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1

1 Peter 1 v 1-12

CERTAIN FUTURE, JOYFUL PRESENT

⊕ talkabout

1. What do you expect the Christian life to be like between here and heaven?

- What makes you answer like that?

↓ investigate

▶ Read 1 Peter 1 v 1-5

2. How does the apostle Peter describe the Christians in modern-day Turkey who he is writing to (v 1)?

E _____

E _____

- What does this tell us about how Peter wants us to view:
- our relationship with God?

DICTIONARY

Dispersion (v 1): scattering; a word often used to describe the Jewish people who, after the exile, lived all over the Mediterranean world.

Sanctification (v 2): the process of setting apart; here, it means the Spirit enabling people to trust Christ and be saved.

Sprinkling with his blood (v 2): in the Old Testament, a sacrificed animal's blood was sprinkled on the people to show that the animal's death had made possible their forgiveness.

- our life in this world?

3. What have the three Persons of the Trinity done for each Christian (v 2)? Put each phrase into your own words.

4. What has “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” done for his people (v 3-4)?

5. How could Peter’s first readers—and we—know they would reach this inheritance (v 5)? Why is this encouraging?

 **apply**

6. How do these verses encourage us to live for what we will have in the future, rather than what we could have in our present?

7. In what areas of life would thinking of yourselves as “elect exiles” change the way you think, feel or act?

 **getting personal**

Does the description of Christians as “elect exiles” comfort you, discomfort you, or both? How, and why?

In what areas of your life do you need to stop compromising and start living as an exile? Are there ways in which you are living as an exile, and need to remember you are elect, so that you keep going?

 **investigate**

 **Read 1 Peter 1 v 6-12**

8. How is it possible—and right—for Christians to rejoice in trials (v 6-9)?

9. How is this different than how the world links trials and joy?

DICTIONARY

Revelation (v 7):
Peter is referring to the return of Christ.

10. How are believers who live after Christ's death and resurrection in a privileged position compared to:

- the Old Testament prophets (v 10-12)?

- the angels in heaven (v 12)?



explore more

optional

What did the Spirit do in Old Testament times (v 11)?

▶ Read Isaiah 52 v 13 – 53 v 12

How does this prophecy point forwards to "the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories"?

Why is it a privilege to read it now, after Christ's death, resurrection and ascension, rather than to hear it as Isaiah's first listeners did?

What else has the Spirit done (1 Peter 1 v 12)?

Briefly share how he did this for you.



apply

11. What stops us from greatly rejoicing during "various trials"?



- How can we unwittingly discourage fellow Christians from rejoicing when they suffer?

- How can we consciously encourage each other to rejoice in these times?

getting personal

What trials are you facing right now? What grief are you experiencing?

You do not have to ignore it or seek to belittle it; but neither must you despair in it or be crushed by it. If you have trusted in Christ, God is at work in your life, and he will not waste your suffering. Keep trusting in Christ; keep loving Jesus. Remember the living hope you have; remember the inheritance you will enjoy; look at how God has guarded your faith through your trials; know that God is refining your faith in those trials—and rejoice!

In what way do you need to apply this encouragement? Is there someone who needs you to share it with them?

pray

Use verses 3-5 to spend time praising God.

Pray for yourselves, and those you know who are facing “various trials,” that those difficulties would show you the genuineness of your faith and that your certain future would enable you to rejoice.

2 1 Peter 1 v 13 – 2 v 3

LOVING CHRIST BY LOVING YOUR CHURCH

The story so far

We are exiles in this world, God's elect people, traveling toward our amazing inheritance—so we rejoice through trials, as they prove we have genuine faith.

⊕ talkabout

1. "I love Jesus, but not the church." Have you ever heard anyone say something like that (or thought it yourself)?

• Why do people have this opinion? Do you think it's justified? Why?

⬇ investigate

When life gets hard, we look for someone or something to place our hope in—to right our lives and give us what we most need.

▶ **Read 1 Peter 1 v 13-21**

2. Where is the Christian's hope to be (v 13)?

DICTIONARY

Hope (v 13): certain confidence in a future event.

Sober-minded (v 13): self-controlled in your thinking.

Grace (v 13): undeserved kindness.

Former ignorance (v 14): the time before you came to know Jesus as Lord.

Holy (v 16): set apart; pure.

Made manifest (v 20): the incarnation, when the Son of God was born as a human.



1 Peter

Living well on the way home

Here is a letter written to churches like ours, about a time such as ours. Here is a letter for today.

Like the Christians to whom Peter was writing, in the post-Christian West we are encountering the reality of increasing hostility toward anything Christian. We are experiencing what it is to be misunderstood, mocked and maligned because of what we believe and how we live.

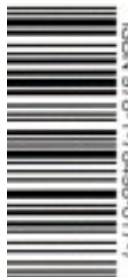
So we need Peter to teach us how to face the reality that following Christ and obeying his commands makes us different—aliens and strangers in a foreign land. And we need him to show us how we can live with true joy and real hope when trials come our way.

We need Peter to remind us of “the true grace of God” and call us to “stand firm” (1 Peter 5 v 12).

These six studies will excite you, reassure you and challenge you about your life now, as Peter shows you how to live well on the way home to your inheritance—an inheritance that (unlike everything in this world) is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (1 v 4).

For use with individuals or groups

Leader's Guide included



the good book
COMPANY