

Story 131: The Letters of Peter

Peter was a disciple of Jesus. After Jesus went back to heaven, Peter traveled to many places. He told people about Jesus. He wrote letters to the churches. Two of Peter's letters, First and Second Peter, are in the Bible. Peter wrote the letters to encourage Christians. He told them that God is saving treasures in heaven for those who love God and want to obey Him. The problems and difficulties that Christians have on earth cannot take away the treasures God has for them in heaven.

Here are some words from Peter's letters:

"Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on. God has something stored up for you in heaven, where it will never decay or be ruined or disappear.

"You have faith in God, whose power will protect you until the last day. Then he will save you, just as he has always planned to do. On that day you will be glad, even if you have to go through many hard trials for a while. Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold that can be destroyed. They will show that you will be given praise and honor and glory when Jesus Christ returns." – I Peter 1:3-7

"Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. If you have the gift of speaking, preach God's message. If you have the gift of helping others, do it with the strength that God supplies. Everything should be done in a way that will bring honor to God because of Jesus Christ, who is glorious and powerful forever. Amen." – I Peter 4:10-11

"Dear friends, don't forget that for the Lord one day is the same as a thousand years, and a thousand years is the same as one day. The Lord isn't slow about keeping his promises, as some people think he is. In fact, God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost. The day of the Lord will surprise us like a thief. . . . Everything will be destroyed. So you should serve and honor God by the way you live. . . . On that day the heavens will be destroyed by fire, and everything else will melt in the heat. But God has promised us a new heaven and a new earth, where justice will rule. We are really looking forward to that!" – 2 Peter 3:8-10a; 11-13