



Resident Aliens: Week Two Sermon Notes

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen 2 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: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

- This illustrates three components that would have been found in nearly any letter circulated throughout the church in that time period. The author would introduce themselves, identify their audience, and extend a standard blessing of grace and peace. Peter also used his opening to edify the complementary work of the Holy Trinity.
 - God the Father - initiates the process of salvation and restoration to the children of God.
 - Jesus the Son - Atones for the price of sin and establishes an example of holiness.
 - The Holy Spirit - His indwelling work provides the means for sanctification and refinement moving forward.
- Another item worth noting in these opening words is the order in which the sites of Asia Minor are listed. This likely indicates the path Silvanus would have taken when sharing this letter with these Christians. The journey likely began with Pontus in the northeast and ended with Bithynia in the northwest. This would have made it possible for Silvanus to make a counter-clockwise circle around Asia Minor.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- **New Birth** - As first illustrated by Jesus in John 3:1-15 points to the doctrinal belief that we are saved through death to our sin, burial in the waters of baptism, and reborn in Christ receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **A Living Hope (through the resurrection of Jesus)**- The Gentile world within this time period was marked by a prevalent sense of hopelessness. The ancient Greek playwright Sophocles captured the general disposition of the time like this, *"Not to be born at all..."*

that is by far the best fortune; the second best is as soon as one is born with all speed to return thither whence one has come.” Unlike the Jews, the Gentile world did not carry a thread of hope and impending rescue. The discovery of Jesus as savior was an unexpected joy for the Gentiles that quite literally transformed their life experience.

- **An inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-**

- Inheritance - Greek word: *kléronomia*. The gift of God to His chosen people. In the Old Testament, this was the Promised Land where God would dwell with His people. In the New Testament, this is reflected in the restored close relationship brought about by Christ. This word carries both a sense of immediacy and anticipation. Our inheritance in Christ is something we enjoy now and something we will participate into an even greater extent later.
- Imperishable - Greek word: *aphthartos*. Unconquered and having not been breached by outside forces. Our inheritance is protected from the attacks of the enemy.
- Spoil (also translated undefiled) - Greek word: *amiantos*. Free of contamination. Our inheritance is free of the contamination of sin.
- Unfading - Greek word: *amarantos*. Free from the effects of aging. Enduring. Our inheritance is free from the penalty of death brought about by sin.

1 Peter 1:6 *In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.*

- **Trials have a timeframe.** They are under the sovereignty of God and, therefore, will not last a single moment longer than He allows them to.
- **Trials have a purpose.** Trials are allowed by God and used for His good purpose of refinement. Peter equates this to the process of refining and purifying gold.
- **Trials have a reward.** Our faithful endurance of trials and tribulations of all kinds will equate to praise, glory, and honor being bestowed upon us by our King. The greatest words a follower of Jesus can hope to hear on the day of Christ is, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

1 Peter 1:10 *As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.*

- *Believers on this side of the cross should take great joy in realizing that we experience what so many followers in the Old Testament longed to see. This should also encourage our faith as we consider how boldly they would have had to trust God in order to press on toward a hope that had yet to be revealed. Having now seen what they never had the opportunity to see in their lifetimes, we should endure with even greater passion and zeal. This parallels closely to the teaching in Hebrews 11.*

* Scripture is from NASB 1995