

Why study 1 Peter at this time?

1. We need to be reminded that this world is not our home.
2. We need to see the contradiction between the foundation of our lives and the foundation of the world.
3. We need to rekindle the desires, direction, and way of life God gives to those He saves.
4. We need to look truthfully at the condition of our hearts, and if necessary, admit that we are not actually citizens of God's kingdom.

I want to challenge you to be here.

I want to challenge you to be engaged

I want to challenge you to bring someone with you.

"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." 1 Peter 1:1-2 (ESV)

Peter is an apostle, which means "messenger, or one who is sent." The authority of the messenger is determined by the one who sends.

Peter grounds his encouragement in their identity and God's sovereignty.

foreknowledge is consistently used in reference to God's ordained plan. For example:

In reminding his readers that they belong to the Lord, Peter emphasizes God's initiating work in salvation, but He never discounts their faith and repentance in the process.

Peter reminds them that they have entered into a covenant relationship with God when they obeyed the gospel (faith) and through the blood (sacrifice) of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace accompany our salvation and identity

Grace and peace are not conditional to our surroundings and circumstances

Grace and peace can multiply in any and every situation

Grace and peace are the way of the Christian life

Your encouragement to endure is found in your identity and God's sovereignty.

Questions to help us understand and move forward:

1. Where do you find your strength and your encouragement to live for God?
 - A. My salvation
 - B. My desire to make God happy
 - C. I don't have any strength or encouragement

2. How do you think about the difficulties and struggles of your life?
 - A. Frustrated God let me go through them
 - B. Trusting God that He has a plan bigger than me
 - C. I don't really know what to think about God or my struggles

3. When you think about your relationship with God
 - A. I know that I belong to God, and I trust that it is by His grace and through my obedience in faith in Jesus.
 - B. I am not sure that I belong to Him. I have never really obeyed the gospel by trusting in the work of Christ for my forgiveness and salvation, and haven't really ever desired to live for God regardless of what other people do.
 - C. I am not sure what to think. This seems clear, I think I am moving in God's direction, but I still have some questions.