

St Peter's Barge 8/6/2019

Talk 1 What is our identity in Christ?

1Peter 1:1-12

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ²who 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.

³Praise 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, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These 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 honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though 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, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹trying 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. ¹²It 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.

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Interpret the Present

Invest in the Future

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Investigate the Past

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Think about and discuss...

Talk 1

1: Why is it so easy for us to put our hope in the things of this world?

2: How might remembering that you are an elect exile heading home to heaven change the way you think about your present circumstances – both good and bad?

3: Peter rejoices in the hope of heaven v3-4 (and assumes his readers will too v8) How can you keep yourself excited about this wonderful hope? How can you encourage you Christian friends to do the same?

4: Honestly ...how well do you know the Old Testament? a) I remember a few stories from Sunday school b) I did the Bible in a year a while back...c) I just adore the minor prophets!

If a) or b) what steps could you take to get to know it better? If c) how could you use what you know to show others how each book points to Jesus?