**Peter’s first letter – What do we need to know?**

**1 Peter 1: 1-2**

**Greeting**

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

**To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 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.**

**Introduction**:

At some time in the early to mid 60’s A.D., the Christians in Rome were persecuted. Peter, sensing that things were going to get worse, wrote this letter of instruction and encouragement to believers scattered around the empire.

1. **The significance of the epistle** [v. 1]
   1. **The writer**
      1. A changed man who exhibited authenticity **[John 1:42] Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).**
      2. A called man who exuded authority – apostle, foundation **[Ephesians 2:20] 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,**
      3. A convinced man who expressed ability
         1. Conviction in **testimony [Matthew 16: 13-17] 13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say 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 replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**
         2. Conviction in proclamation **[Acts 2:36] 36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”**
   2. **The recipients**
      1. Special to God – ‘elect’
         1. Israel the chosen people **[Isaiah 43: 20-21] 20 The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.**
         2. Church the chosen community **[Galatians 6:16] 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.**
      2. Strangers to world
         1. The example of Abraham **[Hebrews 11: 8-13] By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.**
         2. The experience of Christians **[Hebrews 13:13-14] 13 Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. 14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.**
      3. Scattered to serve – ‘Diaspora’
         1. The breadth of base
         2. The spread of truth
2. **The scope of the** epistle **[1 Peter 1:2a] , 2 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:**
   1. The explanation of salvation
      1. The work of the Father
         1. Choosing to reveal Himself as Father
         2. Choosing to redeem His people as children
      2. The work of the Son
         1. The shedding of His blood
         2. The sprinkling of His blood [Exodus 24:3-8; Hebrews 9:12-14; 10:19-22]
      3. The work of the Spirit
         1. Sanctification – an accomplished fact **[1 Corinthians 6:11] 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**
         2. Sanctification – a progressing necessity **[2 Corinthians 3: 16-18] 16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**
   2. The application of salvation
      1. The call to obedience
      2. The essence of leadership
      3. The nature of discipleship
3. **The strength of the epistle** **[1 Peter 1: 2b] May grace and peace be multiplied to you.**
   1. Multiplied grace for monumental problems
   2. Multiplied peace in horrendous situations