

## Peter

Relevance to Current Issues (God, devil, both?)

Themes: Persecution, Refining, Eternal/Kingdom Perspective, Preeminence of Jesus

Goal of Persecution - Silence the Voice of Jesus (spirit of antichrist ~ 1 Jn 4:2-3)

(Ac 4:16-21) <sup>16</sup>“What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup>“But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.” <sup>18</sup>So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup>But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. <sup>20</sup>“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” <sup>21</sup>So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.

religion okay, miracles okay, no Jesus - Control/Allegiance of People

Persecution is effort to Discredit and Contain Christ's Voice - Intimidation

(Mt 5:11-12) <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup>“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

enough Control of People moves from Intimidation to Elimination

(Ac 12:1-3) <sup>1</sup>Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. <sup>2</sup>Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. <sup>3</sup>And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also.

God Refines His Church (Voice) so it can be Salt/Light to the world

(Mt 5:13-16) <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>“Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup>“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

persecution is a built in fix to refine the church - drives us to Him

something to consider before praying for Justice or declaring Judgement

(1Pe 4:17) <sup>17</sup>For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

God Refines the Church before bringing Justice to the world because

He wants the Church to Partner with Him in Justice! (Isa 41:1, Prayer)

Political Idolatry (Stuart Greaves) - Reliance (determines influence)

Prayer is a Barometer

(1Ti 2:1-2) <sup>1</sup>Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

vote! - but prayer for authority will have more effect on national peace

how much (indicator of reliance) - less when our guy wins?

for all? - God's appointed authority? (Rom 13:1)

Much of what is going on is God Refining His Church

He is Building His Church (not America) to be a blessing to the nations

(Mt 16:16-18) <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>“And I also say to you that you are Peter (stone), and on this rock (large mass) I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

The Church is Built on the Revelation of Jesus

America is blessing to nations in proportion to our Revelation of Jesus

Consider how God refined the “apple of His eye” (Zech 2:8)

Elections won’t change Persecution in men’s hearts, only Revival will

We cannot look for Politics to Protect the Church because  
the Church is supposed to Protect Politics (1 Tim 2:1-2)

### 1 Peter

written early/mid 60’s from Babylon (1 Pe 5:13)

to Dispersion (1 Pe 1:1) in midst of Persecution

Babylonian captives (Jn 7:35, Jas 1:1)

scattered from persecution after Stephen’s martyrdom (Acts 8:1, 11:19)

by Peter, an Apostle to the Jews (Gal 2:7-8)

Jerusalem, Dispersion, crucified by Nero in Rome (late 60’s)

probably to Rome after Paul’s Roman beheading (AD 64)

Peter’s wife martyred before him

Peter - Bold, Passionate Leader (Extremes)

walked on water (Mt 14)

recognized Jesus as Messiah then tried to correct Him (Mt 16)

“don’t wash my feet - wash all of me” (Jn 13)

“you have the words of eternal life” (Jn 6) - denial of Jesus (Mt 26)

gospel/Spirit to gentiles (Acts 10), Jerusalem council (Acts 15) - rebuked for favoritism (Gal 2)

leader among Apostles (Acts 1)

first sermon/birth of church at Pentecost (Acts 2)

ended as he began crucified upside down (typical Peter extreme)

be who you are (don’t let fails diminish you) and go for it