

Doctrine of Peter

1. Peter was the brother of Andrew. They were both called by Christ to be His disciples by the Sea of Galilee. They came from the city of Bethsaida.
 - *Matthew 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.*
 - *John 1:44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.*

2. In order to show His ownership of Peter's heart, Jesus changed his name.
 - *Mark 3:16 And Simon he surnamed Peter;*

3. As a disciple of Christ, Peter was appointed one of the original Twelve Apostles. His name is placed first in each list.
 - *Matthew 10:2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;*
 - *Mark 3:16-19 And Simon he surnamed Peter;*
 - *Luke 6:13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; 14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,*
 - *Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.*

4. Peter could be impetuous and bold as he was the night he asked the Lord to let him walk on water.
 - *Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.*

5. Peter was ever seeking to understand the teaching of Christ and did not hesitate to ask for clarification when he did not comprehend the Lord's teaching.
 - A parable clarified. *Matthew 15:15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.*

- A foot washing ritual crystallized. *John 13:6 Then cometh he [Jesus] to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. 9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.*

5. Illuminated by the Holy Spirit, Peter comprehended the divinity of Jesus.

- *Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

6. In sovereign grace Christ chose Peter to be the foundation of the New Testament expression of the church.

- *Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

7. The impulses of Peter were both positive and negative. He was wrong to rebuke Christ but there is no question it was love which compelled him to say what he did.

- *Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.*

8. The Lord did not hesitate to rebuke His beloved disciple in the harshest language. A rebuke was richly deserved.

- *Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

9. Peter was a member of the inner circle of the Twelve consisting of James and his brother John. They were with Christ on the mount of transfiguration.

- *Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,*

10. There are glorious spiritual moments that we want to last forever. Peter had such a moment when he saw the glory of the Lord and the appearance of Moses and Elijah.

- *Matthew 17:4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.*

11. Peter knew the Lord had critics whom he could not answer. Wisely did Peter bring the challenges of the skeptics to Christ for consideration and clarification.

- *Matthew 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?*

12. The Lord would often take a difficult situation and make it a teaching moment as He did with Peter and the matter of paying tribute. Jesus asked Peter a question to which Peter provided a correct answer.

- *Matthew 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? 25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers? 26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.*

When Peter understood the great principle Jesus wanted to convey, the Lord moved to make a personal application.

“27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee”.

13. In the training of the Twelve the Lord dealt with universal concerns such as the issue of forgiveness. It was Peter’s question that allowed the Lord to address the issue.

- *Matthew 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?*

14. When Peter understood the promises of the Lord for those who followed Him, Peter was honest enough to ask in effect, “Lord, what shall we have?”

Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

15. Unfortunately, Peter had too high of an estimation of his own capacity to stand with Christ in the hour of persecution. Spiritual courage must be given to the soul as a gift of divine grace.

- *Matthew 26:33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.*

Even when Jesus foretold Peter’s betrayal, he was not convinced but reasserted his personal bravery and commitment to Christ.

- *Matthew 26:35 Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.*

16. While Jesus prayed and wept in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter slept.

- *Matthew 26:37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.*

When aroused and encouraged to watch and pray, Peter returned to his slumber.

- *Matthew 26:40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?*

17. Though Peter would deny Christ and though he did flee into the night when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus as the Lord had foretold, Peter did not flee very far but followed Christ in fear from a distance.

- *Matthew 26:58 But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.*

18. The most tragic part of the story of Peter's life is the hour of his denial of Christ when confronted by strangers.

The statement of a young girl said that Peter was a disciple of Jesus.

- *Matthew 26:69 Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.*

The statement of other strangers said that Peter was a disciple of Jesus.

- *Matthew 26:73 And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.*

19. When Peter remembered the word of Jesus concerning his denial, he repented and went and wept bitterly over what he had done. Herein is the great difference between his repentance and that of Judas Iscariot.

- *Matthew 26:75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.*

20. Just a few days prior to His crucifixion Jesus did something that Peter never forgot. The Lord cursed a fig tree.

- *Mark 11:21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.*

Special Note.

The only item Christ cursed during the course of His earthly ministry was the fig tree. In as far as the fig tree represented false religion then the divine analogy remained consistent from the Garden of Eden to that present moment for Adam and Eve had tried to cover their transgression with religion. Christ condemned it in the Garden of Eden and He condemned it centuries later in Israel.

21. As Jesus contemplated the future of national Israel He wept because He knew it would be destroyed. While sitting with Christ on the Mount of Olives, Peter, James and John asked the Lord what would be the signs that would precede the terrible fate of the nation.
 - *Mark 13:3 And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?*

22. One of the most precious passages in the *New Testament* is the command to go and tell the disciples in general that Christ was risen from the dead. And in particular, tell Peter.
 - *Mark 16:7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.*

23. In later years, when Luke wrote his gospel with Peter as his primary source, the great apostle would remember incidents that took place during the ministry of Jesus.
 - Peter remembered how he had an insight into the divine nature of Christ while fishing. *Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it [the boat filling with fish], he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*
 - Peter remembered how a woman with an issue touched Christ by faith in a special way. *Luke 8:45 And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?*
 - Peter remembered the healing by Jesus of a young girl. *Luke 8:51 And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.*
 - Peter remembered how Jesus had sent him and John to help prepare for what became the last Passover meal. *Luke 22:8 And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the Passover, that we may eat.*

- Peter remembered what happened when he heard that Jesus had risen from the dead. He remembered how he ran to the sepulchre and went inside. *Luke 24:12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass. John 20:6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,*
24. While Peter is often remembered for being impetuous, in spiritual matters he could also be very discerning. When asked if the disciples would also leave Him, Jesus heard Peter say no and explained why.
- *John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.*
25. Following his great denial, Peter felt his usefulness to the Lord was over. He would return to his trade of fishing.
- *John 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.*
26. But the Lord was not finished with Peter. Rather, Jesus would invite Peter to come and dine and be restored to fellowship with a view towards service.
- *John 21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. 8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. 9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. 10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, and hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. 12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? Knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. 14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. 15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

Jesus has a table spread
 Where the saints of God are fed,
 He invites His chosen people, "Come and dine";
 With His manna He doth feed
 And supplies our every need:
 O 'tis sweet to sup with Jesus all the time!

"Come and dine," the Master calleth, "Come and dine";
 You may feast at Jesus' table all the time;
 He Who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine,
 To the hungry calleth now, "Come and dine."

The disciples came to land,
 Thus obeying Christ's command,
 For the Master called unto them, "Come and dine";
 There they found their heart's desire,
 Bread and fish upon the fire;
 Thus He satisfies the hungry every time.

Soon the Lamb will take His bride
 To be ever at His side,
 All the host of Heaven will assembled be;
 O 'twill be a glorious sight,
 All the saints in spotless white;
 And with Jesus they will feast eternally.

27. Having been restored to favor and grace, Peter was used on the day of Pentecost to preach the gospel.

- *Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)*
- *Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:*

The result of Peter's preaching was effective.

- *Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

28. As an apostle of Jesus Christ, Peter always deflected attention and glory from himself to the Lord.

- *Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God: 10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. 11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. 12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? Or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?*

29. The source of Peter's spiritual power was that he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

- *Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,*

30. One great principle from the life of Peter is that others can know if we have been with Jesus. Occupation with the person of Christ will give the heart holy boldness.

- *Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

31. When pressured to keep silent about Christ, Peter refused, as all Christians must.

- *Acts 4:15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. 17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straightly threaten them that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. 18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.*

32. Peter was committed to the principle of personal accountability and church discipline.

- Judgment was pronounced upon Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit. *Acts 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.*
- Judgment was pronounced on a greedy man named Simon for trying to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.*

33. Signs and wonders were associated with the ministry of Peter.

- *Acts 5:15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.*
- *Acts 9:34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.*
- *Acts 9:38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.*

34. Peter set forth the comprehensive non negotiable guiding principle for every facet of the Christian life.

- *Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

A Man Called Peter

35. Peter was a man of many facets.

- Peter was a man of prayer. *Acts 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:*
- Peter was a man of vision. *Acts 10:13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.*
- Peter was a man with scruples. *Acts 10:14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.*
- Peter was a man of reflective meditation. *Acts 10:17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,*
- Peter was a teachable man because he was Spirit led.
- *Acts 10:19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. 20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. 21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? 22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee. 23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.*

24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. 25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. 26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. 27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. 28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. 29 Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me? 30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. 32 Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. 33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. 34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. 36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; 38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

- Peter was a controversial man. Acts 11:2 *And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,*
- Peter was a man firm in his convictions but gracious in his speech with positive results. Acts 11:4 *But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, 5 I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me: 6 Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw four footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat. 8 But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth. 9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. 10 And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven. 11 And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me.*

12 And the spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house: 13 And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; 14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. 17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? 18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

- Peter was a man who suffered willingly for the Lord. *Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*
- Peter was a man who was the object of angelic protection and deliverance. *Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. 2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) 4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. 5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. 6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. 7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. 8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. 9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. 11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. 12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. 13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. 14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.*

15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. 16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place. 18 Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

- Peter was a man who preached an inclusive, not an exclusive gospel. *Acts 15:7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.*

36. The apostle Paul was well acquainted with the person and work of Peter.

- *Galatians 1:18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.*

37. Peter's primary work was among the Jews.

- *Galatians 2:7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; 2:8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles :)*

38. Unfortunately, Peter succumbed to the pressures of the Judaizer and had to be rebuked by the apostle Paul.

Galatians 2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. 13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. 14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

39. The two lasting legacies of Peter are a narrative of the life he lived and the epistles he wrote. They are sufficient and the church is grateful to have both.

- *1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,*

- *2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:*