Greeting And Introduction I Peter 1:1-2 I Peter 1

Introduction

(Read I Peter 1:1-2)

When Peter wrote that he was a witness of the sufferings of Jesus, he was being personal. He had personally witnessed the physical sufferings of Jesus. He was probably even remembering his own denial of Jesus.

So he is telling the people he was writing to- and us- to remember who you are.

These were people of the dispersal who were living in Pontos, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia who were Christians. These were areas in Asia Minor.

The dispersal refers to people who had been in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost when Peter preached.

Acts 2:5- There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world.

Later they were dispersed from Jerusalem...

Acts 8:1- ...That very day the church in Jerusalem began to suffer cruel persecution. All the believers, except the apostles, were scattered...

These people had dispersed and gone back home where they continued to share their faith.

Now they were suffering under the Roman Empire.

Peter is writing to them to encourage them to continue to grow in the faith.

That is why this wonderful letter is in the Bible- to encourage us as Christians to continue to grow in the faith.

We are encouraged to grow in...

I. Christian Conduct

The main theme of the book is to conduct themselves is Christian conduct as God's "special people" who are living among the lost.

Folks, this is what we are to be. Peculiar, different people who are lights in a lost a dark world.

Grow in...

II. Grace

Grace is the foundation for a person's spiritual life.

It is the foundation for salvation, for marriage, for spiritual gifts, for sufferings, for humility, and for the return of King Jesus.

And to grow in...

III. Sufferings

This was written during Nero's reign. During Nero's reign Christian's were extremely persecuted.

Peter gives guidance to conduct when we are under persecution.

Jesus is our example.

Growth in...

IV. Submission

Submission is the key to personal testimony.

In all areas: In relationships, in law, to masters, in wives to husbands, and in people to elders (pastors) of the church.

And finally, growth is...

V. Separation

Living differently from the world.

Conclusion

As Christians, even as we live in the world, we need to remember our real identity- we should remember our destiny- we are pilgrims.

This letter is a reminder of this fact.

We are citizens of Heaven on foreign ground.

We will suffer, but that should never deter us.

We should live to make a difference now.

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Possible Answers: testimony, conduct, remember, dispe	ersal, foundation, differently, example, encourage