

Elect Exiles

Source Text: 1 Peter 1:1-2

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Sermon Points

1. **BACKGROUND:** Understanding the General Epistles as a whole
 - a. Books primarily addressing false teaching from **WITHIN** the Church (see Table 1)
 - b. Books primarily addressing persecution and suffering from **OUTSIDE** the Church (see Table 2)

Table 1

False Teaching #1: Paul's teaching on grace means we are free to do as we want – God will not judge	False Teaching #2: John's teaching on Jesus' deity means Jesus was not human
James 2:14-26	1 John 4:2-3; 5:6
2 Peter 3:3-16	2 & 3 John
Jude 4	Jude 4

Table 2

Hebrews	1 Peter
Persecution from Jewish sources pressuring conversion back to Judaism	Persecution from Gentile sources pressuring to leave the faith
The answer is to endure because Christ is greater	The answer is to endure because the Christian life is the best life

2. **AUTHOR:** Peter the Apostle (1:1a)
3. **AUDIENCE** (1:1b-2)
 - a. Relationship to the world: Aliens and Scattered
 - b. Relationship to God: Chosen by the work of each member of the Trinity

Discussion Questions

1. How is our day and age like the first century world, and how do we experience similar pressures of false teaching and persecution?
2. How is Peter's claim of apostleship encouraging us that his message is true?
3. What do you think most impacted the daily lives of Peter's audience: their scattered, alien relationship to society, or their chosen relationship to members of the Trinity? What should have impacted them the most? How can we focus more on *our* heavenly relationship?
4. What are one or two more things you learned and plan to incorporate from this passage?