

# As God's Chosen People

## Week Two: 1 Peter 1:1-4

Let's start by reading verses 1 and 2.

1. We talked last week about what it means to be an apostle; it is worth remembering that these words are coming from an appointed eyewitness to the words and works of Jesus.
2. What do the terms used in these verses communicate about you as a member of God's Church?
  - a. "Elect"
  - b. "Temporary resident" (or strangers, aliens, foreigners, exiles, sojourners)
  - c. "Scattered throughout [the world]"
  - d. "Chosen..."
    - i. "...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father..."
    - ii. "...by the sanctifying work of the Spirit"
  - e. "to be obedient"
  - f. "to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ"
    - i. Every time the blood of Jesus comes up, especially since we are not as familiar with the Old Testament sacrificial system as Peter's original audience would have been, a helpful section of Scripture to keep in mind is **Hebrews 9:11-14, 18-22**.
3. In what ways do these first two verses help clarify the mission of a congregation—why do congregations exist?
  - a. Does that reality match what many are looking for (or even find) in churches today? Explain.

What questions and comments do you have on these verses?

Let's move on to verses 3 and 4.

4. In v. 3, Peter could have just said, "By his mercy..." However, he calls God's mercy "great"! What reminder are we given about God's love by Peter including that one word?
  
5. The words "new birth" have been used in the "born-again Christian" movement. People who are "born again" can often tell you about the exact moment at which they were saved. What do they typically mean by that?
  - a. What moment could you point to when talking about your "new birth" with such a person? Think Titus 3:5 thoughts.
  
6. We talk about hope often—and with good reason. What does the unbelieving world mean when it talks about hope?
  - a. A German pastor once said, *Der Christ ist ein Optimist*. Some might take that to mean that a Christian always has to be happy or look on the bright side of life. Is that what hope means? If not, how do you define it? How would you explain it to someone who can't understand the Christian's viewpoint on life?
  
7. The last words of verse 3 are the most important of the entire verse. Explain.
  
8. In what ways is heaven like an earthly inheritance?
  - a. In what ways is heaven unlike an earthly inheritance?
  
9. Agree or disagree: A Christian's life is all about waiting to go to heaven.

What comments and questions do you have?

Closing Prayer 853 I'm But a Stranger Here  
**I'm but a stranger here, heav'n is my home;  
earth is a desert drear, heav'n is my home;  
danger and sorrow stand round me on ev'ry hand;  
heav'n is my fatherland, heav'n is my home. Amen.**