

1 PETER  
**EXILED**  
STANDING FIRM IN GOD'S GRACE



## The Price & Prize of a God-centered Life

1 Peter 1:1-5

### Main Idea

God is working all things out for the obedience of His elect exiles. Even in suffering we can look to an imperishable, unfading, undefiled inheritance.

### Overview

#### **I. Elect Exiles (Vs. 1)**

- Elect = chosen
- Exiles = aliens
  - Peter is using it here in the same sense the Israelites were exiles in Egypt, bound for the Promised Land
    - We are Aliens, Sojourners in this world
    - Which means our loves and lives should be different
- Dispersion:
  - These groups of people were scattered throughout modern day Turkey
  - This letter would have been taken to them for their encouragement

#### **II. Suffering marked the early church: Peter writes to exhort and encourage (Vs. 2)**

- The Trinity is working itself out for the good of those who Love God
  - God the Father has foreknowledge of events
  - The Spirit is sanctifying
  - To bring about obedience to Jesus

#### **III. Blessedness of God and His Gift to Suffering Believers (Vss. 3-5)**

- God is to operate the center of our lives:
  - His mercy caused us to be born again by His power
    - He does the work
  - We take hold of such power by Faith
- A God centered life has an inheritance that is imperishable, unfading, and undefiled (vs 4)
  - It is being Kept in Heaven by God (vs 4)
  - It will be revealed in the last time (Christ's return: 1.13)

### Questions

Discussion Starter: *Do you know anyone that has suffered for their faith in Christ? Why would they choose to do so instead of just caving and being comfortable and fitting in?*

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1-9. In verse 1, what does it mean to be an 'elect exile'? In what way is Peter using the word 'exile'?

2. Why would he use this term to describe his audience?
3. Share some ways that you have felt like an exile in our day.
4. Re-read verses 3-5. Ask if the group sees the centrality of God in these verses and discuss why that would be important from the beginning of this letter to his audience.
5. What does it look like to have a 'God-centered life' vs. a 'Man-centered life'? How does this cause us to be exiles?
6. What does it mean that we have a "living hope" and our inheritance is imperishable, unfading, undefiled? What is our inheritance? How does knowing that this inheritance is kept in heaven for you help you to persevere in the God centered life?

Accountability Question: *Share ways that you feel more at home than you do an 'exile' in this life.*