

THE CHOSEN

Now that we've read a little background of the book we want to move into the text itself, and that gets exciting. In reading Chapter 1, we see just how blessed you and I are to now know things that the prophets and angels could only long to know! They could only make "careful searches and inquiries" and "long to look" (1:10-12), whereas we are able to see how God unfolded His beautiful battle plan of grace, one that defeated the enemy, and provided "the salvation of our souls" through the precious blood of His Son. A blessing I hope we never take for granted.

Have you prepared your heart for study? If not, take a moment now.

Today we will begin to look at the passage in 1 Peter 1:1-12, focusing on verses 1-2, but please read through the first 12 verses once more. The more you read it, the more familiar it will be, and the pieces of what Peter is saying will begin to fall into place.

Peter opens the letter by calling himself an apostle of Jesus Christ, establishing the authority and position from which he was addressing them. We saw that "apostle" was a Greek naval term for an officer who had the battle plans and was responsible to reveal the plan to those under him. But to be clear, Peter wasn't in the Greek navy, he was in the Lord's army. His head and authority was Jesus Christ.

A side note: Whenever the name Jesus is used in the Bible it's referring to His humanity, and when Christ is used it's referring to His role as the Savior, Peter knew Him as both.

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 3

There's even more being stated in the use of this name. Dr. Welch states,

"The absence of the article (the) indicates that Peter was emphasizing the character of Jesus Christ rather than the person of Christ. That, in itself, is interesting. While it is The Jesus Christ to whom Peter refers, the thing he emphasizes is the character of Jesus Christ.. it is the character of Christ that is being formed in us by means of our suffering."

Having the character of Christ is our end goal, and all that God allows in our life is specifically allowed with that goal in mind. The really good news is, since it's God's goal for us, you can count on Him accomplishing it, as we'll see as we get into the latter part of the book, and one of the good reasons we have for rejoicing now!

Go take a look at 1 Peter 5:10 - Oh yes, He will!

We've established who Peter is, now let's look at what he says about those he's writing to.

Chapter 1:1 describes them as those who are residing as aliens, sojourners, living in a land that was not their own. During the persecution of Christians by Nero, these believers were "scattered," called "the diaspora," they were peppered throughout the Roman Empire. How do we know they are believers?

Look at the end of verse one and beginning of verse two. It says they were "chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father," and here we find the doctrine of election, a doctrine that many believers have found confusing, but is really such a simple process when the language is looked at.

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 3

Read Dr. Welch's excerpt from The Epistle of First Peter -

"Election is "the sovereign act of God whereby He has selected certain persons to have eternal life." The confusion concerning this doctrine has developed as a result of scholars failure to understand how this selection is made.

In eternity past God set up a plan which called for the second person of the Godhead to come to the earth through the virgin birth (in order to bypass the imputed sin of Adam). He would give His perfect life as a substitute for man's sins - conquer death and the grave and offer eternal life to whosoever will. This plan provided the means for God's selection of those who would be given eternal life.

God chose all those in Christ to be given eternal life. The choice of being in Christ is the option of every human being.

The Old Testament individual looked forward to Christ. The New Testament individual looks back to Christ."

Our Father is Omniscient, meaning He is all-knowing. Here's what Dr. Welch says, regarding God's foreknowledge -

"foreknowledge" (prognosin) = A Greek compound word formed by the preposition: "pro" - and the noun "gnosin" in the accusative singular, which together is "before the fact." The word - literally means to know something before it occurs. The doctor makes a prognosis - a statement concerning the eventual outcome.

The Diaspora were "chosen," but they were chosen according to God's foreknowledge of who would accept the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth, the life, and those who choose to be in Him are the ones chosen before the foundations of the world, all because God foreknew.

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 3

At the moment of their salvation, the place of these believer's residence changed. It wouldn't have mattered if they had stayed in their family home, or if they moved anywhere else in the world, they would always be sojourners here until the Lord took them home. Just as with all Christians.

Turn to Ephesians 2:19-22 As a believer, to whose household do you now belong?

Read Philippians 3:20 Where is our citizenship?

It's a wonderful thing to belong somewhere, it's even more incredible when the place you belong is with God! As we will see, one of the major themes of 1 Peter is the hope that we have because our eternal home is with God. As the old hymn says, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' thru." And so, we "eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." I agree with Peter, who would say, "Rejoice!" He's coming again one day to take us HOME!

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 What does scripture call believers (v. 20)?

The only reason we must remain here on earth after our salvation is that He has commissioned us to perform the job of representing the King. We are to be ambassadors for Christ. He has not only qualified us, and commissioned us, but has blessed us with His Spirit to accomplish the job before us. All of which we can be so grateful!

Peter says, that they were "chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ, and be sprinkled with His blood."

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 3

Including all three aspects of the Trinity we find the Father as the Master Planner, the Holy Spirit as the Power Source, and Jesus Christ is the Sacrifice, all working in connection to bring us salvation.

It was a plan formed before man was created, in the foreknowledge of God who knew man would sin and need to be reconciled to Himself. And as man repented, and accepted the salvation to come, the Holy Spirit's job was to sanctify (set apart) believers into the body of Christ. He has sealed us there, forever.

There are three categories of sanctification, be sure to read the references for each:

(1). Positional Sanctification:

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, he is entered into union with Christ (**I Corinthians 1:2, 30; 6:11; I Peter 1:2**). As a result of this union he is declared "holy and without blame before God" (**Ephesians 1:4**). Our imperfection is exchanged for His perfection. We, positionally, are made righteous in Christ.

(2). Experiential Sanctification:

This is progressive. The emphasis here is on spiritual growth where we become more like Christ (holy), maturing, as we walk with God. (**Ephesians 4:13; I Thessalonians 4:3-8; Romans 6**).

(3). Ultimate Sanctification:

This is our ultimate sanctification in which we are transformed into absolute holiness, which, by the way, won't take place this side of heaven. It's that future hope that Peter expresses to these struggling believers. (**1 Peter 5:10; I John 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Philippians 3:20-21**)

Friend, it is the Holy Spirit's work to sanctify us, not ours. He, alone, does the work of setting us apart into Christ. Our works can never sanctify us, it is only by living in submission to the control of the Holy Spirit that any works are profitable (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). In fact, as we

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 3

look at the term of "obedience" in 1 Peter 1:2, we see that it is solely dependent upon our position in Christ. As a result of that union, Christ's obedience is credited to our account and we are declared blameless. Blameless! Such amazing grace! Apart from Him there would be nothing we could do to deserve or earn that relationship.

Peter uses the term, "sprinkled with His blood" which was *an idiom referring to the doctrine of propitiation (satisfaction), the means by which our debt to God has been satisfied*. We have no one but the Lord Jesus to thank for that (**Ephesians 2:13**). It is because of the sprinkling of blood, that propitiation, that we can experience God's grace and peace "in the fullest measure."

Note that Peter does not greet them with the normal, "Shalom", or peace be with you, but he goes even further to say, "in the fullest measure." He is well acquainted with God's grace. He knows that grace provides all we need pertaining to this life and the next. In his next letter he writes, "His divine power has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness..." (**2 Peter 1:3**) Every resource that God has is available to us, His children, and because of that grace, we can have true peace in our lives.

Were it not for grace, I could not be set free,

Were it not for love to master over me

My soul would still cry weary,

My longing unfilled.

Oh Praise You God of heaven,

Your Spirit cries, "Be Still"

Grace and peace in the fullest measure is ours in Christ Jesus, who reconciles us to a perfect and holy God to be sanctified by His own Spirit within us until He comes again. It just doesn't get any better than that! Peter wants these sojourners to know that kind of grace and peace. I pray you know it, too.

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 3

Review:

- Text: 1 Peter 1:1-2
- Having the character of Christ is the end goal. 1 Peter 5:10
- Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father - 1 Peter 1:1
- Doctrine of Election
- Belonging to God - Ephesians 2:19-22
- Our Citizenship in heaven - Philippians 3:20
- Ambassadors - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- The Holy Spirit Sanctifies us - 1 Peter 1:2
 - ❖ Positional Sanctification - in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 6:11; 1 Peter 1:2, Ephesians 1:4)
 - ❖ Experiential Sanctification - in life (Ephesians 4:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Romans 6).
 - ❖ Ultimate Sanctification - in heaven (1 Peter 5:10; 1 John 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Philippians 3:20-21)
- Christ's obedience makes us blameless - 1 Peter 1:2, Ephesians 2:13
- Grace & Peace in fullest measure - 1 Peter 1:2