

Introduction to I Peter

I Peter 1:1-5

Introduction:

- Written around AD 60-64
- Purpose: Christian hope in times of suffering

I. The Apostle Peter- v. 1

a. The leader of the Apostles

- i. Is the most well-known and most mentioned in the NT
- ii. Peter has been called an ignorant fisherman, and some even deny he wrote this letter- Peter was trained at the school of Jesus! (Mcgee)
- iii. RCC myths- leader of Apostles, but not founder of RCC
 1. Nowhere is Peter ever referred to as a priest or a pope. In fact, in I Peter 2:5 and 9, Peter teaches that all Christians are priests before God. This doctrine is called “the priesthood of the believer.”
 2. Furthermore, we know Peter was married because Matthew 8:14 says, “And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife’s mother laid, and sick of a fever.”
 3. Matthew 16:18- who is the foundation of the church?

b. Christ’s promise/exhortation to him

- i. Luke 22:31-32- But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.
- ii. Peter is an example to never stay down in the dumps of sin!

c. His ministry

- i. Peter identifies himself as “an apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1). Later on, in I Peter 5:1, he calls himself “an elder” (bishop or pastor).
- ii. Ministered to the scattered Jews- the Diaspora- who had settled all over the Roman empire (James 1:1)
- iii. Strangers- pilgrims; temporary resident in a foreign land
- iv. These places are all in Asia Minor (Turkey)

- v. Writing primarily, but not exclusively, to Jewish believers
- vi. Peter clearly wrote to Gentiles, Christians (see 1 Peter 1:18, 2:10, and 4:3)

II. The basis for our salvation- v. 2-3

- a. Trinity- Our salvation was wrought by God. All three members of the Godhead take part in the salvation of a lost sinner (1:2).
 - i. Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father
 - ii. Through sanctification of the Spirit
 - iii. Unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ
- b. Election
 - i. "Chosen"
 - ii. God is omniscient and knows everything. Our salvation is based upon His foreknowledge. In Acts 2:23, Peter said to the Jews, "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."
 - iii. Election- God is not just a super-human! With God, there is no time- He can see past, present, and future all at once!
 - iv. God is the All-knowing, creator of our world, and director of our world. He has made it so that all those who come to Him would be a part of the elect. That's God's side, our side is to respond to His grace and come!
 - v. Election is from God's perspective; our side demands a response- faith!
 - vi. Always refers to saved people, and refers to a collective group!
 - vii. The doctrine of election is a 'family truth' intended to foster the welfare of believers." (Hiebert)
 - viii. It is according to foreknowledge (I Peter 1:2). Does not conflict with man's individual free will. God has elected those who are saved to be with him forever, and to become like Christ- the Purpose of God is the antecedent- it all begins with God!
 - ix. Election means God planned man's salvation before the creation. His plan, not our plan! That is why He is referred to in Revelation 13:8 as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (cf. I Peter 1:20)

- x. God does not arbitrarily choose individuals for salvation and individuals for damnation- II Peter 3:9
 - xi. Henry Ward Beecher- 2 groups- Whosoever wills, and whosoever won'ts!
 - xii. Election means that Christians have been predestined to a glorious future
 - xiii. While there may be some mystery around God's choice, we can be sure there is nothing unjust about it!
 - xiv. The Bible's teaching on election is not cause to rack our brains, but a cause to worship God!
- c. Sanctification
- i. D. Edmond Hiebert says, "The word (sanctification) refers to the Spirit's work of setting Christian's apart from the world as God's chosen people by keeping them conscious of their distinctiveness and so making them more and more inwardly holy"
 - ii. An essential result of election is sanctification and obedience. While some would like to think that election has only to do with going to heaven or hell, Peter reminds us that it also touches earth. A claim to be among the elect is doubtful if there is no evidence of sanctification and obedience." - Guzik
- d. Christ's atonement for sin- The penalty of sin must be paid!
- i. The sprinkling of the blood of Jesus on us is a picture from the OT. First, a covenant is formed, then we are ordained as priests to Him, and finally we are cleansed from our corruption and sin.
 - ii. Sprinkled with blood- as soon as a person is saved they receive all of the blessings which flow from the cross – "Oh precious is the flow that makes white as snow, no other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus!"

Conclusion:

Thank God for the grace that drew salvations plan! J. Vernon McGee gave an illustration- flying on a plane where the pilot had a flight-plan. It was calming, and he warned of some choppy weather but we had assurance that we would arrive safely. God has a plan and He knows what He is doing! He knows all the conditions, so we must trust in Him!