

New series 'Hope and Holiness' and I want you to understand that **Hope Fuels Holiness**
What you hope in will fuel your behavior...dream of will fill your days

Olympics – 4:00am – Steamed chicken and broccoli – Push their bodies to the limit (Why?)

- The hope of being a gold medalist...it is the hope that drives the behavior

Because believers hope in: Seeing Christ - Being glorified – Resurrection...We Live holy lives

Holiness also protects hope - Persistent, willful sin clouds assurance and weakens hope

- While walking in obedience deepens confidence in God's promises

Holiness means being set apart by God for God to reflect God

Holiness: New identity (Saved) - New direction (Turning) - Ongoing growth (sanctification)

This devotion to holiness makes us different in the world...aliens on a foreign planet

Big Idea – We are sojourners with a settled confidence

1 Peter 1:1-2 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:
May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

Peter: Simeon (Changed to Peter) | Fisherman from Galilee | First disciples | Closest Jesus

- Witnessed Key Moments; Transfiguration – Gethsemane – Resurrection – Ascension
 - Confessed Jesus as the Messiah | Famously failed | Restored by Jesus (John 21)
 - Leader of the early Church (Acts 1-12) | Pentecost (Acts 2) | Gentiles (Acts 10)
Real flawed and restored man – Servant who exalts Christ – Foundational Apostle
- a. **Personally chosen and sent by God** (Mark 3:13-19)
 - b. **Eyewitness of the risen Christ** (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Cor. 9:1)
 - c. **Authenticated by signs and miracles** (2 Cor. 12:12)
 - d. **Foundation of the church** (Ephesians 2:20)

Now on this short introduction I want us to see four truths that spur on our hope...

1. **We are Spiritually Displaced in a Fallen World (1)**

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

We, as Christians, are not supposed to fit into a fallen world...values – beliefs – convictions

Peter calls us 'Elect Exiles of the Dispersion' – This short phrase has a ton to unpack

- *eklektos* = 'Elect' literally means 'chosen'...its root is 'to pick out' or 'select'

**Military: Elite soldiers - Politics: Particular office - Daily life: Selecting the best fruits
Chosen by God. Not random. Not overlooked. Not self-made**

Your salvation began with God's gracious initiative. And that truth is meant to steady you

Peter's purpose here isn't to start a debate... it's to give discouraged believers confidence

- Exiles of Dispersion – Double meaning...both geographically and spiritual displacement
- Lists five regions: *Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia* – Roman controlled
- "Dispersion" referred to Jews scattered outside of Israel, Peter applies it to the Church

Peter calls you an exile – **Have you ever felt like you are the only sane person in an asylum?**

- **Look around world think 'Am I just not getting it?' 'Is there something wrong w/ me?'**
Ambassador sent to Guam strategic military position in the Pacific...would you fit in?

You would be a sojourner in Guam...uncomfortable with their customs and ways of living

- **You are an 'Elect Exile' (T-Shirt)** – You do not belong to world – Christ's in a Satan Land
If you identify more with the world than you do with Christ then you're doing it wrong

Peter giving you hope in fallen world...Of course what lost people do doesn't make sense

TA: Because we spiritually displaced in a fallen world Expect friction and choose faithfulness

- Instead of expecting approval, expect friction. We have to reset our expectations

2. **We are Secured by the foreknowledge of the Father (2a) – About to get trinitarian according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,**

Live in a world of surprises. Constantly reacting to news, we didn't expect

Catherine O'Hara – James Vanderbeek – Assassinations – World Disasters – **Local News**

Because we live "in the moment," series of accidents...God doesn't see the world like that
Opening of Peter's letter offers a massive, grounding truth: **nothing is an accident...you**

- Peter addresses "elect exiles," people who felt scattered and forgotten
- Reminds their identity rooted "**according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**
Not = God knowing what would happen; God setting His heart...before the world began

Foreknowledge: Knew you as His child before the foundation of the World

In Bible where it speaks of God knowing people it's relational, covenantal, & belonging

- **Relational:** He knows as a Father: Personal, Intentional, Protective – Affection, Care
- **Covenantal:** **Amos 3:2 You only have I known** Commitment from Him to you, not broken
- **Belonging:** **2 Timothy 2:19 "The Lord knows those who are his..."**

- Mothers...when your kids were little could you tell their cries apart from others?
- Your salvation, being known by the Father as His child...was secured a long time ago
- Your life is not an accident, it wasn't random, you were foreknown by God, Father

Composer writes the symphony before a note is ever played – Everything planned

- The musicians still have to play, but the music did not originate with them
God didn't just see what you would do; He decided who you would be to Him
Your salvation started in the mind of God, not in your own efforts

• Like Peter's readers, we've been discouraged, pressured, and uncertain from this world
TA: When faith feels weak, anchor confidence in God's prior love, not present strength

When life is all around you, remember, this is the life God has planned for you...Trust Him

Concepts like **foreknowledge, election, and predestination** can feel a theological hurricane

Absolutely true God calls us & God has foreknowledge of us...calls all...called us to reach all

Put these things to bed and rest in the comfort that God calls you child and you call Him Father

3. **We are Sanctified by the work of the Holy Spirit (2b) in the sanctification of the Spirit**

We often talk about salvation as a finish line settles our eternal destination...dynamic
Justification verdict sets us free - **Sanctification** is the process makes us fit for the Kingdom.

- Specifically, the "sanctification of the Spirit" isn't a DIY project for self-improvement
Transformative work of HS moving us from what we were to who we are meant to be in Christ
- It is the process of being set apart, not just from sin, but unto God.

Art restorer - Masterpiece dirty cellar | Purchasing = **Justification** | Restoring = **Sanctification**

- **The Source:** Divine Work - Active agent who convicts, comforts, & changes our desires
- **The Process:** Set apart life - "mortification" (putting death) - "vivification" (coming life)
- **The Tool:** Word & Spirit - Spirit takes the written Word and makes it a "living scalpel"
- **The Goal:** Christlikeness - Spirit's work isn't "being a good person." restoration of *Imago Dei*

Why does this give us confidence?

- a. Shifted burden from self-power to Spirit power – You cannot change you on your own
- b. Explains why we feel out of place – You're weird because you have God inside you

- Peter answers you are not the engine of your holiness – the Spirit is
- Why do believers feel spiritually displaced? Because the Spirit is rewiring us

We have new desires, convictions, loyalties, hobbies – we don't fit like we used to: sanctify

TA: Don't resist the sanctification of the Holy Spirit

Acts 7:51: "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!"

4. We are Submissive to the call of Jesus Christ (2c)

for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

What is the goal of salvation? Once you are saved...what is your purpose?

- Peter narrows it down to three specific, life-altering purposes:

Obedience to Jesus Christ - the sprinkling of His blood – Multiplication of Grace & Peace

This isn't just theological jargon; it is the blueprint for a life of supernatural peace and grace.

a. The Call to Conscious Obedience

- We make choices every day...those choices are an act of our conscious and free will

Obedience is not a heavy burden we carry to get saved; natural response of a heart that is saved

Peter is saying here that we are saved for the purpose of obedience

Obedience is: An Evidence of Faith – Expression of Love – Fruit of Regeneration

In a world where people are consumed with finding their own path...your path is stupid

- Peter makes a compelling counter offer to your own path...the path of Christ

b. The Power of the Sprinkled Blood - points back to the Old Testament covenant system

- Exodus 24, Moses sprinkled blood on the people to seal the covenant...show God's
- Peter: Jesus is the better covenant - His blood does not merely cover — it cleanses

Unlike animal sacrifices, His sacrifice: Was once for all - Satisfied Justice - Secured eternal

When you go to an event/amusement park...you get a stamp...blood of Jesus is your stamp

Gross...you have been sprinkled with the figurative blood of Jesus: Cleanses – Sets Apart

c. Sustained by Multiplied Grace and Peace May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

Our world constantly subtracts from our joy...just found out they cancelled my insurance

- God offers a different kind of arithmetic – God doesn't add a little calm...multiplies it

Would you rather have \$1 million or double a penny every day for 30 days = \$5,368,709.12

Even though you are an outcast in world...an alien...an exile...a sojourner...God is multiplying

TA: Obey Jesus

- We have to know what right & we have to view His voice as the loudest
- Olympics – lot of people cheering telling what to do – who are they listening to? Coach.
- We cannot allow other people's approval, voices, ideas to usurp His – He is our rescuer
- Church, in a busted up, messed up, broken world – remember you are exiles
- Just because we don't belong here doesn't mean we don't have any belonging

We are chosen exiles, known by our Father, set apart & being shaped by the Spirit, cleansed

and sent by the Son to obey... we have a confidence in our hope & holiness