. ***12 I write you this briefly through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, exhorting you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Remain firm in it. 13 The chosen one at Babylon sends you greeting, as does Mark, my son. 14 Greet one another with a loving kiss. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.***
- b. Who is the chosen one? Since the word is in the feminine it is not likely Peter referring to himself. But this is not certain. It is possibly a personification of the Church.
- c. Babylon is a common way of referring to Rome.
- d. ***This is the true grace of God*** - In other words, here is the true vision of your life. Here is what is really going on. Apply your minds to this, be sober, see life as it really is and remain in this vision, have this mind continually.