

“Anchored” The Book of 1 Peter
Class Notes
Session 1

Introduction:

Luke 22:31-32 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

“This epistle of Peter is one of the grandest of the New Testament, and it is the true, pure gospel. For Peter...inculcates the true doctrine of faith—how Christ has been given to us, who takes away our sins and saves us.” — Martin Luther

Background/Context:

Author: Peter the Apostle of Jesus (Hebrew *Simeon*...Greek: *Simon*...Aramaic: *Cephas*...Greek: *Petros* (Rock))

Date: Mid 60's A.D.

Destination: Churches/Christians in and around Roman Asia-Minor.

Purpose: To encourage and instruct Jesus' people as they endure suffering for the sake of righteousness

1 Peter 1.1-2 In the ancient world it was the normal practice to begin a letter by identifying the sender.

(vs.1-2): Peter... (Meaning “Rock”)...Who was an “Apostle” ... ἀπόστολος (*apostolos*)... “One sent.” This became a specific title.

The recipients of the letter... “Exiles of the Dispersion.”

The terms reflect the sense of being a temporary resident in a foreign place.... Yet...Our identity and calling is from God!

God's presence and power is *Trinitarian*.

The chosen pilgrims are foreknown by God the Father.... πρόγνωσις (*prognōsis*)... “To know beforehand.”

Foreknowledge reflects God's control in election. Foreknowledge should be understood in covenantal terms.

As elect sojourners... Believers are... ἁγιασμός (*hagiasmos*)... “To set apart”... “Sanctified” by the Holy Spirit.

For... ὑπακοή (*hypakoē*)... “Obedience” ... Through Jesus'... ῥαντισμός (*rhantismos*)... Lit., “To sprinkle.”

Jesus cleansed believers from sin through His “blood” (Death).

“The foreknowing work of God and the sanctifying action of the Spirit result in human obedience and the sprinkling of Christ’s blood...Hence, they have the energy to counter accepted cultural norms and to live in accord with God’s purpose¹

Those who understand themselves as God’s elect have the power and authority to resist the norms and culture.

“Peter writes to Christians who struggle because they live in this world but are really citizens of heaven. He reminds them of their election in Christ and His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Apart from God’s grace in Christ, this sinful world has no hope in the midst of trials, persecution, and eternal death. God, through His Son, brings reconciliation and forgiveness of sin for all who believe by grace through faith that Christ is Savior. In Him we have grace and peace.”²

Questions to Consider:

- When have you felt like a “stranger” in the world because of your faith (v.1)? What helps you through those times?
- How has the Spirit stirred a longing for God’s forgiveness and holiness within you?

(Pray): Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for redeeming me and making me a citizen of heaven. Amen.

¹ T.R. Schreiner. *1, 2 Peter, Jude* (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003).

² *The Lutheran Study Bible* (Concordia, 2001).