

# **Strangers in the World**

## **1 Peter 1.1-2**

Peter wrote his "First Epistle" in a rough situation which he rightly suspected would get tougher. His intent in writing to the small churches scattered throughout the inhospitable regions of Asia Minor was to warn the believers of their impending difficulties, to encourage them in their spiritual position and to practically encourage them to live Christianly in difficult circumstances.

Peter's letter began with a greeting that followed the pattern in Jewish letters of the time but with a distinctive Christian flavor. In each part the Christian character of the writing was quite obvious.

### **The Naming of the Sender**

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ...*

### **The Naming of the Recipients**

*...to God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood...*

#### **God's elect**

*For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.*

*The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations. Deuteronomy 7.6-9; Isaiah 43.20-21*

#### **Strangers in the world, scattered**

### **Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son. Romans 8.28-29*

### **Through the sanctifying work of the Spirit**

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1.6*

### **For obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood**

Exodus 24.3-8

### **An Expression of Good Wishes**

**Grace and peace** be yours in abundance.

*The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine upon you and be **gracious** to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you **peace**.*

D. Stuart Briscoe. *When the Going Gets Tough*. Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1982.

Norman Hillier. *New International Biblical Commentary: 1 and 2 Peter, Jude*. Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA, 2002.

I. Howard Marshall. *The IVP New Testament Commentary Series: 1 Peter*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1991.