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# *The Epistles of Peter*

## *(Bach. Theology Students)*

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Dear ACOM family,

**PETER – ACOM**

My father, the late Dr G.D. James, had a passion for evangelism. He also had a passion for training Christians locally. In a number of places he established a "School of Missions and Evangelism". In 1977 he founded "The Tamil Bible Institute" in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. However, due to the ill health of the Principal the Institute closed in 1993. In 2000, I recommended to a number of TBI alumni, that the Bible Institute be re-established in a new form, and so ACOM was born with intensive classes commencing in Johor Bahru in 2001. Soon ACOM commenced in Kathmandu, Nepal and Yangon, Myanmar.

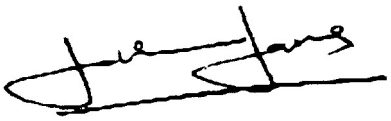
Until recently almost all of the teaching was done by international visiting lecturers, but from now on most of the teaching will be done by local teachers. Ideally these people will be bi-lingual. The teaching is to be given in the language of the students, but if the lecturer can read English much more resource materials are available.

To help in this way, the AEFI Board is making available a lot of helpful material such as that below. It starts with the SUBJECT DESCRIPTION. All lecturers must abide closely by this. It sets out the requirements of the ACOM Board of Regents for the subject. If, for any reason, you want to change any of it, please contact me as quickly as possible with your suggestions, so that I can discuss it with the Board and get back to you with their reply.

Following the Subject Description, we have added typical Subject Plans. These will save you a lot of time and energy. They set out, e.g., seminar topics that have been used previously. Remember, however, that all material given to the students **must** be in their own local language. Also included are Course Notes that have been given to students previously and material that will help you in your preparation.

Peter also has a separate document called *Supplementary Lecturer's Notes* that you as the lecturer may find helpful.

AEFI International is deeply indebted to **Dr Alan Meers** who dedicated many years in leading the development and growth of ACOM and in particular the production of these documents.
Yours sincerely,



(Dr) Jonathan D. James
International Executive Director

## SUBJECT DESCRIPTION – PETER'S EPISTLES

## RATIONALE

### PURPOSE

This subject is an in-depth study of *The epistles of St. Peter* as well as an overview of the N.T. Catholic epistles. It provides students with a deeper understanding of the book itself, and many relevant lessons for today. The student is helped to learn how the principles Peter applied to the problems of his day, especially the problem of suffering, can be used in our contemporary situation.

### RELATIONSHIP TO THE B.TH. PROGRAMME

Since the Bible forms the basis of all Christian theology, life-style and ministry a sound knowledge of this book, both Old and New Testaments, is essential for all students. This subject introduces the student to Peter's messages for the suffering churches of his day, and at the same time it helps them further develop their skills in New Testament exegesis methodology.

### LOCATION IN COURSE

This is a Bachelor-level subject and assumes students have completed some previous N.T. exegesis studies at Diploma-level.

### STATUS

To obtain their Bachelor's degree, all students must complete at least five biblical exegesis subjects. This is one of the subjects offered. All pastors and missionaries need to be competent in New Testament exegesis.

### WORKLOAD

This subject consists of about 20 hours face-to-face teaching (consisting of twelve lectures and eight seminar groups) and a further 100 hours work to be done by each student at home.

### CREDIT

This subject carries 3 hours of credit toward the Bachelor of Theology degree (which requires a total of 36 hours of credit, including at least 15 hours of biblical exegesis subjects).

### PRE-REQUISITES

Students commencing the Bachelor of Theology degree programme must have previously completed a Diploma in Theology programme, preferably with some N.T. exegesis subjects.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the completion of this subject, the students will be able to:

1 Describe the geographical, cultural, political, and religious background of the Catholic Epistles;
2 Sketch the main content of each of the Catholic Epistles, the major themes and content of each;
3 Identify the theological and ethical emphases of the Catholic Epistles;
4 Exegete the text of the Epistles of Peter,
5 Explain how the abiding lessons of these letters can be applied to Christians and churches today, and.
6 Explain the main spiritual lessons of these letters and how they could apply them in their own lives.

## SUMMARY OF CONTENT

This subject is a study of the Epistles of Peter, their structure, context, and themes. It also helps students to think about a number of practical ethical problems, especially the question, "Why do good people suffer?"

### CONTENTS

This subject includes topics such as:

1 The geographical, cultural, political, and religious background of the Catholic Epistles;
2 An introduction to, and survey of each of the Catholic Epistles;
3 The theology of the Catholic Epistles;
4 Exegesis of the text of Peter's Epistles, and
5 The problems to which Peter responded in his letters;

**ASSESSMENT METHODS**
All of the above learning outcomes will be assessed together in each of the three assessment methods used in this subject:
1 A Seminar paper and Presentation 30%;
1 A Major written Research Paper 30%; and
2 A Three-hour final written Examination 40%.

**STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS**
To pass this subject students must:
1 attend at least 85% of all classes, excluding approved absences,
2 obtain at least 40% of the marks in each of the above assessment items, and
3 obtain a total grade of at least 50% in the subject.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESSES**
The subject will include a variety of teaching and learning processes, including lectures, seminars, discussions, PowerPoint presentations and research assignments.

**CONDITIONS**
Learning will take place in the classroom and other suitable study environments. For the assignments, students will have access to reference books, the internet, and journals, etc. However, in the examination no resources, apart from an unmarked Bible and a dictionary, can be used.

**LECTURER**

_____

**TEXTBOOKS**
Meers, A.F. (Ed.). (2011). *Peter's Epistles Course Reader*. Duncraig East, WA: Asia College of Ministry.
Meers, Alan F. (2011). *Peter's Epistles Class Notes.* Duncraig East, WA: Asia College of Ministry.

**REFERENCES**
Cranfield, C.E.B. (1950). *The first epistle of Peter*. London, UK: SCM Press.
Green, M. (1968). *The second epistle of Peter and the epistle of Jude*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
Guthrie, D. (1990). *New Testament introduction* (Rev. Ed.). Leicester: Apollos
Elwell, W.A. (1996). *Evangelical dictionary of biblical theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker
Keener, C.S. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament*. Leicester: IVP
Marshall, I.H. (Ed.). (1996). *New Bible dictionary*. Leicester: IVP.
Plumptre, E.H. (1903). *St Peter & St Jude* (CBSC). Cambridge, UK: University Press.
Stibbs, A.M. (1959). *The first epistle general of Peter*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

**JOURNALS**
*Biblical Illustrator*
*Evangelical Quarterly: An International Review of Bible and Theology*
*Vox Evangelica*

**A TYPICAL SUBJECT PLAN**

**ASIA COLLEGE OF MINISTRY**
The training arm of Asia Evangelistic Fellowship

**B.Th. PROGRAMME**

**PETER**

**SUBJECT PLAN – _____, 2015**

## INTRODUCTION
It is important that you carefully read this Subject Plan as soon as you receive it. It explains what the subject offers and what is expected of you.

## RATIONALE
### PURPOSE
This subject is an in-depth study of the Epistles of Saint Peter as well as an overview of Hebrews, and the N.T. Catholic epistles. It provides students with a deeper understanding of the Epistles of Peter, and many relevant lessons for today. The student is helped to learn how the principles Peter applied to the problems of his day, especially the problem of suffering, can be used in our contemporary situation.
### RELATIONSHIP TO THE PROGRAMME
Since the Bible forms the basis of all Christian theology, life-style and ministry a sound knowledge of this book, both Old and New Testaments, is essential for all students. This subject introduces the student to Peter's messages for the suffering churches of his day, and at the same time it helps them further develop their skills in New Testament exegesis methodology.
### LOCATION IN COURSE
This is a Bachelor-level subject and assumes students have completed some previous N.T. exegesis studies at Diploma-level.
### STATUS
To obtain their Bachelor's degree, all students must complete at least five biblical exegesis subjects. This is one of the subjects offered. All pastors and missionaries need to be competent in New Testament exegesis.
### WORKLOAD
This subject consists of about 20 hours face-to-face teaching (consisting of twelve lectures and eight seminar groups) and a further 100 hours work to be done by each student at home.
### CREDIT
This subject carries 3 hours of credit toward the Bachelor of Theology degree (which requires a total of 36 hours of credit, including at least 15 hours of biblical exegesis subjects).
### PRE-REQUISITES
Students commencing the Bachelor of Theology degree programme must have previously completed a Diploma in Theology programme, preferably with some N.T. exegesis subjects.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the completion of this subject, the students will be able to:
1 Describe the geographical, cultural, political, and religious background of the Catholic Epistles;
2 Sketch the main content of each of the Catholic Epistles, the major themes and content of each;
3 Identify the theological and ethical emphases of the Catholic Epistles;
4 Exegete the text of the Epistles of Peter,
5 Explain how the abiding lessons of these letters can be applied to Christians and churches today, and.
6 Explain the main spiritual lessons of these letters and how they could apply them in their own lives.

**LECTURER**

_____.

**LECTURE TIME-TABLE**

This course will be taught at _____ from _____, 2015 (D.V.).
*Please note these dates carefully and plan to be at the venue punctually each day.*
Note: It is essential that you have read all of the *course notes*, and *the course reader* before the lectures. Remember to bring note paper, pens, this subject Plan, *the course notes*, *the course reader* and your Bible to every class session.

**NEXT COURSE**

The subject to follow *Peter* will be _____ from _____, 2015 (DV). Please note these dates in your diary now!

**DAILY TIME-TABLE**

8.30–10.00 a.m. Lecture 1
10.00-10.30 a.m. Morning Tea
10.30-12.30 p.m. Lecture 2
12.30-2.00 p.m. Lunch
2.00-3.30 p.m. Lecture 3
3.30-4.00 p.m. Afternoon Tea
4.00-5.30 p.m. Lecture 4

**SYLLABUS**

| **DAY DATE:** | **SESSION NO:** | **CONTENT:** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Monday | 1 | Hebrews | |
| 22nd Aug | 2 | James | |
| | 3 | Jude | & Seminar 1 |
| | 4 | Introduction to 1 Peter | & Seminar 2 |
| Tuesday | 5 | 1 Peter 1 | |
| 23rd Aug | 6 | 1 Peter 2 | & Seminar 3 |
| | 7 | 1 Peter 3 | & Seminar 4 |
| | 8 | 1 Peter 4 | & Seminar 5 |
| Wednsday | 9 | 1 Peter 5 | |
| 24th Aug | 10 | Introduction to 2 Peter | & Seminar 6 |
| | 11 | 2 Peter 1 | & Seminar 7 |
| | 12 | 2 Peter 2 & 3 | & Seminar 8 |

**SUMMARY OF CONTENT**

This subject is a study of the Epistles of Peter, their structure, context, and themes. It also helps students to think about a number of practical ethical problems, especially the question, "Why do good people suffer?"

**CONTENTS**

This subject includes topics such as:
1 The geographical, cultural, political, and religious background of the Catholic Epistles;
2 An introduction to, and survey of, each of the Catholic Epistles;
3 The theology of the Catholic Epistles;
4 Exegesis of the text of Peter's Epistles, and
5 The problems to which Peter responded in his letters;

**ASSESSMENT METHODS**
There are three assessment items in this subject:
1 One Major Written research paper 30%,
2 One Seminar presentation and paper 30%, and
3 A final three-hour written examination 40%.

**STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS**
To pass this subject, students must:
1 attend at least 85% of all classes, excluding approved absences,
2 obtain at least 40% of the marks in each of the above assessment items, and
3 obtain a total grade of at least 50% in the subject.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESSES**
The subject will include a variety of teaching and learning processes, including lectures, seminars, discussions, videos, PowerPoint, White-board and research assignments.

**CONDITIONS**
Learning will take place in the classroom and other suitable study environments. For the assignments students will have access to reference books, journals and the inter-net, etc. However, in the final examination no resources, apart from an unmarked Bible and an unmarked Tamil-English Dictionary, can be used.

**SCALING OF MARKS**
Please note that your final grade may be scaled (upward or downwards), so that the final grade is not necessarily a simple addition of marks in each assessment item. Scaling of grades may be necessary to ensure equity. Your final grade will appear on your Academic Transcript at the end of the semester.

**SEMINAR PAPER AND PRESENTATION – CARRIES 30%**
Each student must choose one topic (from the list below) and make an individual presentation on it to the class at the date and time shown below. Ring the ACOM Registrar, as soon as possible, to indicate your preference, as every student must present a different topic. At the beginning of your presentation, you will give each class member a one-page A4-size handout (in *Language*, typewritten if possible), and submit a paper of 1,500 words (typewritten, if possible) on the topic to the lecturer. Be sure to attach a "*Written Paper Cover Sheet*", an "*Oral Presentation Evaluation Form*" **and** a copy of your class hand-out, to the front of your written paper. Your oral presentation should be in *Language*.

**SEMINAR TOPICS**
1 The man Lot and what we can learn from him (Cf. 2 Pe 2:6, "he rescued Lot, a righteous man");
2 The man Balaam and what we can learn from him (Cf. 2 Pe 2:15, "the way of Balaam");
3 The Inspiration of Scripture, and its importance for us today (Cf. 2 Pe 1:19-21);
4 The Second Coming of Christ and the effect this belief has on our life (Cf. 2 Pe 3:8-13);
5 Satan and what we can learn from him (Cf. 1 Pe 5:8-9);
6 Christ, the Shepherd, and what we can learn from this picture (Cf. 1 Pe 2:25; 5:4);
7 Elders in the local church, their qualifications and responsibilities (Cf. 1 Pe 5:1); and
8 The various names (titles) given to Christians in Scripture and what we can learn from them (Cf. 1 Pe 4:16).

In preparing your presentation:

1 Read widely and critically on the topic. Focus on the main points. Be selective in what you present, bearing in mind the learning outcomes and level of this subject.
2 Prepare a carefully structured single-sided one-page A4 handout for each class member to help them understand the subject. Be selective in what you include. Decide on the most appropriate format for the greatest clarity and impact. The handout should be referenced.
3 Prepare an oral presentation which identifies at least two major issues, critically analyses them and argues for a position on each of them. Allow 15-20 minutes for your presentation.
4 You can choose the delivery style which you feel will maximize the impact of your presentation and help all class members think through the issues raised. Encourage all class members to participate, by preparing one or two questions for them to consider. As far as possible your oral presentation should be supported by appropriate visuals, e.g. use of white board or paper charts, diagrams, etc.

*Grades are based on both the oral presentation and the written paper. In grading the following criteria is used:*

*Oral Presentation: Carries: 10%.* Marks will be allocated for:

1 understanding of the topic;
2 selection of the major issues;
3 argument for position taken; and
4 style and quality of presentation.

*Written paper: Carries: 20%.* Marks will be allocated for:

1 level of understanding of the topic;
2 adequate coverage of major issues;
3 critical analysis of key issues;
4 development of arguments for position taken; and
5 clarity of expression, structure of paper, correct referencing, etc.

*Seminars are assessed holistically rather than according to an itemized breakdown.*

**LATE SEMINAR PAPERS**

If special circumstances apply, a student presenting a seminar may be granted a deferral of the submission of the written seminar paper. If the seminar paper is not submitted by the normal time (or extended date) without such approval, the student will automatically fail this subject.

## MAJOR WRITTEN RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

**DUE: _____ a.m. on _____, 2015. CARRIES: 30%**

Assignments are to be handed to the Registrar at the time and date shown above. Each student is required to submit a paper of 1,500 words (typewritten, if possible) on the following topic:

*"Peter's instructions for Husbands and Wives"*

As well as explaining what Peter says (and means) you are required to explain how this should be worked out in practice in your own culture. Remember that we will be seeking to assess your ability in analysis, synthesis, and evaluation and not just knowledge, comprehension and application. Major assignments should show evidence of broad up-to-date relevant reading, in-depth understanding and a critical appraisal of the topic.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments submitted after the normal (or extended date) without approval normally incur a penalty of 10% of the value of that assignment per day. For any assignment submitted one week or more late (unless negotiated differently) the mark will be 0%, with the result that the student will automatically fail this subject.

**FINAL EXAMINATION – Carries 40%**
A final written examination of three hours will held at _____00 a.m. on _____, 2015 (D.V.). You will be required to attempt five questions out of seven. A list of typical examination questions is attached at the end of this subject plan. When attending the examination please take the "*Examination Cover Sheet*" and attach this to your finished answers.

**TEXTBOOKS**
Meers, A.F. (Ed.). (2011). *Peter's Epistles Course Reader*. Duncraig East, WA: Asia College of Ministry.
Meers, Alan F. (2011). *Peter's Epistles Class Notes*. Duncraig East, WA: Asia College of Ministry.

**REFERENCES**
Cranfield, C.E.B. (1950). *The first epistle of Peter*. London, UK: SCM Press.
Green, M. (1968). *The second epistle of Peter and the epistle of Jude*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
Guthrie, D. (1990). *New Testament introduction* (Rev. Ed.). Leicester: Apollos
Elwell, W.A. (1996). *Evangelical dictionary of biblical theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker
Keener, C.S. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary*: *New Testament*. Leicester: IVP
Marshall, I.H. (Ed.). (1996). *New Bible dictionary*. Leicester: IVP.
Plumptre, E.H. (1903). *St Peter & St Jude* (CBSC). Cambridge, UK: University Press.
Stibbs, A.M. (1959). *The first epistle general of Peter*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

**Journals**
*Biblical Illustrator*
*Evangelical Quarterly*: An International Review of Bible and Theology
*Vox Evangelica*

**ASIA COLLEGE OF MINISTRY**
The training arm of Asia Evangelistic Fellowship

**B.Th. PROGRAMME**

**PETER**

**FINAL EXAMINATION – _____, 2015 COURSE**

**Date: _____ Time" _____a.m.**

**Instructions:**
1 You have ten minutes for reading this examination paper, and three hours for writing your answers.
2 Attempt question one AND any other four questions. Questions carry equal marks. This examination carries 40% of the total mark.
3 Candidates may bring an unmarked Bible, and an unmarked dictionary into the exam-room.
4 Write on one side of the paper only and leave a 25mm margin on the left. Begin each new question on a fresh sheet of paper, and number answers carefully.
5 When finished, arrange answers in order, complete the title page and staple pages together at the top left hand corner before handing them in.
6 This examination paper consists of two pages.

*Note:*
The final examination in "*Peter*" will be in the form of an unsighted paper. The actual exam paper will contain seven questions *similar* to those below, of which the candidate must attempt five.

Q 1 Context Verses (Compulsory)
Select any FIVE of the following verses quoted from the NIV, and for each:
(a) Explain the meaning;
(b) Explain the context in which it occurs; and
(c) Add any relevant comments, especially spiritual lessons to be learned.
Q 2 A young believer in your church asks you to help them understand both of Peter's Epistles. Write out a detailed explanation of the background of both of the letters.
Q 3 Write an essay on what Peter has to tell us about the Scriptures, their authorship, inspiration, use, etc.
Q 4 Comment on Peter's exhortations to Elders, Husbands, Wives and Servants.
Q 5 Write an essay on the Teachings and Behaviour of the False Teachers Peter warns us of in his second letter.
Q 6 Write an essay on "Election" as explained by Peter in 1 Peter.
Can we understand election perfectly?
Q 7 Write an essay on "*Inspiration*" as explained by Peter in 1 Peter.
Q 8 Salvation is in three stages: past, present, and future.
Write an essay explaining this idea and its importance for us.
Q 9 Write an essay on "The sufferings and the glories of Christ".
Q 10 The Word of God is compared to seed.
What other things is it likened to?
In what ways are these symbols helpful in our understanding of Scripture?

**(This Examination Paper is continued on page two)**

Q 11 "The things mentioned in 1 Peter 2:1 are those that put the Lord on the cross."
Do you agree with this statement? If so, prove it from the Scriptures.
Q 12 Name some of the sacrifices that Christians can now offer? (1 Pe 2:5).
Q 13 What are some of the ways in which we can show forth the virtues of Him who has called us? (cp.2:9)
Q 14 How can we "honour all men" (2:17), when many are wicked?
Q 15 In what ways is Christ our example (.2:21)
Q 16 List hindrances to prayer, and discuss them. (3:7)
Q 17 How can a person be happy iF he is suffering? (3:14)
Q 18 How can we sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts? (3:15)
Q 19 List the purposes of Christ's death, and discuss them. (3:18)
Q 20 List N.T.references to show that baptism cannot save anyone, and discuss them. 3:21)
Q 21 Are Christians these days too worldly? (4:2-3) What can be done about it?
Q 22 List N.T. references to the various judgements, and discuss them (4:6)
Q 23 Why is suffering not unusual for the Christians? (4:12)
Q 24 Give Scripture references where good men suffered as evil-doers, (4:14) and discuss them.
Q 25 List the various names by which "Christians" were known in the N.T. (4:16) and discuss them.
Q 26 List the N.T. qualifications of elders, (5:2-3), and discuss them.
Q 27 In 5:4 Christ is called the "Chief Shepherd". What other similar titles are used of him? Discuss the significance of them.
Q 28 Are young people today sufficiently submissive to their elders: (5:5).
Q 29 List N.T. references to the "Devil" (5:8) and discuss them.

**END OF EXAMINATION PAPER**