

January 7, 2024  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
1 Peter 1:1-2

**1 Peter: Introduction & Overview**  
**Encouragement to Stand Up & Stand Out**

**Background / Observations:**

**Author:** 1 Pet. 1:1; 5:1; 2 Pet. 1:1; 3:1

**Date:**

**Key words:**

**Theme / Purpose:**

- 1 Pet. 5:12
- 1 Pet. 2:9-12; 3:13-16

**Exposition:**

<sup>1</sup> **Peter**, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ,

to those who reside as **aliens**, **scattered** throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

who are **chosen** <sup>2</sup> according to the **foreknowledge** of **God the Father**,

by the **sanctifying** work of the **Spirit**,

to **obey Jesus Christ** and be **sprinkled with His blood**:

May **grace** and **peace** be yours in the **fullest measure**.

## Discussion & Application:

1. The Bible tells us that true followers of Jesus will experience persecution and suffering (Mt. 5:10-12; Jn. 15:20; 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12). What does the word “**persecution**” mean? Share some **biblical examples** of persecution. Share some **historical examples** of persecution. Share some **modern-day examples** of persecution. Have you ever experienced persecution (either mild or severe)?
2. Followers of Jesus in the first century experienced severe persecution not only from individuals around them but from their **government**. Who was the emperor at the time Peter wrote this letter? What did he do to Christians and why? Why does God allow these things to be done to His children? Give biblical references.
3. What did **Peter** personally know about **persecution**: 1) in the Gospels; 2) in the Book of Acts; 3) at the end of his life? What was the difference between the way he faced persecution in the Gospels than the way he did in Acts and beyond? List some key lessons Peter learned from his victories and his failures in the Gospels. How does he use what he learned to encourage his readers?
4. Why does Peter keep pointing to our eternal future (“**glory**”) when talking about persecution / suffering? How often do you think deeply about your eternal future and what it will be like? How does that help when we are preparing to face or are actually experiencing persecution / suffering?
5. Peter uses the word “**grace**” frequently in his letter. What is grace? How would you define it? We often think of it in relationship to our salvation (deliverance from the penalty of sin), but not so much in relationship to our sanctification (victory over the power of sin) and in our suffering.
6. Pastor Paul believes a key **theme / purpose** of 1 Peter is to encourage believers to Stand Up and Stand Out in the midst of persecution and suffering. Talk about what it means to Stand Up and Stand Out, and how you are currently doing in those two areas.
  - **Stand Up**
  - **Stand Out**
7. **PRAY** for one another to appropriate God’s grace, fix your eyes on the glory that is to come, and stand up & stand out for Jesus no matter what the cost. Then pray that we will grow stronger in these areas as we study this inspired letter from the Apostle Peter.
8. **READ** 1 Peter every day this week.
9. **MEMORIZE** 1 Peter 1:1-2. If you memorize the entire book of 1 Peter by the time Pastor Paul finishes preaching through it, you will not only be rewarded spiritually & eternally, but Pastor Paul will reward you temporally as well. 😊