

# “Incredible Imperfection”

1 Peter 1:1a

January 29, 2023

**INTRO:** Let me ask you a question & riddle as we begin...

1. What's the **WORST SIN/thing** you've ever done?
2. What one-word can fill this 2-question riddle?

\_\_\_\_\_ is the best fact & feeling in the world!

**Example:** one word fits both blanks...

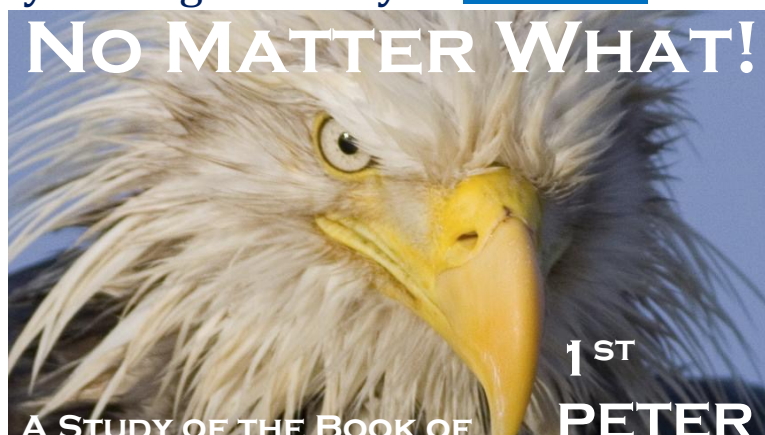
[ \_\_\_\_\_ worship = \_\_\_\_\_ renewal. ]

(Hold those thoughts... we'll come back to them later...)

Let's PRAY

## CONTEXT:

- ~ Today we are beginning a new sermon series...
- ~ Building on *The Kingdom, Psalm 119, & Hebrews...*
- ~ Also building on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup> gospels... **BUT...**  
(Outside Israel... Revelation 2-3; Ephesus; Colossae, Galatia)
- ~ Today we begin a study of **1<sup>st</sup> Peter**...



**BIG IDEA:** You can **BE hope-filled...**  
because there are NO living messes that  
our LORD & Messiah cannot transform  
into loving & lasting missionaries!

**PREVIEW:** We'll focus on 1<sup>st</sup> Peter's ABC's today

A	=	<b>AUTHOR</b>	&	<b>Author</b>
B	=	<b>Blueprint</b>	&	<b>Bullseye</b>
C	=	<b>Christ</b>	&	<b>Commission</b>

**TEXT:** 1 Peter 1:1a

*"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ"*

## I. **A:** **AUTHOR** & **Author** *Peter...*

1. **AUTHOR #1** = God ALMIGHTY
  - a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - b. 1 Peter 1:25

***BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER."**  
And this is the word/gospel which was preached to you.*

## 2. Author #2:

- a. It's Peter... ignore any & all controversy
  - i. See AUTHOR #1
  - ii. See *"an apostle OF Jesus Christ"*

*The supreme importance of the apostles is suggested by the fact that the phrase 'of Jesus Christ' is attached to no other New Testament office: we do not read of 'teachers of Jesus Christ' or 'prophets of Jesus Christ' or 'evangelists of Jesus Christ', only of 'apostles of Jesus Christ'. Those who held this office had authority at least equal to the Old Testament prophets, for the apostles could speak and write God's very words (Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 2:16; 1 Cor. 2:13; 14:37; 2 Cor. 13:3; Gal. 1:8-9; 1 Thess. 2:13; 4:8, 15; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14; 2 Pet. 3:2) and thus could write the words which became New Testament Scripture (1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Pet. 3:16, cf. Rev. 22:18-19; 1 Thess. 5:27; 2 Thess. 3:14).*

*The opening phrase reminds the readers, then, that Peter is writing in his role as an apostle of Jesus Christ: the words are also God's words, and we should receive them as that.*

**- Dr. Wayne Grudem**

- b. Let's take a closer look at Peter, our author:

In Peter, we are able & blessed to see...  
the Christian's grace-based, miraculously-missional, truth-in-love, forgiveness-filled, hoping and healing, journey into eternity!

**T/S:** Let's tear into Peter's testimony: **BC @ AD**

M M M  
B.C. @ A.D.  
4 U 2

~ **BC** Peter

- A. Simon was his name, brother of Andrew – fishermen
- B. Jesus changed his name from “*listener*” to “*stone*”
- C. Strong & powerful personality from the beginning
- D. He's got a big *foot-shaped mouth*, ego, & heart
- E. He's got little patience: *Ready.... FIRE! ...aim*

Peter is a portrait of **incredible imperfection!**

**T/S:** Peter (like David, you & me) is a passionate paradox of peaks & valleys!

~ @ Peter

CALLED: Matt. 4:19-20

See *"IMMEDIATELY"* in Peter's obedience...

Jesus doesn't call the all-stars,  
He MAKES the all-stars!

- > **Jesus ignores the religious experts...**
- > Jesus calls & confirms the chosen.
- > *Jesus prioritizes passion over pedigree!*

**T/S:** QUOTE

*Some writings are manufactured out of books,  
the way freshmen students write term papers;  
but this letter grew out of a life lived to the glory of God.*

- Warren Wiersbe

II. **B:** Blueprints & Bullseye  
*...an apostle of...*

1. Blueprints:

**VIDEO:** *"1<sup>st</sup> Peter per The Bible Project"*

2. Bullseye:

a. *Exemplify* Christ & His Gospel

b. *Exhort* ALL Christians to Christ-likeness

*(No Matter What!)*

# III. C: Christ & Commission

## *Peter, an apostle of ...Jesus Christ...*

[Matthew 16:13-27](#)

### ***Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ***

**13**Now... Jesus... asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14**And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15**He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16**Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

- > Peter was 1<sup>st</sup> leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> Christian church
- > Peter was always listed first/chief (4X in NT)
- > Peter's name is mentioned more than all but Jesus
- > No one speaks more to Jesus in N.T. than Peter...
- > Jesus speaks more to Peter than any other in N.T.

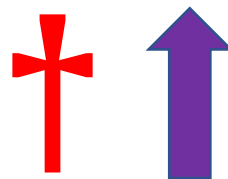
**17** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. [ **miracle** ]

**18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [ **MESSIAH** ]

**19** *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.* [ **mission - see Matt. 18:18 for all disciples** ]...

### **Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

**21** From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.



**22** And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." **23** But he turned and said to Peter, ***"Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."***

### CRASHED:

- > *He rebuked Jesus... & Jesus rebuked him most of all*
- > *Fell asleep on Jesus*
- > *Sank after walking on water*
- > *Wops off the ear*
- > *Deny's Christ 3X the same night he was warned...*

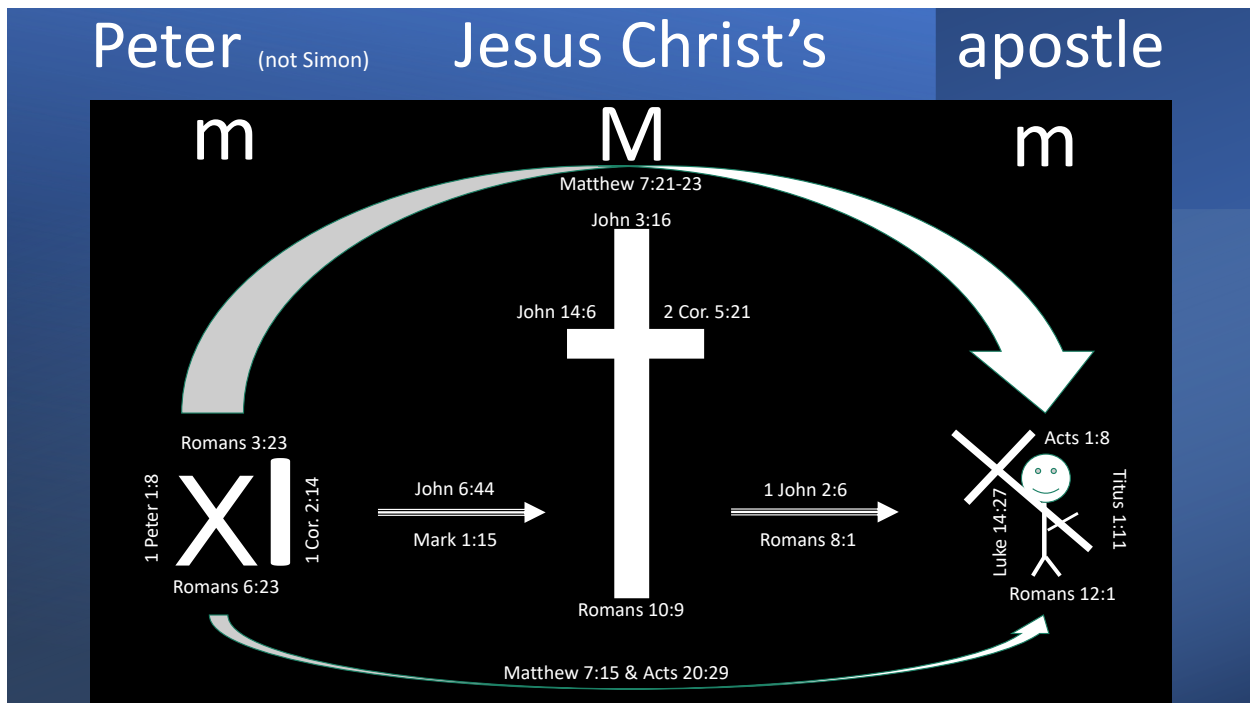
## Who in the world would pick this guy to lead?

**VIDEO:** *"Cardboard Testimonies"*

### ***Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus***

**24** Then ***Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done."***





~ AD Peter

### CHAMPIONED:

- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2 (Pentecost's preacher)
- Acts 4:20ff = biblical "witnessing" & inspiring!
- Acts 5... Used by God to purge Ananias & Sapphire
- Used by God to raise the **dead Dorcas**
- Acts 10 Used by God to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles
- **Paul still had to rebuke him for hypocrisy** in Galatia
- Crucified upside down

**CLOSE:** So let's bring this all together...

When you look at Peter, who/what do you see?

> Let's go back to our opening question & riddle....

What is the **WORST** sin/thing you've ever done?

Peter encourages us when we see our imperfections...

See the great dichotomy that is Peter... **He is US!**

We're all Simon's... who hope to be Peters!

**(Now take your answer into our riddle.)**

*What is the best FACT & FEELING in the world?*

(There's a 7-way Gospel-tie...)

1. God's **LOVE**
2. God's **GRACE**
3. God's **MERCY**
4. God's **PASSION**
5. God's **FORGIVENESS**
6. God's **RESTORATION**
7. Christian **SANCTIFICATION**

So... now...

When you look at Peter what do you see?

*Loads of love*

*Piles of passion*

*Mountains of mercy*

*Forests of forgiveness*

*Galaxies of grace*

*“Grace is the mother & nurse of holiness... NOT  
the apologist (advocate or excuse) for sin.” – Spurgeon*

**One more time... Who is Peter?**

**Answer:**

*In one sense, and I pray you get this...  
Peter is Peter. In another sense, Peter is Christ  
(to the extent that He loves & lives as Christ’s  
ambassador). In a final sense, Peter is YOU  
(and me), in so much as we are united in  
Peter’s messes, miracles, **Messiah**,  
mission, & message.*

You see friends...

Peter is nothing less than  
a lens through which  
we can see our ourselves  
and others...  
as well as our LORD,  
Jesus The Christ and  
His glory, grace & Gospel.

Amen and AMEN!

- JDP

## **PRAYER**

**WORSHIP:** *I See Grace (medley)*