

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

Intro: We are in the midst of an introduction to 1 Peter; 1) Peter; 2-3) His audience – the elect; 4) Elect exiles, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ & for sprinkling with his blood: May grace & peace be multiplied to you. [We see the Trinity at work here in our great salvation!]

- **Matt. 28:19:** Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit

- **2 Cor. 13:14:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ & the love of God & the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- **Jude 20-21:** praying in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

- **Heb. 9:14:** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Away from home, remember the Father loves you, Jesus cleanses you, & the Spirit sanctifies you to obey by His grace.

1. The Holy Spirit Wrote To Elect Exiles

1 Pet. 1:1: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, & Bithynia

a. Peter wrote to elect exiles: They were chosen by God from before the foundation of the world. & this world is not their home. “Exiles” is a term used in the O. T. to describe God’s people who were removed from the Promised land because of their sin. Here, Peter uses the term to describe God’s people exiled from their heavenly country during their sojourn on earth.

Schreiner: The word “exiles” introduces a crucial idea in the letter, that is, that God’s people are pilgrims, sojourners, & exiles on Earth . . . The church is God’s suffering people, having no place of rest in this world . . . Believers are exiles because they suffer for their faith in a world that finds their faith off-putting & strange. [We are strange: marriage ethics; male/female; against abortion]

- **Heb. 11:13-16:** These [Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah] all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them & greeted them from afar, & having acknowledged that they were strangers & exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one

- **Phil. 3:20:** our citizenship is in heaven, & from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

b. This world is not your home: We all want to go home! When I've been overseas: Flight back to US; Philly; Olney; Home; Christmas in NC. But we long for heaven! We long for Christ! We long for a place where there's no more sin, no more pain, no more death, & no more tears!

- **Rev. 21:3-4:** I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, & they will be his people, & God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, & death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

c. Peter wrote to elect exiles who were dispersed: They are dispersed in all these regions: Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, & Bithynia. These are areas in modern day Turkey. & this term "dispersion" also points to the fact that these believers are distinct from this world.

Schreiner: The term "dispersion" was often used of Jews who lived outside Palestine, who were scattered from their homeland because of their sin . . . In this instance, however, the word probably is used metaphorically. Peter was not writing to Jews but primarily to Gentiles, & hence he was hardly suggesting that they were the dispersed of Israel in the literal sense. & yet he signaled again that they were the people of God, who joined with believing Jews in the promises given to Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob. Dispersion belongs with the world "exiles" in that it communicates again that believers are distinct from the world.

Jn. 17:14-16: I have given them your word, & the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

2. Peter Wrote To Elect Exiles Who Are Foreknown By God The Father

1 Pet. 1:2: [elect exiles] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

- **Eph. 1:3-6:** Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy & blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ . . .

- **Rom. 8:29:** those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son

- **Jn. 6:37:** All that the Father gives me will come to me, & whoever comes to me I will never cast out

- **Jn. 6:44:** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

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3. The Holy Spirit Wrote To Elect Exiles Who Are Sanctified By The Holy Spirit

1 Pet. 1:2: [elect exiles] in the sanctification of the Spirit

a. Progressive Sanctification: We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is

begun in regeneration; & that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence & power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer & Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means – especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, & prayer.

- **2 Pet. 1:5-7:** make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, & virtue with knowledge, & knowledge with self-control, & self-control with steadfastness, & steadfastness with godliness, & godliness with brotherly affection, & brotherly affection with love.

- **1 Thess. 4:3-4:** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness & honor

b. Definitive Sanctification: LBCF 13.1: Those who are united to Christ and effectually called and regenerated have a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the power of Christ's death and resurrection. They are also further sanctified

Theologian: The term “definitive sanctification” is a way of referring to the “basic & radical change that takes place in a sinner's moral & ethical condition when he is united to Christ in effectual calling & regeneration.” At the moment of his conversion, the sinner is certainly justified, pardoned & accepted by God on the basis of the merit of Christ put to his account. Yet that is not all that happens. In the same moment, there is also a decisive separation from the reigning dominion of sin, as well as a consecration to God.

- **1 Cor. 6:9-11:** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. & such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ & by the Spirit of our God. **[GOSPEL!]**

4. Peter Wrote To Elect Exiles Who Are Obedient To Jesus Christ

1 Pet. 1:2: [elect exiles] for obedience to Jesus Christ

a. True believers obey Jesus Christ: Matt. 28:18-20: Jesus came & said to them, "All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. & behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- **1 Pet. 1:14:** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance

- **1 Pet. 1:22:** Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart [Obey in conversion: believe; obey afterward]

b. God has a passion for obedience: Sermon on Prov. 21:3: To do righteousness & justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

The chief end of man is to glorify God & enjoy Him forever. How? By obeying Him.
God is most glorified in us, when we are most obedient to Him.

1) God's passion for obedience is seen in creation & recreation: Gen. 1:28; 2:15-17: God said

to them, "Be fruitful & multiply & fill the earth & subdue it & have dominion over the fish of the sea & over the birds of the heavens & over every living thing that moves on the earth." . . . ^{2:15-17:} & the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- **Eph. 2:10:** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2) God's passion for obedience is seen in blessing all the nations through Abraham: Gen.

22:15-18: the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven & said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this & have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, & I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven & as the sand that is on the seashore. & your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, & in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

3) God's passion for obedience is seen when He redeemed His people from Egypt: Ex. 20:1-3:

God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me."

4) God's passion for obedience is seen when He led His people through the wilderness forty

years: Deut. 8:2: you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

5) God's passion for obedience is seen in prophecy of the New Covenant: Ezek. 36:26-27:

I will give you a new heart, & a new spirit I will put within you. & I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh & give you a heart of flesh. & I will put my Spirit within you, & cause you to walk in my statutes & be careful to obey my rules.

6) God's passion for obedience is seen in His choosing a people in Christ before the

foundation of the world: Eph. 1:3-4: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy & blameless before him.

7) God's passion for obedience is seen when we look at who will finally enter the kingdom of

heaven: Matt. 7:21: Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

8) Finally, God's passion for obedience is seen in the glorious clothing of the saints at the great

marriage supper of the Lamb: Rev. 19:6-8: Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice & exult & give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, & his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright & pure"- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Away from home, remember the Father loves you, Jesus cleanses you, & the Spirit sanctifies you to obey by His grace.

5. The Holy Spirit Wrote To Elect Exiles Who Are Sprinkled With The Blood Of Jesus

1 Pet. 1:2: & [elect exiles] for sprinkling with his blood

a. This sprinkling of His blood is an O. T. reference: Exod. 24:7-8: he took the Book of the Covenant & read it in the hearing of the people. & they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, & we will be obedient." & Moses took the blood & threw it on the people & said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Schreiner: entrance into the covenant has two dimensions: the obedient response to the gospel & the sprinkling of blood. Similarly, God's work of foreknowing & the Spirit's work of sanctifying introduce the readers into God's new covenant. Believers enter the covenant by obeying the gospel & through the sprinkled blood of Christ, that is, his cleansing sacrifice.

b. You need the blood of the Lamb: God has a passion for obedience! We need an obedient man to do what we failed to do! & we have that perfectly obedience man in Jesus Christ! His blood is the perfect blood! His blood is the obedient blood! He is the Lamb of God without spot or blemish Who takes away the sin of the world!

- **1 Pet. 1:18-19:** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

- **Rev. 7:14:** They have washed their robes & made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- **Rev. 12:11:** they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb & by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

6. Grace And Peace Are Multiplied To God's Elect Exiles

1 Pet. 1:2: May grace & peace be multiplied to you.

a. Grace: Greeting: first word to them; God's free gift; God's Riches At Christ's Expense

b. Peace: Shalom; Total well being, satisfaction in God, & the blessing of God.

Away from home, remember the Father loves you, Jesus cleanses you, & the Spirit sanctifies you to obey by His grace.

Christ Jesus Is God's Son Foreknown
Beloved God-Man, Precious Stone
Filled With God's Spirit, Grace Unknown
Perfect Obedience He's Shown
Yet God Made All Our Sin His Own
God Crushed And Cursed Him To Atone
He Died And Rose To Death Dethrone

We're Justified By Faith Alone
For We're In Him, Beloved Foreknown
The Spirit Sanctifies His Own
Now We Obey His Word Alone
We're Sprinkled With His Blood Atone
Grace And Peace Flow From His Throne
For Christ Is All Who Was Foreknown!