

# LIVING STRONG

## Part 2: The Believer's Inheritance (1 Peter 1:1-12)

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info



### I. GREETINGS: PETER THE APOSTLE TO GOD'S ELECT (1:1-2)

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.*

#### A. Peter, the inspired author, is called an apostle (1:1a)

1. "Apostle" means 'messenger' or one who is sent.
2. Here the term is richer because Peter is an apostle of Jesus Christ.
3. Peter was probably in Rome ("Babylon" 5:13) at the time of this writing (A.D. 62-64).

#### B. Scattered exiles (1:1b)

1. These recipients ("elect," chosen) were Greek-speaking Jewish Christians who were driven out of Jerusalem and scattered throughout Asia Minor (Turkey).
2. They were facing escalating persecution from the Roman Emperor Nero had blamed Christians for his burning of Rome (AD 64).

#### C. Foreknowledge (1:2)

1. The verb 'foreknow' can refer not just to God's knowing a fact (e.g., that Peter's readers would be chosen sojourners in Asia Minor) but to his knowing people with a personal, loving, fatherly knowledge.
2. Thus 'according to the foreknowledge' suggests 'according to God's fatherly care for you before the world was made.'

### II. THE GREATNESS OF YOUR SALVATION (1:3-12)

#### A. Joy in future heavenly reward (1:3-5)

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1. "New birth" refers to spiritual birth (regeneration)...the Holy Spirit's act of bringing believers into God's family. Also called being "born again" (see John 3).
2. "Living hope" is the eager confident expectation of the life to come.
3. This inheritance is the believer's share in the heavenly kingdom, his or her future heavenly

reward.

4. Question: What four qualities describe your inheritance (1:4)?

### **B. Joy in spite of suffering (1:6-7)**

*In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

1. 'Trials' (Gk. *peirasmos*) refers to a testing or a temptation to do something wrong.
2. The phrase 'all kinds of trials' is probably not referring only to the kind of persecution these readers were experiencing but to all the trials which Christians experience (cf. James 1:2).
3. Question: What insights does James 1:2-4 give us concerning these 'trials'?

### **C. Inexpressible joy in knowing Christ himself (1:8-9)**

*Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

1. 'Though you do not see him' refers to this present age before Jesus returns, during which time we do not see Christ with our physical eyes.
2. The verb 'love' here is in the present tense indicating a continual or regular activity.
3. This implies a personal daily relationship with the ascended Lord Jesus—through prayer and worship.

### **D. Prophets and angels amazed at the glory of your salvation (1:10-12)**

*Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.*

1. The plan of salvation was a mystery to the Old Testament prophets.
2. The 'Spirit of Christ' refers to the Holy Spirit but with a title that suggests that predicting the coming of the Messiah.
3. 'It was revealed to them' indicates a divine communication to the prophets and is never used to speak of human activity.

### **E. Summary**

1. As believers, we are to be \_\_\_\_\_ in our trust in God and in obedience to him throughout our lives, but especially when we experience facing difficult times ('trials').
2. Our present \_\_\_\_\_ in dealing with temporary difficult times comes from looking ahead to the eternal glorious life that awaits us.