

Call To Worship

*"For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God."
(Psalm 62:5-7)*

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: may grace and peace be multiplied to you.

The Life of Peter

1.) The Early Days: Peter and Jesus

- *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:31-32)*

- *He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. you shall be called Cephas." (John 1:42)*

2.) The Early Church: Peter and the Holy Spirit

- *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it"...now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:22-24; 37-38);*

3.) The Last Days: Peter and The Church

- *"So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed..." (1 Peter 5:1)*

The Life of The Church

1.) The Scattered Church

- *And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Acts 16:6-10)*

2.) The Beginning of Persecution

3.) The Pursuit of Holiness

Elect Exiles

1.) Clarity on "elect exiles,"

2.) Two Common Positions;

3.) Reality of the Doctrine of Election:

1. Biblical;

- *"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out." (John 6:37);*

- *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." (John 15:16);*

- *"So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy." (Romans 9:16)*

2. Humility;

- *But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...so that no human being might boast in the presence of God...so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:27, 29, 31)*

3. Compassion;

- *"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive." (Colossians 3:12-13)*

4. Evangelistic

- *"Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." (2 Timothy 2:10)*

→ At the heart of election is both the Father preaching repentance to His children AND Him reminding them that they belong to Him.

The Work of The Trinity

- 1.) The "foreknowledge" of the Father;
- 2.) The sanctification of the Spirit;
- 3.) Obedience to Christ;

→ Our relationship with God is that because we are saved, we obey Christ not so that we can be loved by God, but because we ARE loved by God.

The Multiplication of Grace and Peace

- 1.) Grace is not only undeserving favor from God, but the power of the Holy Spirit in the believer;
- 2.) Peace is not only our identity, but the character that we reflect;

Benediction

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:3-6)