

## Homeless: Chosen to be Homeless

Jerry Cisar — June 20, 2021

Text: 1 Peter 1:1-9

### Introduction

Douglas Harink: “At the very heart of [Peter’s] first epistle stands the figure of Jesus Christ as the one who suffers. As the suffering Messiah he defines the very character of messianic life.”

- i. “What is messianic life?”
- ii. “Anointed for what?”

We are to participate in and embody “the hidden revolution in which God is bringing about a new creation.” (Harink)

### I. Peter, Apostle of Jesus Christ (1a)

#### A. Peter, Sent One of Jesus Christ

- i. Peter was sent out by Jesus Christ Himself and therefore he lived an exilic existence.
- ii. Peter’s apostolic calling was not some kind of natural outgrowth of his personality or natural gifting.
  - a) God’s call is often quite paradoxical to our natural abilities and personality.
  - b) Most of us are naturally inclined to be *at home* in the world.

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

#### Love the Gospel

- Is Peter writing a personal letter as to his friends? If not, how would you describe his relationship in this letter?
- What is the messianic life? How would you explain it?

#### Live the Gospel

- In what ways is it different to live as an exile dispersed in the United States today than living as an exile in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, or Bithynia in the 1<sup>st</sup> century?
- If we are chosen for an exiled existence in the world, how might we live into it? Is that something we should do?
- What does it mean to say that the driving passion of the church is not to escape and go to heaven but to do the Father’s will in earth as it is in heaven? Why does this distinction matter?
- What are some ways we are inclined to think as permanent residents and not exiles scattered?

#### Advance the Gospel

- What does it mean to say that election is not a *cul-de-sac* but a through street?
- Have you ever realized that you have been ordained by the consecrating work of the Holy Spirit into obedience and by the blood of Jesus into an office? Is this perspective helpful? Explain.
- What office have we been ordained into?

## II. A Chosen People (1b)

### A. Elect Exiles of the Dispersion

- i. Peter is conscripting the church into the messianic revolution.

- ii. Don't get stuck on election or choosing.

- iii. Peter's Audience

*In a letter whose content is about the unusual identity of the people of God, opening with a declaration of this unexpected identity makes sense.*

- a) 1 Peter 2:9-10

- Romans 9:24-26

- Acts 10

- b) Acts 8:1; 11:19-21

- c) Their new identity is that of being God's exiled people in the world.

- iv. Elect/Chosen is being used in the same way it is used in:

- Psa. 105:6

- Psa. 105:43

- Psa. 106:5

- B. We are called to live our lives as those living in exile.

## III. A Priestly People (2)

### A. According to God's Foreknowledge

- i. Acts 2:23

- a) This makes a connection between God's strategy, God's plan, and his foreknowledge.

- b) We might say that *God's choosing of a people as exiles dispersed in the world is part of his strategy.*

- ii. The church as the people of God by faith was not some afterthought which God drummed up when everything failed with Israel (1:12).

### B. By the Consecration of the Spirit

- i. Consecrated, set apart, for God's purposes!

- ii. Election is not a *cul-de-sac* but a through street!

### C. For obedience to and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ

- i. "Obedience" and "sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ"

- a) 1 Peter 2:9 and Exodus 19

- b) Exodus 24:3-8

- Hebrews 12:24

- ii. The sprinkling of the blood was both how priests were set into office and how they carried out their office.

- a) We are set in this role of being God's scattered nation of priests (2:9) and we are also to sprinkle the nations in Christ's blood by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins!

- b) Isaiah 52:14-15