

## Standing in the True Grace of God

*Peter's Life, Letters and Lord*

### 1 Peter 1:1-2

*"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect..." 1 Peter 1:1 (NIV)*

**Read the epistle of 1 Peter out loud in one sitting or have someone read it to you (since that was the way Peter's audience would have received it).**

1. What ideas do you hear repeated in the letter?
2. What do you think Peter's purpose(s) in writing this letter might have been?
3. What did you find encouraging?
4. What did you find challenging?

#### Read 1 Peter 1:1-2.

5. People often find their identity and seek to impress others with their education, experience and accomplishments. How does Peter identify himself?
6. Peter's readers lived in what is now modern-day Turkey. The list of regions in verse 1 may have been the circular route the "mailman" took when he delivered Peter's letter. On the map below, connect the regions listed in verse 1 to see the size of the territory to which Peter's letter was addressed.



[http://www.bible-history.com/geography/maps/map\\_asia.html](http://www.bible-history.com/geography/maps/map_asia.html)

7. What phrases does Peter use to describe his readers?
8. What does it mean to be God's elect (v. 1a)? (2 Thess. 2:13-14)
9. What does it mean to be a stranger (or alien) in the world? (Heb. 11:13-16)

Why would Peter choose this phrase to describe his readers? (see also 2:9-11)

**Peter begins his letter by reminding his readers that they have been saved SOLELY through the work of their Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and not through any effort of their own.**

10. What is God the Father's role in saving the believer (v. 2a)?
11. What was God's purpose(s) for those He foreknew and chose/elected? (v. 2c; 2:9; Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1:3-6)  
(Note: Foreknowledge is not God looking ahead to see future events and then taking what will happen and calling that his plan, but rather it is his ability to use circumstances and the actions of people to bring about the purposes he determined in eternity past.)
12. The Spirit sanctifies us by setting us apart for God and making us holy. How does he do this?  
  
John 14:26  
  
John 16:13-15  
  
1 Cor. 2:12-13
13. What is the significance of being sprinkled with the blood of Jesus for the believer? (Heb. 9:11-14)
14. As we will learn in the coming weeks, Peter is writing to believers who are in the midst of difficulty and suffering. Why would using the terms grace and peace be meaningful and relevant to Peter's readers?  
  
Grace (2 Cor. 9:8; 12:9; 1 Pet. 5:10)  
  
Peace (Phil. 4:7; Jn. 14:27)
15. Pray and ask the Lord to help you understand more deeply the grace of God and to experience his peace as we study Peter's epistles this year.