

"Grace and Peace"

Intro: As God breathed His Word to the Apostle Peter, Peter sends a gracious greeting but in it immediately gets down to business by making some declarations that carry much theological _____.

A. These introductory declarations are meant to establish the believer's position in Christ and therefore, to edify, _____, build up and _____ the reader's faith.

1 Peter 1:1-2

I. "Peter, an apostle of _____ ..."

A. Peter does not speak on his own authority, but upon the authority of Christ Himself for as the word "apostle" is defined, he is "_____ " by Christ in the power of Christ to proclaim the Word of Christ.

II. "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as _____, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are _____."

A. A literal word for word in the original word order translation of the manuscript of the greeting would look like this: "_____, apostle Jesus Christ _____ scattered Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia according foreknowledge God Father through sanctification Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling blood of Jesus Christ _____ you and _____ multiplied."

III. Peter identified his audience as those who are:

A. "_____."

1. Since the definite article is absent and neither does the context lend itself to it, we do not believe that Peter is addressing the dispersed Jews in particular, but _____ who are throughout the stated regions, whether they be Jew or Gentile.

B. "_____."

1. Peter addresses the believer in this spiritual sense: that they are _____ and exiles _____ the _____. 1 Peter 2:11, "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul."

2. They were but _____ passing through this world, thus Peter in identifying them as "strangers" assures them that this is not their final destination, but that they, like Abraham, are looking for the city "whose architect and builder is God." (Cf. Hebrews 11:10)

a. John the Beloved wrote saying, "... the _____ is _____ away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of _____ abides _____" (1 John 2:17).

C. "_____."

1. The word "elect" is translated from the Greek "eklektos" which means "_____ " or "_____."

a. Zodiates writes, "... the elect are those _____ of God unto salvation and who therefore enjoy His favor and lead a holy life in communion with Him. They are also called saints (Rom. 1:7; 15:31); Christians (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1_Pet. 4:16). The word is used to differentiate those who believe in Christ from those who do not. They are Christians because God chose them from among the lost world to become His _____."

2. Peter addresses his readers as "elect" for at least two good reasons:

a. Because it is _____.

b. Because he had insight as to the _____ that would soon confront them for as the scripture says the Holy Spirit would "disclose ... what is to come (John 16:13). So, Peter desired to _____ them in the surety of their _____.

IV. Peter addressed the church first in their spiritual and heavenly position that they might view their earthly situation as God does - temporal and _____. And though we might be as strangers in the world, and though it might be that we are scattered, or even persecuted unto death, we are assured of this: this that is temporal and passing cannot be compared to the _____ weight of that awaits God's elect!

A. "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because _____ just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 John 3:2-3).

Closing: Peter knows his audience. They are strangers for a little while, who are scattered for a little while, who may suffer persecution for a little while, but who will soon be joined together in their heavenly home where every tear will be wiped away and all suffering will come to an end, for they are the eternally elect of God. In light of these truths, it is no wonder that He can write in such turbulent times saying, "May _____ and _____ be yours in fullest measure."