Lesson #1: Secure Strangers (1 Peter 1:1-2)

The aim of 1 Peter is to encourage and strengthen believers who were living in difficult days. The Jewish audience Peter addresses is being mistreated and persecuted for their faith. They are scattered among the five Roman provinces in what is now modern-day Turkey. They were likely seeking to hide for safety from _______________ who is burning Christians and confiscating their land.

Peter seeks to encourage them by offering them ________________. 5x in this epistle the word “________________” is brought up. While the introduction to Peter’s letter is not long and flowery (only 33 words in the original) it is jam packed with this message of ____________________.

Perhaps you have come this morning asking some questions of God. (1) Does God even _________ about how hard this is for me, (2) Does God even ____________ who I am?, (3) Does God have any _______________ he can offer? In these first two verses Peter seeks to encourage those suffering saints and give them security in their affliction by answering those three questions.

GOD’S _____________________ IS UNQUESTIONED

In that first verse we read these intriguing words – “Strangers scattered.” I would suggest to you that in those words Peter is saying, “God ___________!”

A. God’s view is seen in where He ______________ us
   The words “stranger” could literally be translated “one who resides ______________ the natives.” Calling believers strangers is really an apt description. Every one of us, in some fashion, lives alongside the natives (Phil. 3:20; John 17:16). Being a stranger reminds us of the ______________ we have. No matter where we are it’s exactly where God wants us to be.

B. God’s view is seen in ______________ He uses us
   The word “scattered” reminds us of our ______________. This is the Greek words diaspora. It’s the words used when a farmer went out to sow his seed. We are scattered to grow fruit just as surely as seed sown in the field is scattered to make a difference. God has scattered us through our neighborhoods and through this city and He has done it with a purpose.

GOD’S _____________________ IS UNHINDERED

The words of verse 2 are often words of confusion in the church today but to the early church these words would have been words of ________________.

In this second verse the ________________ is revealed. All three members of the godhead are involved, together, in the work of salvation.

A. Salvation requires the _________________ of God
   - “Elect” – That word is used frequently in the OT. The Israelites were called God’s “chosen people” (Psalm 105:6). This same word is found _____________ in the NT. Here the verb being used is passive. In other words, the believer is the object of God’s ______________.
   - “Foreknowledge” – This is the word prognosis we get our word “prognostic” or “prognosticate.” It literally means “before to know” or “having a previous ____________.”

This doctrine is not set for to be debated but to be declared. It is not mean to confuse but to comfort. I may not fully understand it but I revel in it and I glory in it!

B. Salvation requires the _________________ of the Spirit
   At the moment of your salvation the Spirit baptizes you into the body and ____________ you so that you are one of the Lord’s that is stamped forever in Christ. The Spirit fills you, empowers you, and makes you a ________________ person.

C. Salvation requires the _________________ of the Son
   This provision of salvation has been provided through the _________________ of the Son.

GOD’S _____________________ IS UNENDING

Two divine provisions are being highlighted at the close of verse two.

A. God supplies _________________ ________________
   “Grace” is the undeserved ________________ that God can give. It comes from God; it is not earned by any merit; we pray for it for ourselves and for our friends; we can ask for nothing better.

B. God supplies _________________ ________________
   When grace abides in the soul there is ________________ within the heart. This peace of mind overflows in the believer’s relationships with both God and man.

Concluding Thoughts

In the New International Commentary of the New Testament Peter Davids notes, “1 Peter has frequently been ________________ by the church for since the reformation the Pauline Epistles have taken center stage. This is an unfortunate situation for 1 Peter is a highly relevant book whenever the church is ________________ and the faithful church will ________________.