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Greeting to the Elect – 1 Peter 1:1-2

2 **1 Peter 1:1-2**

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen who are residing temporarily in the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and for sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

3 **1 Peter 1:3-5**

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, into an inheritance imperishable and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for you who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time,...

4 **Starting the letter**

- 1 Peter 1:1-2 follow a format for a standard greeting
- 1 Peter 1:3-12 contain one long run-on sentence where Peter describes for his readers their inheritance in Jesus Christ.

5 **Who is the author?**

A man of outrageous extremes

6 **The Author**

- This letter has always been identified with the Apostle Peter (1:1) and is considered the first inspired letter he wrote.
- 1 Peter 5:12 indicates that Peter used Silvanus (Silas) as a secretary/amanuensis. Peter dictated and Silas wrote.

7 **The Author (2)**

- 1:1 -- claims to be written by the Apostle Peter. (Also known as Simon in Greek, and as Simeon in Hebrew; see Mark 1:16 and Jn. 1:40-41).
- His name is at the head of each list of disciples, showing very clearly he was the leader among the disciples.

8 **Who is this Peter?**

- Peter is the Greek translation of the Aramaic Cephas.
- Cephas is the name Jesus gave Simon when he was called to be a disciple (John 1:42). *Looking at him, Jesus said, "You are Simon the son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is interpreted "Peter").*
- Nobody else in the New Testament could be identified as Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ

9 **Did Peter really write this epistle?**

- 1 Peter is written in good Greek by an intelligent man.
- However, Acts 4:13 says Peter and John were "unlearned and ignorant men".
 - "Unlearned" only means that they did not have formal Rabinical training. It does not mean they were illiterate.

- By this time, Peter has been preaching to Greek-speaking audiences for 30+ years.
- Silas probably helped Peter with syntax and grammar.

10 Evidence for Peter

- From earliest days, the early church accepted this epistle as written by Peter.
- Polycarp (A.D. 69) quotes 1 Peter as authentic.
- 1 Peter 5:1 the author was an eyewitness of Christ's sufferings.
- 1 Peter 5:13 the author call Marcus his spiritual son (Marcus is John Mark, and Papias, A.D. 60-130, mentions John Mark's close association with Peter).

11 Evidence for Peter (2)

- Similarities in Peter's speeches in Acts and what is in 1 Peter:
 - 1 Peter 1:17 and Acts 10:34 -- *God is no respecter of persons*
 - 1 Peter 2:4 and Acts 4:11 -- *Christ the cornerstone*

12 When was it written?

13 When was it written?

- According to tradition, Peter watched as his wife was crucified, but encouraged her with the words "Remember the Lord" and "Remember Christ."
- When it came time to for him to be crucified, he reportedly pled that he was not worthy to be crucified like his Lord, but rather should be crucified upside-down. Tradition says he was crucified in ca. A.D. 67-68.

14 When was it written? (2)

- On 19 July A.D. 64, Rome burned and Nero tried to blamed this on Christians. As a result, persecution became more widespread and official in nature.
- But there is no mention of official persecution in 1 Peter.
 - 1 Peter 3:13 – *And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?*
 - See also 1 Peter 2:13-17.

15 When was it written? (3)

- So 1 Peter was written sometime between A.D. 60 and A.D. 64.

16 Where was it written?

17 Where was it written?

- 1 Peter 5:13 says "*the church at Babylon...saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.*"
 - Babylon is generally regarded as a figurative description of Rome
 - Mark is known to have lived in Rome (Col. 4:10; Philemon 24)
- So it was written from the general area surrounding Rome.

18 To whom was it written?

19 To whom was this letter written?

- To strangers (those temporarily residing away from their true home or living amongst people different to themselves):
 - KJV -- *to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus ...*
 - LEB -- *to the chosen who are residing temporarily in the dispersion in Pontus*

20 **People who were strangers**

- “The term emphasizes the transitory existence of the Christian in the world, that is, he is a temporary resident of the world, since his real citizenship is in heaven.”
- “...emphasizes the feeling of strangeness among Christians as they live in the midst of pagan neighbors, and as a result, encounter various difficulties.”

21 **People who were strangers (2)**

- It is not surprising that those who have been chosen by God are seen as strangers in the world (from the one word *parepidēmois*, that emphasizes both foreign nationality and temporary residence; cf. 2:11).
- Christians, whose citizenship is in heaven (cf. Phil. 3:20), live in the midst of a pagan society as aliens and sojourners, displaced persons whose thoughts should often turn toward their true home.

22 **People who were scattered**

- “Scattered” (diasporas) had special meaning to the Jewish Christians in these churches.
- The diaspora referred to Jews who were separated from their homeland.
- Peter adapted this word which previously described Israel to emphasize the condition of the early church.

23 **Where were they scattered?**

- The order in which Peter names the provinces is curious in that Pontus, with which the list begins, and Bithynia, with which it ends, had been considered a single province since about 64 B.C. So his list starts and ends in the same place.

24 **Where were they scattered? (2)**25 **People who were special to God**

- “Chosen” or “elect”
- Now there is a lot of confusion over these words and concepts, so we need to tread carefully here. People tend to go to extremes in their viewpoints:
 - Die-hard 5-point Calvinists that think sermons should always mention Calvin To ...
 - People that think that any mention of God’s sovereignty is an excuse to get up and walk out of a church service.

26 **Look at the whole phrase**

- LEB -- *...to the chosen who are residing temporarily in the dispersion in Pontus.... according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and for sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ.*
- KJV -- *to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus... Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.*

27 **1. God is sovereign**

- Being “elect” or “chosen” means the God has made some kind of choice regarding those who have received Christ.
- Being God means that He gets to make the decisions.
 - Romans 9:15 -- *I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on*

whom I will have compassion.

- Exodus 33:19 -- *I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show compassion to whom I will show compassion.*
- Illustration of how Red Skelton always closed his television shows – *May God bless you.*

28 **2. God's choosing is in accord with His foreknowledge**

- ...*according to the foreknowledge of God*
- This does not mean that God knows what we will do and then chooses us BASED on His foreknowledge.
 - Romans 9:16 -- *Consequently therefore, it does not depend on the one who wills or on the one who runs, but on God who shows mercy.*
- God's choosing is "in accordance with" (*kata*) or in keeping with His foreknowledge.

29 **3. Foreknowledge is more than foresight**

- The word for foreknowledge (*prognōsin*) means more than a passive foresight; it contains the idea of "having regard for" or "centering one's attention on" (cf. Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament for the English Reader*, p. 15).
- *Prognōsin* means more than "to know before." It means "to proactively establish an intimate relationship with."

30 **1 Peter 1:18-20**

- *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you....*
 - Christ was "chosen" by the Father before Creation.
 - The Father did more than merely know about His Son ahead of time; He knew Him completely. He focused His attention on His Son.

31 **To be "known" is to share intimacy with someone**

- 1 Corinthians 8:3 -- *But if any man love God, the same is known of him.*
- Galatians 4:9 -- *But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*
- God has perfect knowledge of everything and everyone. But he "KNOWS" in an intimate way those who love him.

32 **4. Election does not contradict free will**

- Romans 10:13 – *Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* (Call = "cry out"; does not require perfect understanding)
- 1 Peter 1:20 -- The Son of God was "foreknown" (so the Greek for "foreordained,") to be the sacrificial Lamb, not against, or without His will, but His will rested in the will of the Father; this includes self-conscious action; nay, even cheerful acquiescence. (JFB)

33 **5. Remember that Peter is a Jew**

- He uses the word from a Jewish perspective.
- The Jews had been God's chosen people.
 - They are part of God's sovereign plan for the nations.
 - They have often strayed from Him and rebelled against Him.

- But He remains faithful to the nation of Israel. *He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*
- Those who have received Christ are chosen and “focused upon” to be a key part of God’s plan.

34 **6. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the chosen**

- We are not made holy by our own efforts or our own merit.
- The Holy Spirit gracefully works in our hearts to make us more like Christ on a daily basis (sanctification).
 - Remember: Justification + Sanctification + Glorification = Salvation
 - Justification – Receiving Christ to put His SPIRIT within you.
 - Sanctification = Letting your mind (soul) be transformed by the Word
 - Glorification = Receiving the body I will have in the resurrection.

35 **7. We are chosen for a reason**

- *for obedience and for sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ*
- We are chosen to OBEY (“hear under” or “hearken”)
 - So to fulfill life’s purpose, we must learn the commands of Christ and obey them.
- We are chosen for CLEANSING.
 - In the Old Testament, the sprinkling of blood from the sacrifice was a picture that the sacrifice atoned for the sins of the people.

36 **1 John 1:7,9**

- *But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we do not have sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, so that he will forgive us our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

37 **Forgiveness of sins requires a sacrifice**

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- Hebrews 10:14 -- *For by one offering he has perfected for all time those who are made holy.*

38 **The Trinity of God works our salvation**

1. Christians are chosen according to the purpose of God the Father
2. Christians are made a holy people by God’s Spirit
3. Christians are chosen to obey Jesus Christ and be purified by his blood.

39 **Positional Sanctification**

- Positional sanctification – The blood of Christ has already set me apart unto Him and I belong to God.

- 1 Corinthians 6:20 -- *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God with your body.*
- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 – I am a temple in which the Spirit of God dwells.
- So I have already been made holy and set apart unto God and there is nothing that can cancel that. (See Ecclesiastes 3:14)

40 **Practical Sanctification**

- Israel was (and is) God's chosen people, yet they often forgot God and had to repent and return to Him.
- I have the Holy Spirit of God indwelling me and I am permanently and forever justified before the Lord and made Holy to Him. God the Father sees me through "blood-colored glasses" as He sees me in His Son.
- But when I sin, my fellowship to Him is hindered. I can't enjoy my relationship with Him until I ask forgiveness.

41 **So, do I need what is in 1 Peter?**

42 **Does any of this apply to me?**

- Am I a stranger in the world?
 - Do I have faith in Christ but am surrounded by pagans?
 - Do I know that I should be living as a citizen of heaven rather than of earth?
- Am I likely to experience persecution in my future?
- Am I subject to "outrageous extremes?"
- Do I need help to live a holy life?

43 **Is this book for me?**

- Do I sometimes fear men more than God?
- Do I see to please men or God?
- Do I often fail to live out the holiness of God in a practical way?