

1 Peter

Lesson #3, Chapter 1:1-5

Read through Chapter 1 before beginning this study. Make sure you spend time in prayer asking the Lord for His help and insight before you dive into the lesson.

1. Unlike letters we write today, the author of this letter states his name at the beginning. Who is the author and how does he identify himself in verse 1?
2. Peter was called by Jesus to be one of His disciples. As we read about Peter it is evident that he was a leader, even among the leaders chosen by Jesus. In light of the following verses, what did the Lord intend Peter's ministry to be? See Luke 22:32; Jn. 21:15-17 and Gal. 2:1-10.
3. In verse 1 Peter identifies himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Define *apostle* [Strong's #652]. What do the Scriptures have to say about who an apostle is and their purpose? See Mark 3:14-16; Acts 1:21-26; 1 Cor. 15:4-10 and Gal. 1:1.
4. What do you learn about the recipients of this letter according to verse 1?
5. Peter says in verse 1 that the recipients of his letter were strangers who had been scattered throughout *Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia*. Look on a Bible map to see the areas that Peter mentions. Remember that *Rome* is where the persecution began that these believers were facing. Many of the believers may have lived in Rome and had to flee from there as they began to undergo more difficult trials. Note where the areas mentioned above are in relation to Rome.

6. Peter describes the Christians as strangers or aliens in verse 1. Look up the following verses to get a clearer understanding of what he is trying to communicate about them. See Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 2:11.

7. We learn from the verses above that God intends for us to live here on earth as if we were strangers here, travelers on our way to our true home. Think about how you are living currently. Do you have the attitude of an alien or stranger whose real home is heaven? What are some of the challenges to maintaining a “temporary” mindset? What helps you to remember you are a stranger or alien here?

8. The Bible Knowledge Commentary notes that the word “*scattered*” (diasporas) had special meaning to the Jewish Christians in these churches. The diaspora referred to Jews who were separated from their homeland.” Think about who Peter is writing to. How did Peter adapt this word (*diaspora*) in verse 1 to describe the condition of the early church? See also Jn. 7:35 and James 1:1.

9. What final characteristic is revealed in verse 1 (KJV verse 2) about the people to whom Peter is writing? How did this event come about (verse 2)?

10. What does it mean to be one of the chosen of God? Here are just a few verses on this topic. See 1 Pet. 2:9; Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:3-6; 2 Thess. 2:13.

11. When Peter talks about God’s foreknowledge, he means that God predetermined your salvation. Predetermined doesn’t mean God looked forward in time to see who would choose Him, rather He *determined* before the beginning whom He would choose. Look up the following verses to gain a

biblical understanding of how we are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God: Acts 15:17-18; Rom. 8:28-30 and Eph. 1:3-5, 11.

12. What means does God use to bring about the choosing of these aliens and strangers (verse 2)?

13. Define *sanctify*. How do the following verses add meaning to the definition? See 1 Thess. 5:23 and 2 Thess. 2:13. Now answer: Just what is the sanctifying work of the Spirit?

14. You have been chosen with a purpose. What is it according to verse 2?

15. What does verse 2 teach you about salvation and obedience? See also 1 Pet. 1:14, 22; Rom. 6:16; Eph. 2:10; 1 Thess. 1:9-10.

16. What does Peter mean when he says we are chosen to obey Christ and to be sprinkled with His blood? See Ex. 24:3-8; Heb. 9:13-15, 19-22; 1 Jn. 1:7.

17. What has God done for you according to verse 3? What attribute of God moved God to do so?

18. The term “born again” can seem cliché today, but here in the pages of Scripture it comes alive. God uses it to describe a real occurrence that

happens at salvation. Read 1 Pet. 1:23; 2:2; Jn. 3:1-18; 1 Jn. 4:7; and 5:18. What do you learn from those verses? Are you “born again”? How do you know?

19. What does Jesus’ resurrection have to do with our hope as mentioned in verse 3? See also Jn. 11:25-26; 14:19; 1 Cor. 15:13-19.

20. Not only has God caused us to be born again, but He has also given us hope about something we will obtain. What is it (verse 4) and how is it described?

21. Summarize what the Scriptures say about the inheritance of the believer. Read Ps. 16:5-6; Matt. 25:34; Rom. 8:17; Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:12; 3:24; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:5; Rev. 21:7.

22. And finally in verse 5 we learn some other truths about the believer’s state. What do you observe?

23. Looking at verses 1-5 list the ways that God is active in your salvation. What part have you played in that?

24. How do these verses from 1 Pet. 1:1-5 encourage you as you run the race of the Christian life? Name one aspect of salvation that we have studied in this lesson that makes you marvel at God so that you echo Peter’s words, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING
by Robert Robertson

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise His name – I'm fixed upon it –
Name of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Here by Thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,
Take my ransomed soul away;
Send thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless day.