

## God's Glory in God's Word

### 1 Peter Part 1: No Greater Greeting

“And I have my own private opinion, that there is no such thing as preaching Christ and him crucified, unless you preach what now-a-days is called Calvinism. I have my own ideas, and those I always state boldly. It is a nickname to call it Calvinism. Calvinism is the gospel, and nothing else. I do not believe we can preach the gospel, if we do not preach justification by faith without works; nor unless we preach the sovereignty of God in his dispensation of grace; nor unless we exalt the electing, unchangeable, eternal, immutable, conquering love of Jehovah; nor, I think, can we preach the gospel, unless we base it upon the peculiar redemption which Christ made for his elect and chosen people; nor can I comprehend a gospel which lets saints fall away after they are called, and suffers the children of God to be burned in the fires of damnation, after having believed. Such a gospel I abhor. The gospel of the Bible is not such a gospel as that. We preach Christ and him crucified in a different fashion, and to all gainsayers we reply, ‘We have not so learned Christ.’” [*Spurgeon’s Sermons*, vol. I (Baker Books, reprinted 2007), 88-89.]

It may seem odd to open our lesson with this quote from Spurgeon. Our lesson today is not specifically related to Calvinism. But in Peter’s opening remarks, we cannot ignore that his words are rich with doctrine. Right doctrine matters. Without it, Peter’s greeting and doxology are useless.

While all the letters in Scripture have a theological richness, none begin with such richness as quickly as Peter. Within the first 2 verses, we see the plan, power, and purpose of God’s electing of Peter’s audience. And within the first 5 verses of his letter, Peter has laid out the bulk of what is commonly called the *ordo salutis* – i.e. the order of salvation.

Today, we will consider the truths revealed in Peter’s condensed Gospel. Next week, we will consider Peter’s exhortation to live in the light of that Gospel. For there is truly no greater greeting than the one he sends to the “elect exiles”. And there is no greater response than “praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

The order of salvation in 1 Peter 1:1-5:

1. Election/Predestination (1, 2)
2. Atonement (2)
3. Gospel Call
4. Inward Call
5. Regeneration (3)
6. Conversion (Faith & Repentance)
7. Justification (3, 5)
8. Sanctification (2)
9. Glorification (4, 5)

**First, consider the richness of the greeting:**

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are **elect** exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **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. (1Pe 1:1-2)*

**Election/Predestination:** Elect....according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

**Atonement:** Sprinkling with his blood

**Sanctification:** Sanctification of the Spirit

**Note the fulfillment of the promises of the New Covenant in Peter's summary:**

*I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Eze 36:25-27)*

**Now, consider the doxology of verses 3-5:**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1Pe 1:3-5)*

**Regeneration:** He has caused us to be born again

**Justification:** Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ; Who by God's power are being guarded through faith.

**Glorification:** To an inheritance... A salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.