

Joyfully Exiled

1 Peter 1:1-12

Being an outcast never is a good thing, and being a stranger in a foreign place carries much uncertainty and fear. This is exactly how the 1st century Christians in the Roman Empire felt. And this is how we as God's followers feel at times now in a day and age where God and His truth is growing ever more increasingly unpopular. But it is the benefit of being cast out and subsequently cast into God's family that allows us to be joyfully exiled. For we know what awaits us not only on this earth, but also what awaits us in eternity.

Celebrating the Certainty of our Salvation (v 1-5)

v 1b "To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia"

pilgrims - παρεπίδημος - sojourner, non native, foreigner, exile

dispersion - διασπορά - diaspora - scattering. Christians at this point had many reasons for feeling like outcasts and strangers.

v 2 "elect according to the foreknowledge..."

• We see two beautiful concepts here: **elect** (κλεκτός - eklektos - picked out, chosen) and foreknowledge (πρόγνωσις - prognosis - forethought, pre-arrangement)

Why should we celebrate?

1. We have a living hope because we have been born again (v 3).
2. We have an inheritance waiting for us (v 4).
3. We know that God is preserving our salvation, even in the future (v 5).

Understanding the Purpose of Present Trouble (v 6-9)

v 7 "that the genuineness of your faith..."

"that" here is a purpose (hina) clause used to point out that the suffering that comes isn't void of purpose.

v 9 "the salvation of your souls."

"salvation of your souls" soul - ψυχή - psuche - vital force, breath of life

receiving - κομίζω - komizo - preserving

Embracing the Greatness of God's Past Plan (v 10-12)

• Peter looks at the greatness of God's salvation and His plan of grace through four agents.

1. The OT Prophets
2. The Holy Spirit
3. The NT Apostles
4. The Angels