***Omega: BIB 109***

***1st Peter – Always Be Prepared***

***Lesson 1***

***I. Chapter 1:1-2a – “Who Are We?”***

A. Vs. 1 🡪 Who is the writer of this letter?

1. In this time period of history this was a common way a letter was addressed; the author’s name first, and then the intended recipients.

A. Therefore… The Apostle Peter is believed to be the author

B. When and where from did Peter write this letter?

1. It is usually dated about A.D. 64-67, and thought to be written from Rome.

2. The content of the letter is one of the key evidences as to the time period of the writing. i.e. Persecution of Christians by the hand of the Roman Emperor Nero.

C. Who is the intended audience?

1. Gentile Christians residing in Asia Minor.

A. Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

D. How are Christians described in the 1st verse?

1. Peter’s letter is addressed to “those who reside as aliens,” who are “scattered” throughout these areas, and “who are chosen”.

2. 1st Way Christians are described… “Those who reside as aliens”

A. This word appears two other times in the NT…

1. Hebrews 11:13 and 1st Peter 2:11

***Heb 11:13… “”All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”***

***1 Peter 2:11… “Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.”***

B. This word means an exile, an alien, a foreigner, a stranger.

C. It refers to people living outside their homeland, or outside of their native land.

D. ALL Christians are aliens, because our homeland is not of this world. Our homeland is heaven!

***Phil 3:20… “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”***

E. Implications of residing as aliens…

1. Aliens often suffer contempt, suspicion, hostility, and discrimination from the “natives”

A. As aliens, Christian must expect this.

2. Christians must develop a mentality that we are “just visiting” here during our lifetime on this earth.

A. This was the attitude of the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

***Gen 23:4…"I am a stranger and a sojourner among you.”***

3. 2nd Way Christians are described: *The Diaspora – The Scattered*

A. This word is used metaphorically of those Christians (aliens) who are scattered all around this area.

B. This term (diaspora) was first used of those who in the OT who were dispersed as a result of the Assyrian captivity.

1. For those Jews who were scattered this was an abnormal state… for their home was Israel/Jerusalem.

2. For the Christian, however, this is the expected or normal state of affairs. This is the way it is supposed to be while we are in this world.

C. It was Jesus’ desire and command for his people to scatter throughout the nations of the world 🡪 Matthew 28:19 & Mark 16:15-16

***Acts 1:8 – “…but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."***

***Acts 8:1… “Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.***

4. 3rd way Christians are described in this: *Eklektos 🡪 Elect/Chosen*

A. We are the chosen ones, a chosen race…

***1 Peter 2:9-10… “But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.”***

1. We are a chosen race – the chosen ones, in 2 senses…

A. The Church as a group is now God’s chosen people, rather than the Jews.

B. In OT times, the Jews (as a nation) were God’s chosen people. But God has now passed this status to someone else. (Mt. 21:33-41)

C. Now the Church is the company of elect or chosen ones.

D. In a second sense, we are chosen ones because INDIVIDUALS are chosen for membership in this special people according to foreknowledge.

E. God predestined the plan – not the man.

F. God, through his foreknowledge, identified those who would be the ones who would meet the required conditions (the plan) for salvation.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Entire Lesson pulled from: Studies in 1st Peter – Dr. Jack Cottrell. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)