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Title: Weymouth New Testament in Modern Speech, 1 Peter  
Third Edition 1913

Author: R F Weymouth

Release Date: September, 2005 [EBook #8848]  
[This file was first posted on August 25, 2003]

Edition: 10

Language: English

Character set encoding: US-ASCII

\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK, Weymouth New Testament in Modern Speech, 1 Peter \*\*\*

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Book 60 1 Peter

001:001 Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ: To God's own people  
scattered over the earth, who are living as foreigners

in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Roman Asia, and Bithynia,

001:002 chosen in accordance with the foreknowledge of God the Father,  
through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, with a view  
to their obedience and to their being sprinkled with the blood  
of Jesus Christ. May more and more grace and peace be  
granted to you.

001:003 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who in His great mercy has begotten us anew to an ever-living  
hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
001:004 to an inheritance imperishable, undefiled and unfading,  
which has been reserved in Heaven for you,  
001:005 whom God in His power is guarding through faith for a salvation  
that even now stands ready for unveiling at the End of the Age.  
001:006 Rejoice triumphantly in the prospect of this, even if now,  
for a short time, you are compelled to sorrow amid various trials.  
001:007 The sorrow comes in order that the testing of your faith--  
being more precious than that of gold, which perishes and yet  
is proved by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory  
and honour at the re-appearing of Jesus Christ.  
001:008 Him you love, though your eyes have never looked on Him.  
In Him, though at present you cannot see Him, you nevertheless  
trust, and triumph with a joy which is unspeakable and is  
crowned with glory,  
001:009 while you are securing as the outcome of your faith the salvation  
of your souls.  
001:010 There were Prophets who earnestly inquired about that salvation,  
and closely searched into it--even those who spoke beforehand  
of the grace which was to come to you.  
001:011 They were eager to know the time which the Spirit of Christ within  
them kept indicating, or the characteristics of that time,  
when they solemnly made known beforehand the sufferings that  
were to come upon Christ and the glories which would follow.  
001:012 To them it was revealed that they were serving not themselves but you,  
when they foretold the very things which have now been openly  
declared to you by those who, having been taught by the Holy Spirit  
which had been sent from Heaven, brought you the Good News.  
Angels long to stoop and look into these things.  
001:013 Therefore gird up your minds and fix your hopes calmly  
and unfalteringly upon the boon that is soon to be yours,  
at the re-appearing of Jesus Christ.  
001:014 And, since you delight in obedience, do not shape your lives  
by the cravings which used to dominate you in the time  
of your ignorance,  
001:015 but--in imitation of the holy One who has called you--  
you also must be holy in all your habits of life.  
001:016 Because it stands written, "You are to be holy, because I am holy."  
001:017 And if you address as your Father Him who judges impartially  
in accordance with each man's actions, then spend in fear  
the time of your stay here on earth,  
001:018 knowing, as you do, that it was not with a ransom of  
perishable wealth, such as silver or gold, that you were set  
free from your frivolous habits of life which had been handed  
down to you from your forefathers,  
001:019 but with the precious blood of Christ--as of an unblemished  
and spotless lamb.  
001:020 He was pre-destined indeed to this work, even before the creation  
of the world, but has been plainly manifested in these last  
days for the sake of you who, through Him,  
001:021 are faithful to God, who raised Him from among the dead and gave

Him glory, so that your faith and hope are resting upon God.

001:022 Now that, through your obedience to the truth, you have purified your souls for cherishing sincere brotherly love, you must love another heartily and fervently.

001:023 For you have been begotten again by God's ever-living and enduring word from a germ not of perishable, but of imperishable life.

001:024 "All mankind resemble the herbage, and all their beauty is like its flowers. The herbage dries up, and its flowers drop off;

001:025 But the word of the Lord remains for ever." And that means the Message which has been proclaimed among you in the Good News.

002:001 Rid yourselves therefore of all ill-will and all deceitfulness, of insincerity and envy, and of all evil speaking.

002:002 Thirst, like newly-born infants, for pure milk for the soul, that by it you may grow up to salvation;

002:003 if you have had any experience of the goodness of the Lord.

002:004 Come to Him, the ever-living Stone, rejected indeed by men as worthless, but in God's esteem chosen and held in honour.

002:005 And be yourselves also like living stones that are being built up into a spiritual house, to become a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

002:006 For it is contained in Scripture, "See, I am placing on Mount Zion a Cornerstone, chosen, and held in honour, and he whose faith rests on Him shall never have reason to feel ashamed."

002:007 To you believers, therefore, that honour belongs; but for unbelievers--"A Stone which the builders rejected has been made the Cornerstone,"

002:008 and "a Stone for the foot to strike against, and a Rock to stumble over." Their foot strikes against it because they are disobedient to God's Message, and to this they were appointed.

002:009 But you are a chosen race, a priesthood of kingly lineage, a holy nation, a people belonging specially to God, that you may make known the perfections of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.

002:010 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. Once you had not found mercy, but now you have.

002:011 Dear friends, I entreat you as pilgrims and foreigners not to indulge the cravings of your lower natures: for all such cravings wage war upon the soul.

002:012 Live honourable lives among the Gentiles, in order that, although they now speak against you as evil-doers, they may yet witness your good conduct, and may glorify God on the day of reward and retribution.

002:013 Submit, for the Lord's sake, to every authority set up by man, whether it be to the Emperor as supreme ruler,

002:014 or to provincial Governors as sent by him for the punishment of evil-doers and the encouragement of those who do what is right.

002:015 For it is God's will that by doing what is right you should thus silence the ignorant talk of foolish persons.

002:016 Be free men, and yet do not make your freedom an excuse for base conduct, but be God's bondservants.

002:017 Honour every one. Love the brotherhood, fear God, honour the Emperor.

002:018 Household servants, be submissive to your masters, and show them

the utmost respect--not only if they are kind and thoughtful,  
but also if they are unreasonable.

002:019 For it is an acceptable thing with God, if, from a sense of duty  
to Him, a man patiently submits to wrong, when treated unjustly.

002:020 If you do wrong and receive a blow for it, what credit is there  
in your bearing it patiently? But if when you do right and  
suffer for it you bear it patiently, this is an acceptable  
thing with God.

002:021 And it is to this you were called; because Christ also suffered  
on your behalf, leaving you an example so that you should  
follow in His steps.

002:022 He never sinned, and no deceitful language was ever heard  
from His mouth.

002:023 When He was reviled, He did not answer with reviling;  
when He suffered He uttered no threats, but left His wrongs  
in the hands of the righteous Judge.

002:024 The burden of our sins He Himself carried in His own body  
to the Cross and bore it there, so that we, having died  
so far as our sins are concerned, may live righteous lives.  
By His wounds yours have been healed.

002:025 For you were straying like lost sheep, but now you have come  
back to the Shepherd and Protector of your souls.

003:001 Married women, in the same way, be submissive to your husbands,  
so that even if some of them disbelieve the Message, they may,  
apart from the Message, be won over by the daily life  
of their wives, after watching your daily life--

003:002 so full of reverence, and so blameless!

003:003 Your adornment ought not to be a merely outward thing--one of plaiting  
the hair, putting on jewelry, or wearing beautiful dresses.

003:004 Instead of that, it should be a new nature within--  
the imperishable ornament of a gentle and peaceful spirit,  
which is indeed precious in the sight of God.

003:005 For in ancient times also this was the way the holy women  
who set their hopes upon God used to adorn themselves,  
being submissive to their husbands.

003:006 Thus, for instance, Sarah obeyed Abraham, acknowledging his  
authority over her. And you have become Sarah's children if you  
do what is right and permit nothing whatever to terrify you.

003:007 Married men, in the same way, live with your wives with a clear  
recognition of the fact that they are weaker than you.

Yet, since you are heirs with them of God's free gift of Life,  
treat them with honour; so that your prayers may not be hindered.

003:008 In conclusion, all of you should be of one mind, quick to sympathize,  
kind to the brethren, tenderhearted, lowly-minded,

003:009 not requiting evil with evil nor abuse with abuse, but,  
on the contrary, giving a blessing in return, because a blessing  
is what you have been called by God to inherit.

003:010 For "He who wishes to be well-satisfied with life and see  
happy days--let him restrain his tongue from evil, and his  
lips from deceitful words;

003:011 Let him turn from evil, and do good; Let him inquire for peace  
and go in pursuit of it.

003:012 For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears

are open to their supplication; but the face of the Lord  
is set against evil-doers."

003:013 And who will be able to harm you, if you show yourselves  
zealous for that which is good?

003:014 But even if you suffer for righteousness' sake, you are to be envied.  
So do not be alarmed by their threats, nor troubled;

003:015 but in your hearts consecrate Christ as Lord, being always ready  
to make your defence to any one who asks from you a reason  
for the hope which you cherish.

003:016 Yet argue modestly and cautiously, keeping your consciences  
free from guilt, so that, when you are spoken against,  
those who slander your good Christian lives may be put to shame.

003:017 For it is better that you should suffer for doing right,  
if such be God's will, than for doing evil;

003:018 because Christ also once for all died for sins, the innocent  
One for the guilty many, in order to bring us to God.

He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

003:019 in which He also went and proclaimed His Message to the spirits  
that were in prison,

003:020 who in ancient times had been disobedient, while God's  
longsuffering was patiently waiting in the days of Noah  
during the building of the Ark, in which a few persons--  
eight in number--were brought safely through the water.

003:021 And, corresponding to that figure, the water of baptism now saves you--  
not the washing off of material defilement, but the craving  
of a good conscience after God--through the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ,

003:022 who is at God's right hand, having gone into Heaven, angels and  
authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

004:001 Since, then, Christ has suffered in the flesh, you also must  
arm yourselves with a determination to do the same--  
because he who has suffered in the flesh has done with sin--

004:002 that in future you may spend the rest of your earthly lives,  
governed not by human passions, but by the will of God.

004:003 For you have given time enough in the past to the doing of  
the things which the Gentiles delight in--pursuing, as you did,  
a course of habitual licence, debauchery, hard drinking,  
noisy revelry, drunkenness and unholy image-worship.

004:004 At this they are astonished--that you do not run into the same  
excess of profligacy as they do; and they speak abusively of you.

004:005 But they will have to give account to Him who stands ready  
to pronounce judgement on the living and the dead.

004:006 For it is with this end in view that the Good News was  
proclaimed even to some who were dead, that they may be judged,  
as all mankind will be judged, in the body, but may be living  
a godly life in the spirit.

004:007 But the end of all things is now close at hand:  
therefore be sober-minded and temperate, so that you may give  
yourselves to prayer.

004:008 Above all continue to love one another fervently, for love  
throws a veil over a multitude of faults.

004:009 Extend ungrudging hospitality towards one another.

004:010 Whatever be the gifts which each has received, you must

use them for one another's benefit, as good stewards of God's many-sided kindness.

004:011 If any one preaches, let it be as uttering God's truth; if any one renders a service to others, let it be in the strength which God supplies; so that in everything glory may be given to God in the name of Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the might to the Ages of the Ages. Amen.

004:012 Dear friends, do not be surprised at finding that that scorching flame of persecution is raging among you to put you to the test-- as though some surprising thing were accidentally happening to you.

004:013 On the contrary, in the degree that you share in the sufferings of the Christ, rejoice, so that at the unveiling of His glory you may also rejoice with triumphant gladness.

004:014 You are to be envied, if you are being reproached for bearing the name of Christ; for in that case the Spirit of glory-- even the Spirit of God--is resting upon you.

004:015 But let not one of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evil-doer, or as a spy upon other people's business.

004:016 If, however, any one suffers because he is a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God for being permitted to bear that name.

004:017 For the time has come for judgement to begin, and to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the end of those who reject God's Good News?

004:018 And if it is difficult even for a righteous man to be saved, what will become of irreligious men and sinners?

004:019 Therefore also, let those who are suffering in accordance with the will of God entrust their souls in well-doing to a faithful Creator.

005:001 So I exhort the Elders among you--I who am their fellow Elder and have been an eye-witness of the sufferings of the Christ, and am also a sharer in the glory which is soon to be revealed.

005:002 Be shepherds of God's flock which is among you. Exercise the oversight not reluctantly but eagerly, in accordance with the will of God; not for base gain but with cheerful minds;

005:003 not lording it over your Churches but proving yourselves patterns for the flock to imitate.

005:004 And then, when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the never-withering wreath of glory.

005:005 In the same way you younger men must submit to your elders; and all of you must gird yourselves with humility towards one another, for God sets Himself against the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

005:006 Humble yourselves therefore beneath the mighty hand of God, so that at the right time He may set you on high.

005:007 Throw the whole of your anxiety upon Him, because He Himself cares for you.

005:008 Curb every passion, and be on the alert. Your great accuser, the Devil, is going about like a roaring lion to see whom he can devour.

005:009 Withstand him, firm in your faith; knowing that your brethren in other parts of the world are passing through just

the same experiences.

005:010 And God, the giver of all grace, who has called you to share His eternal glory, through Christ, after you have suffered for a short time, will Himself make you perfect, firm, and strong.

005:011 To Him be all power unto the Ages of the Ages! Amen.

005:012 I send this short letter by Silas, our faithful brother-- for such I regard him--in order to encourage you, and to bear witness that what I have told you is the true grace of God. In it stand fast.

005:013 The Church in Babylon, chosen like yourselves by God, sends greetings, and so does Mark my son.

005:014 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be with all of you who are in Christ.

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