

CHRISTIANS ARE THEREFORE

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INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are sojourners of the Dispersion, Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.”* (I Pet. 1:1,2).
- B. SETTING:
1. Letter written during a time of intense persecution. *“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, ye have been put to grief in manifold trials.”* v. 6.
 2. It was to encourage them to be steadfast in anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ. vs. 5, 7.
- C. THERE ARE TWO PRIMARY SECTIONS:
1. Some Terms describing the STATUS of these Christians.
 2. Some continuing Christian DUTIES they had in order to make the “end of their faith” a pleasant reality.
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STATUS OF CHRISTIANS

- A. CHRISTIANS ARE PILGRIMS (SOJOURNERS). v. 1
1. The word refers to: “one who comes from a foreign country into a city or land to reside there by the side of the natives...in the N.T. in reference to heaven as the native country, one who sojourns on earth; so of Christians ...(Thayer).
 2. See Phil. 3:20 and Heb. 11:16 and 13:13-14.
- B. CHRISTIANS ARE THE ELECT v. 2a
1. *“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father....”*
 2. Thayer: “forethought, pre-arrangement –I Pet. 1:2; Acts 2:23”.
 3. God has predetermined to save faithful Christians but He lets anyone become one who will accept His grace. God’s foreknowledge of Jesus’ death did not excuse his murderers. Jesus knew in advance that Peter would deny him But Peter was still accountable for his actions: (Mat. 26:33-35; Lk. 22:54-62.
 4. Elect, from elektos “chosen by God...to obtain salvation through Christ...”(Thayer) but we are not elected unconditionally. Christ was offered for all (I John 2:2). The ones who crucified Jesus were offered remission of sins (Acts 2:36-40). Should not have been if unconditional.
 5. II Thess. 2:13,14. The gospel calls us to be in the elect group.

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C. CHRISTIANS ARE REDEEMED AND SANCTIFIED. v. 18, 2b.

1. "Not redeemed with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ" (v. 18, 19).
2. Sanctify, from hagiazō, "set apart, to make holy"
3. Sanctification is not justification, because Jesus was sanctified (John 10:36; 17:19) and He had no sin. So not sinlessness.
4. By hearing and obeying the word given by the Spirit, one is set apart; Cf. John 16:13; 17:17; Rom. 15:16.

D. CHRISTIANS ARE OBEDIENT. v. 2c

1. "For obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ".
 2. "*Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit*" v. 22: Compare also v. 14.
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CHRISTIANS DEPICTED AS

A. CHRISTIANS ARE BORN AGAIN v. 3.

1. "According to His abundant mercy has begotten us again..."
2. How was this done? See v. 23: "*having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God...*"
3. Cf. John 3:1-7 with I Cor. 4:15; James 1:18 and v. 23 above.

B. CHRISTIANS ARE BENEFICIARIES vs. 3,4.

1. They are beneficiaries of HOPE: "*begotten us again to a living hope by the resurrection Jesus Christ.*"
2. They are beneficiaries of an INHERITANCE v. 4.
 - a. That is "incorruptible" (Some estates are wasted here).
 - b. That is "undefiled" (Some bequests have clouded titles).
 - c. That "fadeth not away" (Some here never materialize).

C. CHRISTIANS ARE TRIED AND TESTED vs. 6-9.

1. Put through "manifold trials" (v. 6) but they are
 2. "Guarded through faith" by the power of God (v. 5).
 3. Guarded is from a military word: "to prevent hostile invasion, or to keep the inhabitants of a besieged city from flight. (Thayer).
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THEREFORE—DUTIES

- A. “*GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND*”. v. 13
1. Allusion to long, flowing robes that needed gathered up and tied for battle.
 2. We need to “get it all together” and zero in on our main duty.
- B. “*BE SOBER*” v. 13b. Be calm, control self. Be serious about salvation and avoid all mental distractions.
- C. “*HOPE to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*” v. 13c. Keep your goals clarified.
- D. “*As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance....*” v. 14.
1. Remember who you are.
 2. Break old habits and friendships. You are liberated. Don’t go back to the same things you did when you did not know any better.
- E. “*Be holy....*” v.15,16. He did not say be a “holy Joe”, putting on a front or assuming a role. He requires a genuine holiness. (Cf. Heb. 12:14).
- F. KEEP YOUR “*FAITH AND HOPE*” IN God. Continue to reverence and respect God. Why?
1. Because of who He is: He is our impartial judge. v. 17.
 2. Because we are grateful: That He has Redeemed us. v. 18.
 3. Because of His future plans for us. (John 14:1-4).
- G. “*LOVE ONE ANOTHER FERVENTLY*” v22,23.
1. It is to be unfeigned”.
 2. Sincere without pretense or deceit.
 3. “Fervently” means intense affection.

CONCLUSION

- A. BE SECURE IN AN INSECURE WORLD: vs. 24,25.
1. “*All flesh is as grass, And all glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower fails away, But the word of the Lord endures forever.*”
 2. HIS promises are sure, and the reward is certain.
- B. ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?
1. Are you enjoying the status of a Child of God.
 2. Are you “faithful” to your duties as a Christian?
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