

10. Practical Lessons on Holiness, Suffering, And. Salvation Jason Dexter Author & Editor

1 Peter 1:1-9

1 Peter 1:10 - 12

1 Peter 1:13 - 25

1 Peter 2:1 - 12

1 Peter 2:13 - 25

1 Peter 3: 1 -7

1 Peter 3: 8 - 22

1 Peter 4: 1 - 11

1 Peter. 4: 12 -19

1 Peter 5

1 Peter 1: 19

Outline

I. Greeting to God's chosen ones. (1 - 2)

II. An eternal inheritance in Heaven (3 - 9)

I Greetings to God's chosen ones. (1-2)

- Who wrote this epistle ? Peter
- Imagine a new believer asks you, "Who is Peter?"

- To whom was this epistle written?

- To Churches in Asia Minor. Stranger scattered. Scattered Jewish Christians.
- Who is chosen? What does it mean that we are chosen (Elect) according to God's foreknowledge?
- Does it mean that God only knew ahead of time we believe?
- Why or why not?
- What is the Spirit's involvement?

Sanctification - Set apart - for Holy Living - Obedience to God.

- From verse 2, what did God choose us to do?

Cross-References

Mathew (10:1-2) - Jesus called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew.

Deuteronomy (7:6) - For you are a people holy to the Lord your God.

The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the people on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession.

Romans (8:33) - Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

Colossians (3:12) - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and peace.

2 Timothy (2:10) - Therefore endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

John (5:16) - You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in My name the Father will give you.

Acts (2:23) - This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross.

Jeremiah (1:5) - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart: I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Teaching Points

1. Background - this book was written by Peter,, who was one of the 12 apostles of Christ, and many times functioned as their leader. He was a chief leader of the early church. Earlier, he had denied Christ three times, but then was given an opportunity by Christ to state his love for Christ 3 times. Peter was often brash and outspoken, yet he truly loved the Lord and was willing to follow Him anywhere.

In Peter (5:13) - Peter alludes to the church located in "Babylon."

Very likely this was a code word for Rome. At that time Nero had stepped up persecution of Christians, so Peter may have been trying to protect believers in Rome by not mentioning it directly in his letter. This letter was likely written towards the end of his life. He is thought to have been martyred near Rome.

The great Rome fire was probably a recent event. People suspected that Nero had started the fire out of some personal motivations to build more things (and because he was crazy!)

Public opinion was turning against him, so Nero instead blamed the Christians for starting the fire. These were popular scapegoats, as they were associated with Jews, who were already disliked. They were also new and unknown, so were perceived as not a threat to Roman culture. Because of this, some persecutions began to come to the Christian church. This is why much of 1 Peter discusses trials and how believers ought to respond to said trials.

2. This book was written to aliens scattered throughout much of the Roman Empire. Many Christians at that time had been uprooted either to share the gospel or to escape persecution. Also, all believers are aliens in this world since our eternal home is heaven.

3. Peter also identifies his letter as being written to the chosen. This is yet another place in the Bible that supports the doctrine of election and predestination. We did not choose God of our own initiative. We, in fact, are incapable of doing so as is taught in Romans (3:10-12) that there is none who does good, there is none who seeks after God.

God called us, chose us, and saved us. Believers are merely responding to Him because of His calling in our lives.

There are a number of applications from this, the chief one being that God is sovereign. He did not love us for any good quality which we had. It was completely His own mercy - ultimate proof that God is merciful. Therefore, we should be grateful to Him, since He has done so much for us, while at the same time knowing that our salvation is secure because it does not depend on us.

4. We are chosen according to His foreknowledge. This doesn't mean that God merely knew ahead of time who would believe. That would clearly contradict with the teaching that God chose us. God didn't just know ahead of time that we would believe, but He planned and predestined it. All glory goes to Him.

5. We are here the three members of the Trinity are all involved. The Father chooses us; the Spirit sanctifies us; Christ redeemed us with His Blood; and we should obey Him.

II. An eternal inheritance in heaven (3-9)

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to be born again?
- What is our living hope? Why is it called a "Living" hope?
- What made this hope possible?
- What are the unique characteristics mentioned about this inheritance? How does that compare with the inheritance left behind by an extremely wealthy person for his child?
- In this world, sometimes a child with a big inheritance will grow lazy. Can our heavenly inheritance have the same effect on us? Why or Why not?
- What does it mean that our salvation is going to "be revealed in the last time?" Is not our salvation complete yet? In what way?
- What is our rejoicing (6) based on? Do you greatly rejoice?
- When do we tend to rejoice more than other times?
- What should our attitude be when we face trials? Have you faced any trials recently? Can you share about one with the group?
- How will knowing we have an inheritance in heaven affect our behavior and attitudes when we face trials?
- What is more precious than gold (7)? Why?
- Do you have this kind of inexpressible joy mentioned in verse 8? Why or Why not?
- How can we get more of this kind of joy?

Cross References

Verses on Hope

Psalms 43:5

Romans 15:4

Romans 15:13

Psalms 146:5

2 Thessalonians 2:16

Verses on inheritance

Ephesians 1:18

Colossians 3:23-24

Titus 3:7

Acts 20:32

The Sufferings of Christ, and the Glory that should follow.

(1:11) Partakers of Christ's Sufferings Will Rejoice with Exceeding Joy at the Revelation Of His Glory (4:13).

Peter, a witness at Christ's Suffering, will be a partake of His Glory (5:1).

After you have Suffered a While, Eternal Glory (5:10).

This more exceeding and Eternal Weight of Glory
(2 Corinthians 4:17).

"Precious." A favorite word with Peter, Trials of Faith more Precious than gold (1:7). Redeemed with the Precious Blood of Christ.(2:19).

Precious Lord (2: 4, 7). Precious Faith (II Peter 1:1). Great and Precious Promises (II Peter 1:4).