

LIVING IN EXILE

1 Peter 1:1-2 - Dear Exiles

January 10, 2016

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion... - **1 Peter 1:1**

I. 1 PETER - AUTHOR, DATE, DESTINATION & PURPOSE

- Early and uncontested history tells us that Peter wrote this letter from Rome or “Babylon” (1 Pet. 1:1; 5:13; *Polycarp’s Epistle to Philippi*).
- Written prior to Peter’s martyrdom in Rome, ca. A.D. 60-63.
- Written to Jewish and Gentile believers in the Roman provinces of Asia Minor.
- Purpose: To encourage believers to think rightly about Jesus, to stand firm through persecution by God’s grace, and to live out the faith appropriately (1 Pet. 1:13; 2:4; 2:11; 3:8-9; 5:12).

II. A TRIUNE SALVATION

- Salvation is a gift from a sovereign God. The threefold Godhead is active in your salvation. The Father electing, the Son redeeming, the Spirit sealing and sanctifying (vss.1-2; John 3:6-7; 17:1-7; Eph. 1:3-6; 13-14; Rom. 5:11; 2 Cor. 3:18; Titus 3:5; Heb. 9:12).
- True believers have been “sprinkled” with the blood of Jesus. We are saved by his sacrifice (Ex. 24:3-8; Lev. 14:1-9; Rom. 3:23-26; Eph. 1:7).

III. THE GOAL OF SALVATION

- We are saved toward something, not just generically. We are saved so that we might obey (vs. 2; 1 Thess. 1:2-10; 1 John 2:3-5).
- Grace and peace is multiplied to followers of Jesus Christ. Life may very well be hard as a Christian, but the peace of God permeates it (Luke 2:14; 24:36; John 16:33; Rom. 1:7; Rom. 5:1).

KNOW: Those who are in Christ are exiles in this world. We are pilgrims on a journey, and God has his eye on us, as he has since the beginning of time. We were chosen by God in Christ to obey.

DO: Obey Jesus and live under God’s grace and peace.

Suggested Reading:

Pilgrim’s Progress, by John Bunyan

Little Pilgrim’s Progress, by Helen L. Taylor (for children)

The Message of 1 Peter, by Edmund P. Clowney

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 1:1-2

1. Peter self-identifies here as an “apostle of Jesus Christ.” What does that mean? What made someone an apostle (see Acts 1:21-26; 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:3-11; 2 Cor. 12:12)?
2. Why do you think the concept of election is so difficult for us? How might we as believers sort through the controversy and rejoice in God’s plan of salvation?
3. We are exiles or pilgrims as followers of Jesus. What does that mean, and how does/should that look in our lives?
4. What does Peter mean by “the sanctifying work of the Spirit” here? In what manner does the Spirit work sanctification in us, and what does that look like for a growing believer?
5. We are saved toward obedience. What should we think about a self-proclaimed follower of Jesus who is consistently not obedient to God? How long should we give a new believer to become “obedient”? How do we explain our own sin as followers of Christ?