

# *1 Peter 1:1-21*

## *Week One*

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## Day 1- 1 Peter 1:1-21

Read 1 Peter 1:1-21 in your Bible.

Read the passage again in a different version.

- Underline/highlight or write in a notebook key words, phrases and verses that stand out to you.

## Day 2: 1 Peter 1:1-2

1. Turn ahead to 1 Peter 5:12. What is Peter's purpose in writing this letter? (See NLT for help) This will be important to remember, as there is on average 1 command in every three verses in this first letter of Peter's. We will not be overwhelmed by these commands when we see all that God has done for us through Jesus!

2. What three words in verse 1 describe the people that Peter is writing to?

Picture and Ponder: How encouraging for people who are living as strangers in a foreign land to be reminded of their true identity! They are God's elect, his chosen ones- chosen

according to His plan and purpose before the foundation of the earth. We also need to be encouraged and reminded that we are chosen by God because we too are exiles; we live as strangers on this planet, among people who are opposed to the beliefs we hold dear. Some of us may even live as strangers in our own families! Because of Jesus, our identity is that we are chosen- God chose, before the creation of the world, to set His love on us and make us his very own. We have a place of belonging in the love and fellowship of the Trinity and the family of God no matter how opposed and out of place we may feel at times on this earth.

Scholar's Corner: "The term *elect* is meant to encourage the church. It is to remind the people of God of his great love. It is not a term to be waved in front of those who don't yet know God."- *John Calvin*

3. Verse 2 tells us the role of the Trinity in our salvation. What work is attributed to the Father, Spirit and Son according to verse 2?

- *Foreknowledge- The Biblical meaning is to love beforehand, to set apart for a covenant relationship.*
  
- *Sanctification- The process or result of being made holy. Consecrated and set apart for the use of God.*

Going Deeper: Read Ephesians 1:4-8 several times and let it sink in to your brain. This short passage is filled with a description of who we are in Christ and what it means to be chosen. See how many words you can find describing your identity in Jesus.

4. What blessing does Peter ask for the believers at the end of verse 2?



Do you need more grace and peace in your life? Peter is not talking about the grace and peace of justification- the peace with God brought about by the grace of God through Jesus' work on the cross for our salvation. He's talking about the daily grace and peace we need to live holy lives for the glory of God. Let's make this our prayer for each other and ourselves as we study what God has to say to us through these letters of Peter.

### Day 3- 1 Peter 1:3-5

5. After the introduction, Peter begins his letter by blessing God and recalling what God has done for his children. List all the works of God on behalf of his children that you see in these verses.

6. Sometimes it helps us understand what we have in Jesus by seeing the opposite- what we would have *without* Jesus. What is the opposite of mercy, birth, hope, inheritance and security?

7. The living hope God has given us is described in verse 4 as an inheritance. What words does Peter use to describe this inheritance? Write the definition of these 3 words.

Picture and Ponder: Think of the times you have spent with your family or friends that have been especially sweet. The family vacation you took where all the kids got along and everyone laughed and enjoyed each other and being together in God's beautiful creation. Or that dinner with good friends, marked with a common love for God and filled with stimulating conversation, shared memories and comforting familiarity. As sweet as those times are often they are accompanied by a tinge of sadness because we know that they will not last. Kids will grow up, people will move, relationships will shift, health will deteriorate. But our sure hope (not wish or desire, but assurance and confidence) is that the real life we will inherit from God in our future will never end or fade or be marred by sin. The glimpses and tastes of sweetness we have here on this earth will be nothing compared to the life of unending joy and satisfaction we will one day inherit.

8. According to verse 5, what is our assurance that God's elect will persevere in faith to the end?



Spend time now praising and thanking God that it is his power and not your own that preserves your faith and keeps your inheritance reserved for you.

### Day 3- 1 Peter 1:6-9

9. What two emotions live together, at certain times, in the believer according to verse 6?

For Discussion: Talk about the co-existence of joy and grief. In what way have you experienced these emotions at the same time? What makes this unlikely pairing possible?

10. What phrase in verse 6 regarding trials, helps us endure?

11. What is God's purpose in the trials that we go through according to verse 7?



When we go through trials, often our first thoughts are of how we can escape them. But this kind of thinking shows a flaw in our perspective. Peter tells us that our faith is more precious than gold. He is saying that our faith is more valuable than anything else. If we are trying to escape our trials, or just survive through them as quickly as possible, maybe this reveals that our faith is not the most precious thing to us. Maybe we value other things more. Possibly our comfort is more precious to us, or our lifestyle, or our reputation. Stop a minute and reflect on what your attitude toward trials reveals about what you value most. Pray and ask God to make the genuineness of your faith and his preparing you for heaven more precious to you than other things you value. Our suffering still causes us grief, but there can be joy in the midst of it because we know it is accomplishing God's purposes.

12. What is the reward we will share with Jesus, stated in verse 7, of our faith being proved genuine? How does that impact you?

13. What does belief produce according to verse 8?

#### **Day 4- 1 Peter 1:10-12**

14. According to Peter in verse 11, what was revealed to the prophets by the Holy Spirit about Jesus, which might encourage the recipients of Peter's letter?

15. List the encouraging details that transpired to bring the gospel to the exiles Peter is writing to and to us. What does this reveal to us about God?

16. What phrase in verse 12 tells us how exciting God's plan of salvation is?

Scholar's Corner: "Ancient prophets, itinerant preachers, and exalted angels have for ages stood in service to this salvation that has come to us! The fullness of your salvation has been the joyful business of God's servants over the centuries." - David R. Helm



How are you encouraged thinking of the history of your salvation that God faithfully brought about through the ages? Spend time now thanking God for his great love for you.

### Day 5- 1 Peter 1:13-21

- *Hope- faith looking to the future with the full assurance that God will do what He promises he will do. An anchor for the soul, firm and secure- Hebrews 6:19*



17. In light of all God has done for us in giving us an eternal inheritance, (vs.1-12) where should our minds, be focused according to verse 13? How do verses 3 and 21 describe this hope?

18. Look at verses 14 and 17. What relationship is the basis on which Peter calls us to holy living? Savor this for a moment. What impact does this have on you?

Picture and Ponder: Holy is what believers who set their hope on God's grace look like. Conformed to the world is what believers who don't keep their minds focused on God's grace look like. If we want to be holy women we will be devoted to pursuing God prayerfully through his word so that we will know him better and in turn love him more, which will motivate us to obey him. This is what sets us apart, a love for God and His ways. Holiness is the distinguishing mark of someone who sets their hope on the future reward of God's grace fully realized when Jesus comes again.

19. According to Peter in verse 17, how should we live in relation to God? What is the fear of God?

20. What motivation does Peter emphasize in verses 18-20 for holy living?



Read verses 18-21 over several times. When we realize just how much we need rescuing from complete futility and when Jesus is our treasure and we value as precious the blood that He spilled for us, we cannot help but want to live for Him. Ask God to make the truth in these verses so dear to you that they will flow out of your life as love, gratitude and obedience to your Savior.

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, or convicted you about or something new that you learned and write it here. How will knowing this impact the way you think and act? Consider sharing with your group.