

## **I Peter – “Pilgrims of the Dispersion, kept by the power of God through faith...”**

#20 in series "Words of God to You"

May 3, 2009

### A. Author – “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ...” [1:1a]

- “Aside from the four Gospels and the letters of Paul, the external attestation for I Peter is as strong or stronger, than that for any other NT book.” [J. Ramsey Michaels, I Peter]
- Still, some modern scholars doubt Peter’s authorship.

### B. Date – 62-63 A.D., from Rome [“Babylon” – I Peter 5:13], shortly before the Neronian persecution during which Peter was martyred.

### C. Destination – “...pilgrims of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia” [1:1b]

### D. Purpose – to encourage believers to live Godly lives, while suffering for their faith in Jesus. [1:6; 2:18-25; 4:12-17]

- The key term in the opening section is “salvation” [cf. 1:5, 9, 10]
- This is probably NOT “salvation from hell” but “salvation of the life” – a salvation accomplished by trusting God during testing. [cf. Jesus’ words in Matt 16:24-27, Mk 8:34-38]
- The emphasis here is not on “length” of life but “quality of life” – both now and in eternity:
  - Eternal reward – 1:4, 5, 7
  - Temporal reward – 1:8-9 [note the present tense in v. 9 “receiving...right now”]
- Peter seems to be saying something like this:
  - “If you seek to save your life by avoiding suffering for Jesus Christ, you will actually lose your life – your life is wasted and is ultimately worth nothing.”
  - “But if you lose your life for the sake of Christ now – the significance of your life will be saved [preserved] both now and in eternity.”
- Peter says “faith” is the key to this kind of “salvation” – especially the faith that is found to endure after the purging of testing! [1:5-7]

### E. Outline

- The salvation of the life in suffering [1:1-12]
- As we walk with our God in holiness [1:13-21]
- As we walk with the church of Jesus [1:22-2:10]
- As we live in the world in submission [2:11-3:7]
- As we suffer as Christ suffered [3:8-4:19]
- Final remarks [5:1-14]

### F. Text of the morning – I Peter 2:13-17 “This is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men...”