

SOJOURNERS AND EXILES

A JOURNEY THROUGH FIRST PETER

THE HOPE & JOY OF OUR FAITH

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1 Peter 1:1-9

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

SUMMARY

Exiles! Aliens! Foreigners! These titles reflect the reality that Christians are, firstly, citizens of God's kingdom. While Christians faced suffering for their faith, Peter reminded the churches that it was their very faith in Christ that would produce hope and joy in the midst of mistreatment and persecution in their daily lives.

PASSAGE OUTLINE

- I. An Intro of Identities - 1 Peter 1:1-2
- II. The Hope of Salvation - 1 Peter 1:3-5
- III. The Joy of Salvation - 1 Peter 1:6-9

PETER

- An Eyewitness to Christ and His Resurrection
- Inspired by God to write Biblical Truth
- A Key Leader of the Church

THE CHURCH

- Chosen by God
- Citizens of God's Kingdom
- Scattered and Persecuted in the World

Swindoll, Living Insights: James, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 156.

"The spark of suspicion had lit the flame of persecution, which would eventually engulf the Roman world in a blazing rampage against the infant church, seeking to reduce the movement to ashes."

OUR GOD

- God the Father - Chose us before the foundation of the world
- God the Son - Redeemed us through His death and resurrection
- God the Spirit - Set us apart and made us holy to God

Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

CHRISTIAN HOPE IS GROUNDED IN AND GUARDED BY GOD THROUGH FAITH.

CHRISTIAN JOY IS GROUNDED IN AND GLORIFIES CHRIST THROUGH FAITH.

- How is our faith being tested?
- Have we allowed this testing to rob us of hope and joy?
- What has God done for us?
 - In His mercy, God has chosen us, redeemed us, set us apart, and given us living hope, which is guaranteed and guarded by Him forever.

OUR CALL:

- Rejoice in the midst of chronic testing.

MAKE A JOYFUL START

- Thank God for one specific mercy from our passage.
- Pray, “Lord, order the loves of my heart,” before asking for relief.
- Read and Reflect on Psalm 16.

Psalm 16

¹ Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the Lord, You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you.

³ As for the saints in the land, they are excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names on my lips.

⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
Or let your holy one see corruption.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were some highlights from the holiday season for you?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. Look up various Bible translations for “elect exiles of the dispersion.” What is the central idea each translation seeks to convey?
3. What is the unique contribution of each Person of the Trinity that Peter described on behalf of the Church?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. What are all the things credited to God that He has accomplished on behalf of believers?
5. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. What is a difficult trial God has used in your life to test the genuineness of your faith?
6. Read 1 Peter 1:8-9. How do you explain the paradox that there is joy in suffering for the Christian?
7. Of all of the truth packed into these nine verses, which is most timely for you and why?
8. What caught your attention the most from the sermon?

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