

"Safe in the Storm"
1 Peter 1:1-2

1. First Peter was written to believers who were experiencing persecution and Peter exhorts and encourages these Christians to remain steadfast in their faith in the midst of the storms of living in a pagan culture.

How does Peter identify himself in verse 1?

What does this word mean?

How does Peter refer to these Christians men and women (v.1) whose faith in Christ made them like foreigners in the face of persecution?

2. Peter begins to comfort and encourage his readers by identifying them as CHOSEN. As believers, we are God's elect not by chance or human efforts but by God's sovereign, unconditional choice. On what basis are we chosen by God? Is it according to our merit or based on something else? Discuss.
3. This word for "alien" that we see in 1:1 and 2:11 is the Greek word *parepidemois* and it is a word that emphasizes both a foreign status and a temporary residence. According to Philippians 3:20, where do we find our citizenship as believers in Christ?
4. The "sanctifying work of the Spirit" has set believers aside for service to God and what is the result of the Spirit's work (according to verse 2)?
5. Summarize the work and ministry of the Trinity in verse 2?
6. Peter concludes these first two verses with a salutation and a prayerful wish that these believers might experience God's grace and peace in the fullest measure. We see a similar greeting from Peter in 2 Peter 1:2 as he wishes for "grace and peace" to be multiplied in their lives.

God's grace was dear to Peter as we see it referred to at least 7 more times in this epistle (1:10, 13; 3:7; 4:10; 5:5, 10, 12).

How has the grace of God transformed your life and witness for Him?

Who can you share that testimony with this week?

7. How should we live and approach the Christian life knowing that we are merely temporary residents here on Earth?