

1 Peter 3:15

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

All the while failing to wrestle with what it means to be a <u>foreigner</u> right here in Chambersburg because of our faith in Christ.

First Peter waits to be discovered. It is not written in secret code or designed to be obscure, but its message remains hidden. Believers have their reasons for ignoring the book of Revelation with its symbols and images, but First Peter is as straightforward as it can be, reflecting the personality and method of its author. The letter and apostle are dynamic. Peter is immersed in the Great Commission, in the struggle for making disciples from every tribe and people group.

Douglas Webster; "Outposts of Hope"

Why is that?

Why have we missed Peter's message to the church in these two letters?

1 Peter 1:1-2

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





You have to know who you are.

You have to know how to respond.

You have to know where you're headed.

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Elect or Chosen

"[You] who have been <u>chosen</u> according to the <u>foreknowledge</u> of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood..."

Is Peter writing just to Jews, or to both Jews & Gentiles?

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, <u>God's</u> <u>special</u> possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Who we are is the result of what God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives!

Who am I in Christ?

A special, chosen, cleansed, forgiven, set-apart child of God!

How do I respond to this world?

This world is not your home!

Perepidēmos "Exile" or "Sojourner"

A rare term in the Bible, indicating someone living in a foreign land. ~1 Peter 2:11-12

In 1 Peter, the Christian believers are alienated from a hostile society whose values are at odds with the teachings of Jesus. Peter is calling us to think of ourselves as immigrants, who are socially disconnected from the dominant culture.

What does the world value?

What do followers of Christ value?

1 Peter calls us to a transformed understanding of our identity, redefining how we live as a Christian in a world that is hostile to the basic principles and values of the gospel.

And not just hostile in general — but hostile towards <u>US!</u>

Exile (n)

: the state of being barred from one's native country, typically for political or <u>punitive</u> reasons.

"he knew now that he would die in exile"

Which points us directly to Jesus!

"The root of Christian selfunderstanding as aliens and sojourners lies not so much in the story of Abraham and Sarah and the nation of Israel as it does in the destiny of Jesus Christ, His mission and His rejection which ultimately brought Him to the cross."

Miroslav Volf

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"Diaspora"

- Jews living outside of Israel.
- -The dispersion of any people from their original homeland.

Peter is basically describing the church as a colony in a strange land...an island of one culture in the midst of another. The new birth that gives us a new identity and a new citizenship in the kingdom of God — MAKES US foreigners, aliens & exiles.

So... Wondered. What would an actual recipient of Peter's original letter think when they heard or read these words?















Elizabeth from Yenipazar

What about you?

Do you believe what Peter says about — Who you are in Christ? How you respond to the world? What you believe is true about your purpose & your future?