

Christians Are Elect Exiles

1 Peter 1:1-2

The Message of 1 Peter: *The chosen people of God are called, as exiles, to hope in their future salvation, glorify God in a hostile world, and stand firm in God's grace as we endure suffering.*

I. Peter's Apostleship is the Authority for this Letter (vs. 1a).

- A. Peter was one of twelve disciples hand-picked by Jesus.
- B. Peter was an eye witness of Jesus' ministry and sufferings.
- C. Peter was an apostle of Jesus Christ (authoritative representative of Jesus).

II. The Identity of All Christians is That of An Exile (vs. 1b).

- A. Peter is writing to a mostly Gentile audience (1:18; 4:4).
- B. Peter deliberately identifies his Gentile readers with Old Testament Israel's Babylonian Captivity.
- C. The identity of Peter's original audience is our identity – elect exiles.

Application

- 1. Christian, are you owning the fact that you are an exile in this world?
- 2. Are you living in such a way that those who see you, who don't know Jesus, can say, "*I don't believe what they believe, but they are living for another world?*"
- 3. Is your hope and faith such that you are looking ahead to what is coming and that liberates you to live lives of sacrificial love and grace to the world around you?

III. The Identity of All Christians Comes From God's Electing Grace (Vs.2).

- A. God foreknew (Choose) us to be His people.
- B. God set believers apart through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.
- C. God ransomed us through the blood of Jesus for obedience.

Conclusion

As elect exiles, May stand firm in the grace that has been given to us, may we praise God for our new identity, and seek His help to live holy lives throughout our time in exile.