

1 Peter 1:1-2

Part 1 – To the Elect Exiles

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.



The hearers of Peter's first letter were tired and discouraged while living in their pluralistic society. They were routinely persecuted for their faith in God. Publically ridiculed. Relationally marginalized. Some imprisoned. Others tortured. And as they longed for their eternal inheritance, they needed everyday words of life that their culture could not provide. They did not need advice on how to be happy, wealthy and healthy. What they needed just as much as we do today are words of living hope.

As one of the closest apostles to Christ Jesus, Peter insists that Christians stand firm in the face of suffering. Even though these sufferings are temporary and fading, they are still real and formidable. The call from Christ is not to conform to sin as we suffer but to remain steadfast and holy.

In his opening greeting, Peter's well-penned words describe the tension all Christians face: We are comfortably elect and uncomfortably in exile. In the midst of this tension we learn that our entire life is a work of salvation by the Triune God, who before the creation of the world, planned to save all his people from their sin through the gospel of Christ. It is the doctrine of God's sovereign election that undergirds these truths. It provides the purpose and comfort needed in our everyday lives, and only this kind of grace and peace comes from the Spirit of sanctification. By his word alone he teaches us what obedience to Christ means in this present evil age.

Main Idea: The Triune God planned to set us apart from the world through the gospel of Christ Jesus to be his holy people.

Christians are comfortably elect and uncomfortably in exile

V1

- Peter was one of the closest apostles to Jesus. He left his home and vocation as a skilled fisherman to follow Jesus without knowing where it would lead him. He had to learn that this world and its power was not the lifeblood of Christ's ministry.
- Exile: A life of pain and suffering on account of knowing that there is a place where you belong, and the present place is not it.
- Almost thirty years later after Jesus' death and resurrection, Peter writes to Christians urging them to remain holy as they live in a society that wants nothing to do with holiness. They can look to their forefathers for encouragement since they too were uncomfortable in their surroundings and needed to remain holy.
- "Dispersion" speaks physically to those who have been resettled in a new location and spiritually to those who know they are not home.

1. Living in exile

- When God saves you in this world, he immediately calls you to an uncomfortable life of living contrary to the way the world lives.
- To live as exiles means our message and way of living is unwelcomed by our society.
- To accommodate Christian faith to the agenda of a society is to make our home in this world.

2. Living as the elect

- We have peace about our sufferings as we grow in the dignity our salvation grants us:
- The doctrine of election means we have been called by the Triune God unto salvation. It has no other rival when it comes to Christian security.
- Because our election is sure, our persecutions will not overcome us. No human being can take your election from you.

This station in life as elect exiles is the Trinity at work.

V2

1. The Roles of God in the Persons

- God is one being in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We truly know God because he has revealed himself to us. How he chooses to reveal himself to us is his priority and is ultimately for our good.
- In the persons of the Trinity is an economy of roles in the history of redemption: The Father knew and planned (decreed), the Spirit made us holy (applied), and the Son was obedience in his life and death (accomplished). All this work enlivens us towards godly obedience.

2. The Comfort of God in the Persons

- The Old Testament law demanded that innocent blood be shed for the sins of the people. They would pledge their obedience, and the blood was sprinkled on them as a sign for the forgiveness of sins (Exodus 24:3-8). The Spirit of faith cast their eyes to the day the Messiah would come as they remained exiles on the earth (Heb. 11:13).
- The blood of Christ has finally been spilt so that his grace and peace will be multiplied to us. Christians have been chosen by God for obedience in this new covenant relationship. This covenant of grace is an unbreakable promise, sealed by the death of Jesus.