Introduction

I Peter was written by Peter around AD 62-64, just before Nero’s great persecution of the church.

Peter was a leader and spokesman for the disciples.

- Peter means “rock” in Greek.
- He was a fisherman from Bethsaida by the Sea of Galilee.
- It was his brother Andrew, who brought him to Jesus.
- He would become one of the three disciples who were closest to Jesus.
- He was a great preacher, but not a prolific writer.
- Peter would be crucified by order of Nero around 67 AD.

It was a difficult time for the church.

The issue Peter addresses is how do we live for Christ in a world that is hostile to the gospel?

The place where Peter begins is by reminding us who we are in Jesus Christ.

I. Chosen by God.

Peter writes to God’s elect.

In Scripture, the doctrine of election, God’s choosing us for salvation, was meant to be a source of great comfort and not a conflict with human responsibility.

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love, he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.” Ephesians 1:4-5

Note how all three persons of the Trinity are involved in our salvation.

- God the Father chose us.
- God the Holy Spirit sanctifies us.
- God the Son died for us and calls us to obedience.

The key is to act on what we know to be true.

II. Strangers in the world.

Elect exiles of the dispersion.
The believers Peter wrote to were scattered across what would be northern Turkey.

We are sojourners.

- A sojourner is a person who lives in another land for a brief or temporary stay.
- Our real home is somewhere else. Philippians 3:20
- Sometimes we just feel out of place in this world and we find ourselves longing for heaven. Hebrews 11:13-16
- A sojourner doesn’t put down a lot of roots.
- We know that our highest loyalty is to Christ. Acts 4:19-20

III. Called to obedience.

“For obedience to Jesus Christ.”

“Through him and for his name’s sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.” Romans 1:5-6

How are we to live in a world that doesn’t know God and at times is hostile to the gospel?

- Follow Jesus’ example.
- Overcome evil with good.

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.” I Peter 2:12

Conclusion:

Live in such a way that others can see Jesus in you.

Remember who you are in Christ.

- Chosen by God.
- Strangers in the world.
- Called to obedience.