

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – Fall 2024 – FBC

### The Life of Peter

#### **Lesson #9: “When Things Get Worse, Live as Strangers”**

##### **Text: I Peter 1:1-25**

Background: Although not a lot is said in the New Testament about Peter following his ministry in the first years after Pentecost, it is generally believed that Peter was engaged in “mission” work not only near Jerusalem but in other parts of the Roman Empire. Paul talks about Peter doing his work accompanied by a wife so clearly he was doing some kind of travelling. He may have been to Asia Minor (Turkey), Greece (Corinth) and certainly was in Rome. Early tradition suggests he was Bishop of Rome for many years and that he was crucified, head down, in Rome under the persecution of Emperor Nero, in approx. 64 AD.

This 1<sup>st</sup> letter of Peter’s is addressed to areas in Northern Asia Minor suggesting that Peter may have ministered to Christians there. One Biblical scholar suggests though that the 5 provinces (in Turkey) that Peter addresses in I Peter 1:1 are the places where Christians from Rome were relocated as part of an Imperial mandate to establish new Roman colonies (and expel the Jews from Rome) during the reign of Claudius (A.D. 41-54).

There are certainly indications that those Christians Peter is addressing are experiencing an exile coupled with outright persecution. In a sense then this is a pastoral letter from Peter, the head of the church in Rome to those whom he knows and cares about. One commentator is convinced the letter addresses Gentiles and another that it is meant for Jewish exiles...

#### **A. This is your identity – who you are!**

1. READ verses 1-2. What does Peter say about his “audience”?

Notice the 3 clauses in v. 2 that follow from “who have been chosen” -  
according to...  
through...  
for...

**So, what is their identity? And why the emphasis on identity?**

#### **B. This is your faith; it is solidly based on God’s work in Christ.**

2. Paragraph’s 2 and 3 are descriptive of the faith that his readers have experienced and are experiencing. Note the things that Peter says are true about them:

- He (God) has given us/them...  
into – & into –
- through faith they/we are shielded...

- they greatly rejoice...but in what?
- re trials...
- re their relationship & response to Jesus...
- why the **“praise to God”** (v. 3) the **“greatly rejoice”** (v. 6) and the **“glorious joy”** (vs 8-9)?

3. In verses 10-12 Peter says a number of things about the **“salvation”** his hearers have experienced:

vv. 10-11

v. 12a

v. 12b

**NOTE: In the Gospels Peter rebukes Jesus for saying He was going to suffer and die. What does he say here? (vs 11 and vs 18) What has changed?**

**C. What to do – how to live given their identity and the nature of their faith:**

4. Peter switches from “teaching” to “instructing/commanding” (vv. 13-17).

Note imperatives: (6)

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5. In verses 18-19 and 22--23 Peter talks about what they **“know”** in regard to their salvation/redemption:

vv. 18-19

vv. 22-23

**D. Live as “strangers”.**

6. Discuss the concept of being “strangers” – what is a stranger? why might his hearers feel like strangers? Why live as strangers?

All these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. **They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth... seeking a homeland...** Hebrews 11:13-14.

In regard to living “in the world” Jesus prayed this: “I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one...” (John 17:15-16)

Jesus also said “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its flavor...” and “You are the light of the world...” (Matthew 5:13-14)



**I Peter 1:1-25** <sup>1</sup>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup>who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: grace and peace be yours in abundance.

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

<sup>10</sup>Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup>trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup>It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup>But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup>for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>17</sup>Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup>He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. <sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>23</sup>For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup>For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, <sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord stands forever."<sup>[c]</sup> And this is the word that was preached to you.

**Footnotes:** a. 1 Peter 1:16 Lev. 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7. b. 1 Peter 1:22 Some early manuscripts from a pure heart. c. 1 Peter 1:25 Isaiah 40:6-8