

Discussion

Pastor Lee defined several words/phrases in his introduction to 1 Peter 1:1-2. Take time as group to discuss and better understand these terms.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

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

- How might these major themes from 1 Peter be relevant for each of us and the Church today?
 - Peter elaborated upon the subject of suffering throughout the entire epistle.
 - He offered words of hope to his readers as they faced suffering (1:4–5; 5:4).
 - He pictured suffering as purposeful (3:14; 4:14).
 - Christians were to endure it patiently (2:21; 3:9), and they were to demonstrate joy despite hardship (4:13).
 - They could draw encouragement from following the example of Christ in suffering (2:21–25).
 - God's will often demanded that believers endure suffering (4:19).

Next Step this week: Read all 5 chapters of 1 Peter each day this week. You can do this in about 15-20 minutes. After each reading, close your Bible and write down all that you remember. Do this each day and by the end of the week, you should have the start of an outline with major teaching. Come to next week's group meeting with your outline and highlights.

Prayer

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:7-11)