

1 Peter 1v1-2: Remember who we are and why we are here

1Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout 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, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Peter begins his encouragement to isolated, hard-pressed Christians by reminding us who we are and why we are here: these verses are packed with reminders of the true grace of God!

Who we are: Christians are God's elect people, chosen by God from before the creation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God the Father. God chose us not because we were better than anyone else, because he chose us before we were even created, but on the basis of his love alone. He then chose to give us the gift of his Holy Spirit who sanctifies us, which means he sets us apart for himself. Just as special cups or bowls in the temple were sanctified, set apart for use in the holy place, not used for your evening meal, so Christians are people whom God has set apart for himself. You and I are precious to God, chosen by Him to belong to His family, set apart from others in the world for his holy purposes!

Why we are here: Peter describes Christians as strangers or exiles who are scattered. Scattered sounds random. But there is never anything random with God. God chooses precisely where to put his people for his holy purposes. We are strangers on earth because our true home is heaven. But God has us here for the purpose of displaying his greatness and grace as we obey Jesus day by day as those who have been bought for God by Christ's blood shed on the cross.

So, right from the start of his letter Peter wants us to know we are very special people. Not because we are wonderful, but because God the Holy Trinity, Father Son and Spirit has chosen to set his sanctifying love upon us, to cleanse us from our sins through Christ's death, give us new life by His Spirit and set us apart to serve His eternal purposes.

We belong to the Lord of the cosmos and he has chosen us to serve Him in our workplaces, in our neighbourhoods, in our locked-down family units, in our school and college communities, by living out a life of obedience to Christ. God wants the people amongst whom he has placed you, whether physically or virtually, in in the midst of this crisis to see something of how great and gracious He is. And you are the one He's chosen to show them.

Prayer:

Lord God, I praise you that from before the creation of the world you chose me to belong to you, to serve you. Help me this day to remember who I am and why I am here, so that by your Spirit's power I will live to obey Jesus Christ to how others how great and gracious you are.

Daily Devotions – 06.05.2020

Amen