

1 Peter 1:1-25 – Study Leader’s Questions

1. *What is the word that is generally used to describe the process of growing or changing in the Christian life?*
2. *How does Peter describe what the Triune God has done for believers (1 Peter 1:2)*
Father
Holy Spirit
Son?
3. *What has the Triune God done and is going to do for all the saints (1 Peter 1:3-9)?*
4. *What is the ultimate purpose of the process of sanctification?*
5. *What are some of the ways that Peter says we should now seek to implement as part of our desire to be like Jesus (1 Peter 1:13-22)?*
6. *What are some of the steps that Peter says have been brought through (1 Peter 1:3, 5, 12, 21, 22, 23)?*
7. *What will the world see in us as we grow in the Christian life?*

1 Peter 1:1-25 – Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's works *The Book of Job* pp 337-344, *The Book of Romans* pp 139-142, 213-216, 331-336, *The Books of First and Second Corinthians* pp 324-327, *The Books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians* pp 204-206, 548-555, *The Books of the General Epistles* Volume 1 pp 158-239, *The Book of Revelation* p 604 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 752, 1472, 1553, 1568, 1623-1624 for detailed comments and additional information.

1. What is the word that is generally used to describe the process of growing or changing in the Christian life?

That word is "**sanctification**." It occurs with its companion parts of speech at least 141 times in scripture, 31 times in the New Testament. The noun "**sanctification**" occurs 5 times, 3 of those 5 times being in 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the letters to young Christians:

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" 1 Corinthians 1:30.

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication" 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

"That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour" 1 Thessalonians 4:4.

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied" 1 Peter 1:2.

For the Christian, "**sanctification**" is as follows, *personified* 3 times in the list below:

- "**The Christ of God**" Luke 9:20, 1 Corinthians 1:30, by Whom God saves the sanctified
- "**the will of God**" 1 Thessalonians 4:3, by which God commands the sanctified
- "**the temple of God**" 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 4:4, by which God indwells the sanctified
- "**the elect of God**" Colossians 3:12, 1 Peter 1:2, in whom God cleanses the sanctified.

Note that the end of 1 Peter 1:2 reads "**Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied**." This is not simply "*in abundance*" as the NIV reads, with respect to God's bestowal of grace and peace. That which is multiplied is that which is never ending, like the Lord's words "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away**" Matthew 24:35. See also Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33. Note therefore Acts 12:24, with respect to the Lord's words spreading out and gaining more and more recipients and, eventually, going into multiplied translations. See *In Awe of Thy Word* by Gail Riplinger Part 6.

"But the word of God grew and multiplied."

2. How does Jesus describe what the Triune God has done for believers (1 Peter 1:2)

Father

Holy Spirit

Son?

1 Peter 1:1-2 states "**Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.**"

See also Ephesians 1:3-4.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

God the Father decided ***“before the foundation of the world”*** that anyone who got ***“in Christ”*** 2 Corinthians 5:17 in time by believing on Him for salvation, e.g. as in Acts 16:31 ***“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”*** would be ***“in Christ...a new creature,”*** ***“holy and without blame before him in love”*** and ***“accepted in the beloved”*** Ephesians 1:6. These are the ***“Elect”*** of 1 Peter 1:2.

God foreknew *ahead of time* that some individuals would get ***“in Christ”*** *in time and, it appears, who they would be or at least could be according to the exercise of the will.* See Romans 8:28, 29 and Revelation 22:17 (also the well-known verses on receiving salvation via the Lord Jesus Christ, John 1:12, 5:24, 6:37, 47, Acts 16:31).

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

That invitation is still open.

It should be understood that no-one was either placed or designated ***“in Christ”*** before the foundation of the world. No-one is ***“in Christ”*** unless that person has willingly received Him according to, for example, John 1:12. See below. (The new birth, as in John 3:3, cannot be by the will, John 1:13, but the decision to receive the Lord Jesus Christ to bring about the recipient’s new birth is by the will, as in the case of the Philippian gaoler or the Ethiopian in Acts 8:37 ***“And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”***)

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

Romans 5:12, 1 Corinthians 15:22 make clear that no man was ever in Christ or specifically designated to be in Christ before the foundation of the world. Every man was ***“in Adam”*** before being ***“in Christ”*** by receiving Him.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

God with His ***“Elect”*** is not like David with his ‘elect.’

“And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David’s servants, and brought gifts” 2 Samuel 8:2.

The individual who receives the Lord Jesus Christ is set apart ***“through sanctification of the Spirit”*** 1 Peter 1:12 according to *spiritual* circumcision:

“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead” Colossians 2:11-12.

Colossians 2:11-12 show that the Christian ***“through sanctification of the Spirit”*** has his ***“soul and spirit”*** Hebrews 4:12 (describing spiritual circumcision by ***“the word of God”*** in concert with ***“the Spirit of God”*** 1 Corinthians 3:16) cut loose ***“from the body of this death”*** Romans 7:24 by ***“the operation of God”*** such that according to Colossians 2:13:

“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;”

The Christian is therefore like an ice cube in an ice tray set free from the walls of the tray by immersion in hot water. Paul could truly say of the Lord's people *"we be beside ourselves"* 2 Corinthians 5:13 and of course the individual is constantly at war with himself because *"the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would"* Galatians 5:17. Paul therefore urges *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh"* Galatians 5:16. The most effective way is scripture memorization because the Lord Jesus Christ did it and defeated the Devil in the wilderness by that means.

"And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" Luke 4:4. See Deuteronomy 8:3.

Anyone not taking steps to memorize scripture can expect the Devil to beat the tar out of them from time to time.

"Sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" 1 Peter 1:2 refers to an Old Testament term i.e. *"sprinkle"* Isaiah 52:15, found only in Hebrews and 1 Peter in the New Testament. Here it refers to *"being justified by his blood"* Romans 5:9 i.e. no longer under *"the wrath of God"* John 3:36 for sin and having *"redemption through his blood"* Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14 i.e. the payment for the justification of the saved individual. See 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

In sum *"the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost"* 1 John 5:7 chose the *"Elect"* *"in Christ before the foundation of the world"* Ephesians 1:4, covered the *"Elect"* *"with the precious blood of Christ"* 1 Peter 1:19 at conversion in time and cut loose the *"Elect"* *"from the body of this death"* Romans 7:24 *"by the circumcision of Christ"* Colossians 2:11.

3. *What has the Triune God done and is going to do for all the saints (1 Peter 1:3-9)?*

1 Peter 1:3 states *"begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* This is *"the redemption of our body"* Romans 8:23 at the Lord's Return, when *"this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality"* 1 Corinthians 15:53. See also 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

1 Peter 1:4 states *"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."* This is *"the holy city, new Jerusalem"* Revelation 21:2 wherein the Lord has *"reserved in heaven"* for the individual believer one of the *"many mansions"* of which He spoke in John 14:2.

1 Peter 1:5 states *"kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."* This is *"the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession"* Ephesians 1:14, God's absolute assurance now of *"the redemption of the body."* The word *"kept"* matches the word *keep*, as in a castle *keep*, which is *"a strong tower"* Psalm 61:3, Proverbs 18:10, *atop of which beacons can be lit that "shine as lights in the world"* Philippians 2:15, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keep.

1 Peter 1:7 states *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."* This is *"the fiery trial"* whereby *"ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings"* 1 Peter 4:12, 13 in that *"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered"* Hebrews 5:8 and in turn for the Church *"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, . That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish"* Ephesians 5:26-27. In addition to *"the washing of water by the word,"* spot, wrinkle and blemish removal may and most likely will require *"the fiery trial."*

1 Peter 1:9 states **“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”** This is **“full assurance of faith”** Hebrews 10:22 *for the Christian* that, in contrast doctrinally to the unsaved on whom **“the wrath of God abideth”** John 3:36, nothing **“shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”** Romans 8:39.

4. What is the ultimate purpose of the process of sanctification?

Holiness, after the manner of God Himself:

“For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy” Leviticus 11:44.

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” 1 Peter 1:16. Note that **“conversation”** is what may be discerned by both **“seeing and hearing”** 2 Peter 2:8.

One application with respect to being holy is severance from unholiness **“For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness”** 1 Thessalonians 4:7, as stated in Colossians 3:8.

“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”

One example of **“filthy communication out of your mouth”** is impugning **“the royal law”** James 2:8 as this fundamentalist has done, as shown by this extract from his newsletter:

What Does The Warning In Revelation 22:18 Mean About ADDING To Things In The Book Of Revelation?

God’s Words Are Complete In Hebrew/Aramaic And Greek And NOTHING Is To Be Added In Any Book Or Translation. I Believe People Who Call Any Translation “INSPIRED” In Any Sense Of The Word Are ADDING To God’s Words, And, As Such, Are Promised “PLAGUES” By God!

That is, no-one has God’s words unless they have them in Hebrew/Aramaic/Greek in a perfect, inerrant, inspired, complete and definitive source that the fundamentalist author of the above statement refuses to identify.

That is the kind of **“filthy communication out of your mouth”** that should be **“put off”** in order to **“be ye holy in all manner of conversation”** 1 Peter 1:15.

5. What are some of the ways that Peter says we should now seek to implement as part of our desire to be like Jesus (1 Peter 1:13-22)?

The following verses show that Peter was an exhorter, Romans 12:8, encouraging his readers to **“be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”** James 1:22 so that **“them that love God...be conformed to the image of his Son”** Romans 8:28-29.

1 Peter 1:13. **“Gird up the loins of your minds”** is an exhortation to mental readiness for ministry that matches Ephesians 6:14 **“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,”** which is really to obey 2 Timothy 2:15 **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** The scripture will never be rightly understood until it is rightly divided.

“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures” Luke 24:44-45.

Considerable overlap exists but the divisions in scripture are apparent in that **“the law of Moses”** sets out **“the law of the LORD”** Psalm 19:7, **“the prophets”** warned of **“the wrath of the LORD”** Isaiah 9:19, and **“the Psalms”** urged **“the praise of the Lord”** Psalm 145:21.

1 Peter 1:13. ***“Be sober”*** is an exhortation to be on guard against the enemy and is fully expressed in 1 Peter 5:8 ***“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”*** This is happening in England. See:

““You can’t preach the Bible here, this is a Muslim area [Alum Rock, Birmingham].”

“(What a community policeman told two Christians)

“Read more:

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1023483/You-preach-Bible-Muslim-area-What-police-told-Christian-preachers.html#ixzz265aY4hpI.

The PCSO is Naeem Naguthney. The article states further:

“Mr Naguthney, 30, was recruited as a community support officer last year after being unemployed for eight months.

“Earlier this year, he had a prominent role at a conference to launch the West Midlands branch of the National Association of Muslim Police. He gave a reading from the Koran before the audience heard a recorded contribution from Gordon Brown, a speech from Home Office Minister Tony McNulty, and contributions from several chief constables.”

The incident happened on February 19th 2008. The Christians, evangelists Arthur Cunningham and Joseph Abraham, demanded an apology for West Midlands Police. They don’t appear to have received one. See:

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2058935/Police-advise-Christian-preachers-to-leave-Muslim-area-of-Birmingham.html.

See www.christian.org.uk/pdfpublications/update11_aug08.pdf. The Christian Institute report states:

“Two other officers, PCSO Ali and PC Loi, also attended the incident. PC Loi advised Mr Cunningham and Mr Abraham that it might be wiser if they did not come back to Alum Rock Road.

“PCSO Naguthney said, “You have been warned. If you come back here and get beat up, well you have been warned.”

“The two Christians subsequently made a formal complaint to West Midlands Police about the conduct of the officers.

“A meeting took place with Inspector Karen Hansen on 10 March at Queen’s Road Station. At the meeting Inspector Hansen refused to issue a letter of apology.”

The above incident is simply an example of Mohammedan subversion of a non-Mohammedan nation, which is therefore part of Dar-al-Harb, House of War, which must be forced by various forms of jihad into Dar-al-Islam, House of Islam, see *Slavery, Terrorism & Islam* by Peter Hammond pp 23-24, Chapter 4, according to the strategy explained in *Who Is This Allah?* by Nigerian Christian G. J. O. Moshay p 25.

“Migrate to Christian areas because they are tolerant. Pretend to be peaceful, friendly and hospitable; begin to clamour for religious political and social rights and privileges that you will not allow to Christians in an Islamic country; breed fast there and settle down; there should be no Christian activities in your community; you may speak or write to discredit their religion, but they must not talk about Islam; begin to expand your community; Christian activities should be restricted in all the places you expand to; the moment you have enough military might against these ‘disbelievers’, these trinitarian kaferis, go ahead and eliminate them or suppress them as much as you can, and be in control.” Moshay concludes *“Where immediate invasion is not possible, that has always been the policy.”*

As the Alum Rock incident indicates, this country's own officials, at both local and national level, are committing treason by aiding and abetting the current Mohammedan invasion of Great Britain. See *Royal Law – James 2:8* www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/.

The issue here is, in the light of 1 Peter 1:13, 5:8 and the above reports, what will the local church do if it receives notification from the authorities of a complaint by a member of the public that the window display has caused offence to that individual?

Prayer and preparation in advance is advised.

“The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD” Proverbs 21:31.

Note that Norwich City Council recently evicted Norwich Reformed Church from its worship and witness venue for a supposed ‘Hate Crime’ following NRC’s distribution of leaflets giving a Christian perspective on Islam. NRC Pastor Dr Alan Clifford justifiably wrote in protest to NCC for its high-handed action. This is an extract from Dr Clifford’s letter of September 11th 2012 to Councillor James Bremner on NCC.

Dear Mr Bremner,

Thank you for your communication. I much appreciate the time and trouble you have taken to investigate the eviction of Norwich Reformed Church from our worship and witness venues by Norwich City Council. Your statement will be considered by the church Elders with a view to seeking a reversal of the Council’s decision.

My initial thoughts are respectfully set out in the following five points:

1. Why does NCC - according to the Equality Act (2010) - persist in virtually charging me with a ‘hate crime’ when the Police have not charged me with any such crime? Which law counts, and on what objective basis (rather than subjective political/ideological preference)?

2. To be sure, my leaflet WHY NOT ISLAM is (justly, I may add) critical of this ideology. As for what you call ‘Islamaphobia’, the material I later sent to the Council simply confirmed that a valid basis for fear exists. However, you seem to equate ‘hatred’ with ‘criticism’. With due respect, this is a common fallacy. On that basis, I may accuse the Council of a ‘hate-motivated’ decision because it has taken a ‘critical’ stance towards Norwich Reformed Church. NCC are not being objective in accusing me of engaging in a ‘hate incident’.

3. Apart from the fact that a former Muslim denied there is any hatred in my leaflet, I am not guilty of hatred according to the Religious Hatred Legislation:

Section 29J specifically states:

29J Protection of freedom of expression. Nothing in this Part shall be read or given effect in a way which prohibits or restricts discussion, criticism or expressions of antipathy, dislike, ridicule, insult or abuse of particular religions or the beliefs or practices of their adherents, or of any other belief system or the beliefs or practices of its adherents, or proselytising or urging adherents of a different religion or belief system to cease practising their religion or belief system.

The language of my document is unambiguously critical. However, it falls far short of what Section 29J forbids...

NCC is, however, ‘Christianophobic’ and is likely to remain so.

1 Peter 1:13. “Hope to the end...” Devotionally, this is an exhortation to **“look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh”** Luke 21:28. See Romans 8:23, 1 Corinthians 15:53, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, *Question 3.*

1 Peter 1:14. *“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:”* This is an exhortation to separate from sin which Peter explains in more detail in 1 Peter 4:2 with respect to any one of the *“obedient children.”*

“That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”

Paul is most explicit with respect to *“the will of God”* and the prevalence of cohabitation today. See *Question 1*.

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication”
1 Thessalonians 4:3.

1 Peter 1:15-16. *“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”* This is an exhortation to bear *“fruit unto holiness”* Romans 6:22. See *Question 4*.

1 Peter 1:17. *“...pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:”* This is an exhortation to *“be not conformed to this world”* Romans 12:2 as Peter explains further 1 Peter 4:3 **“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:”**

The reason for the fear is given in 1 Peter 4:4-5.

“Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.”

Paul states that the Christian will also give account.

“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” Romans 14:12.

The Christian should therefore be *“sojourning here in fear”* in order not compromise his performance in his final exam at *“the judgment seat of Christ”* Romans 14:10. See Job 26:1-4. Note that 1 Peter 1:13, 14, 17 focus on the Christian’s resistance to his three main enemies, the world, the flesh and the Devil.

1 Peter 1:22. *“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:”* This is an exhortation to love of the brethren, after the manner of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who **“having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end”** John 13:1.

“Obeying the truth through the Spirit” is obedience to *“the Spirit of truth”* according to John 16:13-14, which also explains why 1 Peter 1:11 states of *“the Spirit of Christ...when it testified”* in that *“the Spirit of Christ”* *“shall not speak of himself”* when glorifying the other members of the Godhead.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”

Obedience to *“the Spirit of truth”* is *“sanctification of the Spirit”* 1 Peter 1:2, see *Question 1*, for the believer e.g. in severance from the evils that Colossians 3:8 lists, see *Question 4*, that yields *“a pure heart”* to *“Let love be without dissimulation”* Romans 12:9 according to 1 Corinthians 13:5 where *“unfeigned love...with a pure heart fervently”* is the venerable word *“charity”* that:

“Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;”

That is, no exhibitionism, no hidden agenda, no short fuse, no malice aforethought.

That is how the Lord's people should **"consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"** Hebrews 10:24-25.

In sum, Peter exhorts his readers to:

- Prepare for ministry, 1 Peter 1:13
 - Resist the enemy, 1 Peter 1:13
 - Expect the Lord imminently, 1 Peter 1:13
 - Separate from iniquity, 1 Peter 1:14
 - Strive to be holy, 1 Peter 1:15, 16
 - Abhor to be worldly, 1 Peter 1:17
 - Treat the brethren charitably, 1 Peter 1:22.
6. *What are some of the steps that Peter says have been brought through (1 Peter 1:3, 5, 12, 21, 22, 23)?*

Question 5 has largely considered the believer's part in being holy, see *Question 4*. *Question 6* addresses the part of the Godhead, Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9 in that process.

1 Peter 1:3. "begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" The Lord rose **"from the dead"** by which the believer will rise *bodily* **"from the dead."** The word **"by"** has that strong sense.

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" Romans 8:11.

1 Peter 1:5. "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" The keeping power of God is bestowed upon the believer **"through the faith of Christ"** that will never fail in that the Lord Jesus Christ indwells the believer, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 12:27, Galatians 2:20 – see below - Colossians 1:27.

"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" Philippians 3:9.

1 Peter 1:12. "unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven"

The reporters are the **"witnesses unto me"** but *that is itself the ministry of "the Holy Ghost."*

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" Acts 1:8.

1 Peter 1:21. "by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God"

The capacity to **"believe on the Lord Jesus Christ"** Acts 16:31 for salvation and to continue trusting consistently in the Lord Jesus Christ in life as **"a new creature"** 2 Corinthians 5:17 is **"by the faith of the Son of God."** Again, the word **"by"** has that strong sense.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" Galatians 2:20.

1 Peter 1:22. *“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren”*

Obedience to *“thy truth”* John 17:17 yielding purity of soul is another ministry of the Holy Ghost *“through sanctification of the Spirit”* 1 Peter 1:2.

1 Peter 1:23. *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”*

“The faith of the Son of God” for the new birth is bestowed *“by the word of God.”* Again, the word *“by”* has this strong sense.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” Romans 10:17.

7. *What will the world see in us as we grow in the Christian life?*

Someone they will love to hate, like Stephen.

“And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake” Acts 6:10.

So they killed him.

“And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Acts 7:59.

“Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you” 1 John 3:13.

That will be, or is, the time to stand, according to the scripture that really sums up 1 Peter 1.

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” Ephesians 6:14-18.

Note that the hatred of the world for the Christian, though not universal, is nevertheless widespread, on-going, organised, deep-rooted, systematic, aggressive, vicious, violent and officially state-sanctioned, as in Catholic, Mohammedan or Marxist/Darwinian/humanist church states, today’s Britain being infected with the tenets of all three. Note *Question 5* with respect to the Alum Rock incident and the NRC eviction and the following extracts.

From *Nehemiah 4 Part 1* www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php pp 3-4:

The Devil wants conformity to this world. That is why the early Christians were persecuted. According to the Roman historian Tacitus, they were judged to be guilty of odio humani generis i.e. hatred of the human race, a hate crime, then as now.

“Accordingly in order to dissipate the rumor, [that Nero had started the fire to burn down the city of Rome so that he could rebuild it on a grander scale] he [Nero] put forward as guilty (subdidit reos) and inflicted the most cruel punishments on those who were hated for their abominations (flagitia) and called Christians by the populace. The originator of that name, Christus, had been executed by the procurator Pontius Pilatus in the reign of Tiberius, and the baneful superstition (exitiabilis superstitio) put down for the time being broke out again, not only throughout Judea, the home of this evil, but also in the City (Rome) where all atrocious and shameful (atrocia aut pudenda) things converge and are welcomed. Those therefore who confessed (i.e. to being Christians) were first arrested, and then by the information gained from them a large number (multitudo ingens) were implicated (coniuncti is the manuscript reading, not conuicti), not so much on the charge of incendiarism [burning down Rome] as for hatred of mankind (odio humani generis). The victims perished amid mockery (text here uncertain); some clothed in the skins of wild beasts were torn to pieces by dogs; others impaled on crosses in order to be set on fire to afford light by night after daylight had died.Whence (after these cru-

elties) commiseration began to be felt for them, though guilty and deserving the severest penalties (*quamquam adversus sontes et novissima exempla meritos*), for men felt their destruction was not from considerations of public welfare but to gratify the cruelty of one person (Nero).”

See:

www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/roman-empire-and-christianity-2.html?p=6.

See the Ruckman Reference Bible p 1503 and Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 406-409.

Hate crime strategy is in use today against the Lord’s people, as the Christian Institute noted on July 19th 2010.

Christians unfairly targeted for hate crime prosecutions.

Christians in Britain are being unfairly targeted for hate crime prosecutions, according to a new report by the Civitas think-tank.

The report, entitled *A New Inquisition: Religious Persecution in Britain Today*, also warns that existing hate crime legislation poses a danger to freedom of speech.

Jon Gower Davies, the report’s author, said: “Some police forces and the CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] seem to be interpreting statutes in favour of ethnic and religious minorities and in a spirit hostile to members of the majority population, defined as ‘White’ or ‘Christian’”...

See:

www.christian.org.uk/news/christians-unfairly-targeted-for-hate-crime-prosecutions/.

From *Britain’s Final Warning?* by this writer, Christian Watch, pp 16-17:

Police Persecute Christians

In October 2001, 69-year old Mr Harry Hammond, a Bournemouth pensioner was arrested and fined £700 for publicly witnessing against sodomy¹ pp 297ff. A gang of sodomites assaulted Mr Hammond but the arresting officers ignored that. The officer in charge, PC Nicola Gandy, claimed that Mr Hammond was inciting to violence and “not a very good example of the Christian faith.”

The case reminds me of Naboth and Jezebel, 1 Kings 21, 2 Kings 9. An evil woman persecuted a godly man, with the help of the local authorities and encouraged sodomites, Leviticus 18:22, 27, 1 Kings 21:25. (PC Gandy should take careful note that Jezebel came to a distinctly bad end.)

Then in December 2005, a retired couple from Fleetwood in Lancashire, Mr and Mrs Joe and Helen Roberts, asked their local council for permission to place Christian literature alongside ‘gay rights’ brochures in public buildings. A few days later, they were harangued for an hour and a half in their home by two police officers*, who virtually accused them of a homophobic ‘hate crime.’ No six-week delay here as was offered to violent and inflammatory Muslim protesters**.

*The Christian Institute has reported that Lancashire Police have now backed down on this case. Nevertheless, it surely serves as a serious warning to God’s people.

In addition, Christian Voice National Director Stephen Green was arrested by South Wales Police for handing out anti-gay leaflets at a sodomite Mardi Gras². And the sodomite police association, the GPA tried to accuse Christians of ‘homophobic crimes,’³ though the Advertising Standards Association upheld complaints from Christians against the GPA and this advert.

But God’s mercy to His servants notwithstanding, these incidents show that elements of our police forces are degenerating to the level of Nazi bullyboys⁴, who included many practising sodomites in their ranks. For proof of that, see *The Pink Swastika*, by Scott Lively and Kevin Abrams.

This brings us back to the current EU Reich and the ease with which Muslims in the UK could acquire a policing role, via Europol and the long-standing tradition of the Muslim Waffen SS Divisions, recruited via a further enlarged EU. This matches God's warning to Israel for her disobedience, as revealed by Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Nahum. Jeremiah has this further warning.

“Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not yours” Jeremiah 5:19. *The historic context is the Babylonian captivity but many British folk feel that Britain is “a land that is not yours.” Don't you, sometimes?*

***See the following extract from Britain's Final Warning? pp 14-15.*

Muslim Menace - Tolerated

Long ago, Nahum issued this warning to Nineveh for her sin. It applies to Britain.

“Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies” Nahum 3:13a.

Muslims killed 52 victims in the London bombings of July 7th 2005. Yet on that very day, the Deputy Assistant Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Brian Paddick said that⁵, “Islam and terrorists are two words that should not go together.” That was a blatant lie. Because Islam regards Britain as part of Dar-al-Harb, ‘the House of War’^{6 p 23}. In fact, Muslims class all non-Muslim countries as Dar-al-Harb, the House of War. They have to be absorbed into Dar-al-Islam, the House of Islam, if necessary by force.

So the suicide bombers were simply good Muslims obeying the Qur'an:

“Fight and slay the pagans [infidels] wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war” Sura 9:5.

The authorities wilfully refuse to recognise this menace – or the judgement of God, in that the July 7th bombings came 5 days after a big ‘Gay Parade’ held in London.

Then came a demonstration in London, on February 3rd, 2006, the Cartoon Protests. A Muslim mob carried placards demanding the heads of anyone who insulted Islam.

About 6 weeks later, following 500 complaints from the public, the Metropolitan Police arrested half a dozen protesters, on suspicion of public order offences⁷, as a token gesture - more than 500 Muslims took part in the original demonstration⁸.

Then there was the Muslim reaction against the Pope's remarks, in September 2006. More incitement to violence but no serious police action.

Now the Queen has allowed a Muslim ‘prayer room’ in Windsor Castle, in blatant violation of her Coronation Oath⁹ and an insult to the victims of Muslim terror.

Following the present Pope's remarks about Islam, churches in the former mill towns¹⁰, suffered firebomb attacks. Yet they were either Orthodox or Protestant churches, not Catholic. Rome and Islam are actually allies¹¹, like Hitler and the Grand Mufti were.

So Muslims in the UK are aggressively pursuing their war against Britain and they seem to be winning. A recent Channel 4 Dispatches programme, screened on January 15th 2007, showed supposedly “moderate” Muslims in this country openly preaching hate against non-Muslims and urging jihad against them. It has met with a very muted police response.

Indeed, when we consider the police responses to Muslim aggression overall, they are quite unlike the police reaction to Christians who oppose ‘gay rights’. The apparent inconsistency should not surprise us, however, insofar as it is common knowledge that Deputy Assistant Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Brian Paddick – see above - is a practising sodomite. Quite clearly, the Lord's people should be prayerfully concerned.

Official persecution of Christians in Britain for so-called ‘Hate Crimes,’ whether or not specified as such, continues to this day. See the following cases that The Christian Institute has documented:

Lillian Ladele, Christian Registrar

www.christian.org.uk/news/christian-registrar-case-in-european-court-today/

Gary McFarlane, Christian Counsellor

www.christian.org.uk/news/christian-counsellor-appeal-turned-down/

John and Rosemary Bull, Christian guest house owners

www.christian.org.uk/news/christian-bb-bulls-case-to-be-heard-by-supreme-court/

Ben and Sharon Vogelenzang, Christian hotel owners

www.christian.org.uk/news/christians-face-trial-for-criticising-islam/

Moreover, Government lawyer James Eadie QC, in direct violation of “*the royal law*” James 2:8, *Question 4*, has said in the case of Lillian Ladele that Christians should leave their faith at home or resign and get another job, www.christian.org.uk/news/govt-lawyer-christians-should-leave-faith-at-home-or-resign/.

The scripture states “*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men*” Colossians 3:23.

Peter should therefore have the last word in this study.

“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” 1 Peter 5:10-11.

References

¹ *A Brief History of Crime*, by Peter Hitchens

² www.christianvoice.org.uk/Press/press021.html

³ www.christian.org.uk/issues/2006/gay_rights/gpa/ruling_18oct06.htm

⁴ CPS Press Release *Zero Tolerance for Homophobic Crime*.

See www.cps.gov.uk/news/pressreleases/archive/2002/150_02.html

⁵ *The Myth of Moderate Islam*, www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1452322/posts

⁶ *Slavery, Terrorism and Islam*, by Peter Hammond

⁷ BBC News, March 15th 2006

⁸ BBC News, February 5th 2006

⁹ *Queen sanctions first ever Muslim prayer room*, Daily Mail September 29th 2006

¹⁰ www.civilliberty.org.uk/newsdetail.php?newsid=109

¹¹ *The Prophet*, by Chick Publications