

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER

TO THE CHURCH OF THE DISPERSION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

1 PETER CHAPTER 1:1-2

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-942

Sunday, February 18, 2018

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Anchored To The One True God”

The Ministry of The Grace of God Toward All Those Who Are Anchored in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Persecution, Foreknowledge, Grace, Suffering

1 Peter 1:1-2 NKJV

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **2 elect** according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, in **sanctification** of the Spirit, for **obedience** and **sprinkling** of the blood of Jesus Christ: **Grace** to you and **peace** be multiplied.

Getting ready to study a book of The Bible
is like getting ready to take a trip.

There are certain things that you want to make sure
that you have before you leave – like directions for one!

I want to make sure that you and I pack wisely and to do that
is to know about your journey and how to be prepared for it.
That we would be armed with knowledge about the trip itself.

Peter does the same for us:

1 Peter 5:12b

I have written to you briefly, **exhorting** and **testifying**
that **this is the true grace of God** in which you **stand**.

Peter tells the church (catholicity) how to be prepared
for the journey and for the future that it is taking you to.
Jesus did this with His disciples when He sent them out first
by 12 and then by 70 and ultimately he sends each and every one of us.

The Success of the Journey is Predicated upon Confidence

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be **complete**, thoroughly **equipped** for **every** good work.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is **living** and **powerful**, and **sharper** than any two-edged sword, **piercing** even to the **division of** soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a **discerner** of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

We Need to Hear Why Peter Had Such a Confidence

2 Peter 1:19

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; **20** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **21** for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

To Whom Was The Book Written?

To the **Diaspora**

When Was The Book Written?

62-64 as Nero was increasing in power and his insanity

Why Was The Book Written?

Persecution had been “declared” against the “The Jesus Followers”

“The Burning of Rome”

(On the night of **July 19, 64 ad,**)

What Was The Holy Spirit’s Desire For Them Then?

To have a **Laser-Like-Focus** on the Finish line

1 Peter 1:4-7

To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **:6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

How Does This Book Apply To Our Fellowship?

Romans 15:4-6

For whatever **things were written before** were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to **be like-minded** toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may **with one mind and one mouth glorify** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How Is The Teaching Applicable To Me Personally?

1 Peter 1:7-9

That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—**the salvation of your souls.**

Anchored To The One True God

1.) We are anchored to His indivisible care

vs. 1a

:1 Peter, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ, to the **pilgrims** of the **Dispersion** in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia

Peter is going to talk a lot about The Grace of God
But a different “kind of” grace is in view here

Paul will speak of the grace as it relates to our salvation apart from good works and human effort before God.

But Peter will speak about the grace of God -
the kind of grace that is needed for day-to-day living as a believer in a hostile world.

*Yes Paul, you're right; by God's grace we were saved.
Now moving on – it is by grace we continue.*
And that's the Grace Peter is speaking about.

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me = **this is Paul preaching.**

I once was lost, but now am found
T'was blind but now I see = **this is the grace that Paul preached.**

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved **this is Peter preaching.**

How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed = **this is Paul preaching.**

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come. = **this is the grace that Peter preached.**

T'was grace that brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home, = **this is the grace that Peter preached.**

Amazing grace, How Sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me = **this is Paul preaching.**

I once was lost but now am found T'was blind = **this is Paul preaching.**
but now I see = **this is Peter preaching.**

Anchored To The One True God & His Indivisible Care

1a.) Is the man Peter

vs. 1a

:1a **Peter**, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

Who was this man Peter?

Peter was a Galilean - having been born and raised in Northern Israel in the port town (fishing) of Bethsaida there on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Peter was a Jew, He was Jewish

And from the age of 6 he, as did all Jewish boys his age, went every day in the afternoon to "The Reading of the Book" at the synagogue.

He was an observant Jew – meaning that he had been raised in a Jewish community and under the direct leadership of the local synagogue and took it seriously.

He would have been knowledgeable of the history of Israel and the traditions of the religion. He would have heard the weekly reading of the Torah and the Prophets – Peter was a Jew, through and through.

Secular history, Jewish history and Biblical history
all place Peter right-smack-dab in the middle of the nation Israel
at the time of the 1st century and under the heavy hand of Roman occupation

His Name was Peter

We know that he has three (3) names attributed to him in the Scriptures.

He is called Peter, meaning – A stone or little rock

He is known as Simon Peter, meaning – Hebrew Simeon

And He is also named Cephas – Aramaic for Peter

John 1:43-44

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He **found** Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” 44 Now Philip was from **Bethsaida**, the town of Andrew and **Peter**.

Mark 1:29

Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of **Simon** (heb: form is Simeon) and Andrew, with James and John.

Matthew 16:13-17

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” :14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” :15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” :16 **Simon Peter** answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” :17 Jesus answered and said to him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah,**

John 1:40-42

One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, **Simon Peter’s** brother. 41 He first found his own brother **Simon**, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are **Simon** the son of Jonah. You shall be called **Cephas**” (which is translated, a **Stone**).

Peter was a fisherman by Vocation.

A self-employed, owner-operator who supplied fish to the local markets. He was good at it. It was his vocation – it’s what he did.

We know that Peter was a business partner with JZ

(James and John Zebedee - Zebedee & Son’s Fishing Co.)

Luke 5:9-10b

For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were **James** and **John**, the sons of **Zebedee**, who were **partners** with **Simon**.

But little did Peter know – fishing was only what he did to pay the bills – being a fisherman wasn't who he was.

We love Peter because we're often just like him.

He was silent when he should have been speaking. He was speaking when He should have been silent.

He was often impetuous, almost always loud and out front but really knowing why.

If Peter were to undergo an EQ (emotional Intelligence) test, He was a "Ready. Fire. Aim" kind of guy...

Peter was a work in progress as I am, as you are.

a man known for his blunders and failures.

Peter was a fisherman by Trade. It was his Wheelhouse.

He was no girly man – at work whenever the fish were biting, Peter was a rough and ready kind of guy – he was no wimp.

John 21:1-11

After these things (resurrection events) Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: 2 **Simon Peter**, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 **Simon Peter**, said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus said to them, "**Children**, (paidion, pie-dion – little boys, small children) have you any food?" They answered Him, "**No**". (o-may, certainly not, **not gonna happen**) :6 And He said to them, "**Cast** the net on the **right side** of the boat, and **you will** find some." So they (*said who do you think you are? We're the ones with a boat. You have no net – besides, we've been doing this all night long and there is no fish in this sea*) cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. :7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to **Peter**, "It is the Lord!" Now when **Simon Peter** heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and **plunged** into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits = 100 yards), dragging the net with fish. 9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." :11 **Simon Peter** went up and **dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.**

(Peter was no girly-man; he was one strong mans-man kind of a guy)

Peter has one of the greatest testimonies of all
A man who, by the end of his life, had
experienced an absolute transformation!

But all transformations must start at a beginning.

Mark 1:16-18

And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw **Simon** and **Andrew** his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 They **immediately** left their nets and followed Him.

**But Jack – I'm no Peter, Paul or Mary
So what about me, is there hope for me?
Ok - so you may not be a Peter...**

[Verse 1]

You may be an ambassador to England or France
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world
You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls

[Chorus]

But you're going to have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're going to have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're going to have to serve somebody

**And that was the most ultimate decision that Peter
made in history. That decision to follow Jesus changed
his life forever – and I mean forever...**

Romans 10:13

For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Anchored To The One True God & His Indivisible Care

1b.) Is the calling

vs. 1b

:1b Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

apostolos; a messenger, a mouthpiece for a message. One tapped to go and tell or to announce to others along the way.

Peter was Peter, not Super Peter
He had - like us, poignant strengths
He was impulsive yet a dedicated follower of Jesus.
Mark 9:5; John 13:4-11

He attempted great acts of faith, but often failed.
Matthew 14:28-31

He was brave and willing to die for Jesus but talked too much.
Matthew 26:51-52; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:49-51; John 18:10-11

In this New Testament Era - there is no longer the ministry of being a
Prophet OF Jesus Christ / or an Evangelist OF Jesus Christ /
or a Healer OF Jesus Christ.

The Word Here for Apostle is unique in its Context.
It means that there were 12 apostles and no more.

Anchored To His Indivisible Care

1c.) Are the people of God

vs. 1c

:1c...to the pilgrims of the Dispersion
in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia

pilgrims

grk: parepidemos; due to being exiled: one who is on an exodus – a stranger to an area. To sojourn through a strange place. One who is enroute to another place.

We are the exiles of this world. We belong to eternity.

This is never to say that we are to withdraw from this world and ignore evil, rather we are to represent God's righteousness to this world at every opportunity.

John 17:16

They (we) are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

The "Letter" arrives like much needed rain:
Powerful and Comforting

1st Peter is an epistle written to those who were pilgrims who were sojourners in the wilderness of this world.

Why? Because to those whom Peter was writing, their conversion to Jesus Christ had so completely changed them and their actions, lifestyle, and purpose - - such transformation was viewed as being hostile toward the Empire.

"There is no doubt that's such a transformation, on such a grand scale, would attract hell's attention. Satan could not allow the gospel to continue and so Satan persecuted the church as he does any church today that might threaten his domain!"

But that only added to the power of the gospel and the spread of the gospel. If you want the church to grow just persecute it. It gets stronger and becomes more pure and real. A church under attack is the kind of church you want to be in.

1 Peter 5:8-10

Be sober (be alert), be vigilant; (watch out) because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 **Resist him**, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

Peter knew what it was like to be hoodwinked by Satan himself

The Persecution in Rome (California) had spread to the other Regions (States) of the empire (Nation)

(vs 1c) in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia

In just 25 to 30 years, the advancement of the Gospel to the known world was nothing short of miraculous.

Not by a tweet, only by feet –

with no high-speed rail, no internet –

did the Gospel invade the political and hierarchal kingdoms of that world.

... and let's remember what that message was.

It was the proclamation, the preaching of the Cross of Christ. It was, it is - the message that all of mankind is lost in a world of sin and that mankind by nature, left to himself, is violent, hateful, lustful, selfish, angry and murderous!

...Humanity is sick, sin sick, S.I.N. positive.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,

Colossians 1:20c

having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and having fallen short of the glory of God,

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

(It's the message of the cross that divides the world, and the world hates the cross because the world hates Jesus Christ)

_____ *End of Study* _____

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