

Strangers, But Elect

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Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Peter 1:1-9 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

- I. Peter is writing to people who were going through severe trials and persecution.
 - A. He addresses them as "strangers."
 1. This fits us, because we are strangers here, also.
 - B. I think this refers to their being strangers in this world because they are "elect" or saved people - not because they are foreigners from other countries.
 1. If you are a true child of God you will not feel at home in this world.
 2. You are painfully aware that you do not fit in with those of this world.
 3. You are uncomfortable around them and have no desire to be one of them.
 - C. The people addressed here are scattered over a large area and several countries that he lists here.
 1. This certainly fits with the people of God in our day, also.
 2. We are scattered all over the world - not gathered together in one place or in large groups.
 3. The true people of God are scattered now, also.
 - D. Because they are in the midst of severe trials and persecution Peter is going to say some things that will encourage, comfort, and strengthen them.
- II. His first word of encouragement is to call them "Elect."
 - A. The word means "chosen."
 - B. We all need to be reminded of the fact that God has chosen each one of us.
 - C. Remember how it was when you were a child playing games and they "picked" teams.
 1. If you were the first one chosen it made you feel good and also confident.
 2. If you were the last chosen it didn't feel so good, did it?
 - D. God has chosen each of us to be in his family, his army, his kingdom.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

1. We did not choose Christ to be on our team and work with us in our endeavors and plans, but He has chosen us to work with Him in his great work of redemption and revealing himself to sinful men.
- E. The very fact that we have trouble with the world is because we have been chosen by God.

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

1. The bottom line of the reason that the world hates the children of God is because they are chosen of God.
- F. When the trial and persecution comes, if we know for a fact that we are chosen by God, and part of his work, then it should be a tremendous strength to us to hang in there and press on.

III. Next, Peter reminds them of the proof that they are chosen of God by going back before the beginning of time and bringing them up to the present, with what God has done.

(v. 2-3) Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- A. God has known them (and us) from before the beginning, and He has known about what we are going through right now that long, also.
- B. That means that no matter what is happening to us right now is no surprise to God and He knows all about it, and always has.
- C. We can assume from that information, then, that God has a plan and intends to use whatever our circumstances are for his glory and our good.
- D. We know that we are one of the elect because of the Spirit's work in our hearts.
 1. "...through sanctification of the Spirit."
 2. It is something real that has happened in our heart to set us apart from the world.
 3. We used to walk with them in the same mind and views, but something changed our whole view of everything.
 4. The vain things that they pursue and build their lives upon used to be enough for us, but not anymore.
 5. This is not our own doing, but the influence of the Spirit of God in our heart.
 6. This work of the Spirit sanctifies us, or sets us apart from the world and our old sinful associations and ways.
- E. Because we are sanctified by the Spirit of God we seek and desire to be obedient to God.
 1. We no longer resist and struggle against God and his laws and his ways, but we actually desire to know them, that we may please the Lord.
 2. As obedient children we want to do what is pleasing in his sight, and detest the failure to do so in ourselves and in others.
- F. The sprinkling of the blood of Christ is a reality in our lives.
 1. Our sins have been taken away, but only by the blood of Christ, which was shed for us.
 2. It is not an objective thing apart from ourselves, but something very personal and real to us.

3. We are keenly aware of what Christ did for us and it is no longer a story or a financial transaction that took place apart from us.

IV. Then Peter looks to the future and what it holds for the children of God.

(v. 3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- A. From here Peter takes us into the future and the hope that we have because of what Christ has done for us.

(v. 4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

- B. What we possess none can take away, no matter what.
- C. They may take away what we possess here on earth, but not in heaven.
- D. They may make life miserable and hard here, but they cannot change what lies beyond this life for the child of God.
- E. It is "reserved in heaven for you."
- F. That will encourage any child of God in the hardest trial.