

Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

Sermon Series in 1 Peter

1 Peter 1:1-4

5 Values in a Biblical Worldview

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(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

There are so many important things identified in the first few verses of the letter we call 1 Peter that we would be in error if we did not identify them. (1) **Apostle**, (2) **aliens**, (3) **chosen**, (4) **foreknowledge**, and (5) **the sanctifying work of the Spirit**. These five values are all key in a biblical worldview. A biblical worldview is lacking in the world. Biblical concepts and ideas are not part of popular culture. With these understood, the mission of the Gospel and God's intent for people become clearer.

1 Peter 1:1-2

1 Peter, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ,
to those who reside as **aliens**, scattered throughout
Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
who are **chosen**

2 according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father,
by the **sanctifying work of the Spirit**, [John 6:63]
that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood:
May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.



(1) Apostle: Peter identifies himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ. No secret here in a time that sees Christians under persecution. This letter is to go across what we know today as modern Turkey. Peter writes to the same cities that John writes the book we call Revelation to in Asia, which is western Turkey, (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea). The Revelation was written about 95 A.D. 1 Peter was written in about 64-65 A.D., approximately thirty years before John writes the Revelation from Patmos Island. It is believed that Peter wrote while in Rome right after the city of Rome burned. Nero blamed the Christians and, therefore, they were under great persecution. Peter is writing to encourage Christians under persecution in the Roman empire surrounded by Greek-pagan culture.

They are **(2) aliens** for two reasons. One, being away from their homeland and the society in which they grew up, and, two, the fact that they were believers in the risen Christ. Today, we believers live on earth as aliens to the Fall (Genesis 3). We are aliens to the fallen world, and its ruler Satan. Our King rules from Heaven and His Holy Spirit rules from within our hearts. What better way to show Peter's audience conviction under Christ than to attach his name as an Apostle of Jesus Christ to this letter! Perhaps a comparison is to sign your Jewish name to a letter in Nazi Germany.

What is an Apostle? Who is an Apostle? This identifies a person who walked with Jesus Christ and knew Him personally. This is a person who is part of an authoritative New Testament group sent out to preach the gospel and specifically is a member of Christ's 12 original disciples including Paul. These were the first prominent Christian missionaries to a region or group. They initiated a great moral reform, and first advocated an important transition of belief to the Jews and Gentiles. By some scholar's count, there can be as many as twenty-five people who are called Apostles which includes the twelve. Therefore, Timothy, Apollos and Silvanus can be added to the Apostle list.

Judas was a member of the original twelve, but failed to come to maturity of belief in the fulfilment of the Lord's New Kingdom and His Resurrection mission. Judas falls into the category that the Lord knew from the beginning would walk away and/or betray Him.

The Apostles were witnesses and could do nothing of themselves. **(5) God's Holy Spirit worked through them.** Man, does not and cannot give life. It is God through His Holy Spirit that gives life ([see John 6:63ff starting on page five](#)). Some may hear the Gospel, but do not believe (Parable of the Seeds). They may partially believe, in that they hear what they want to hear, like Judas. Judas applied Jesus' words to an earthly kingdom that he believed Jesus was to set-up. Many scholars see that Judas' intent was to push Him into using His powers to defeat the corrupt Jewish leaders and the Romans. Once He was arrested, He would be forced to act. This is short-sided and missed the mark. Jesus did not come to set-up an earthly kingdom (John 18:36).

There are two miraculous powers of God at work that Peter presents. God's **(4) foreknowledge** and the **(5) sanctifying work of the Spirit**. These people have been **(3) chosen** by God. Do not get the wrong idea. These are chosen, because God knows these are the ones who have surrendered to Him. God did not make them surrender to Him, but he verifies that they have. God is all knowing, and, therefore, God foreknows everything. This is why Paul writes in Romans 8:29 For whom He **foreknew**, He also predestined *to become*

conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren. This is depicted at the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20:11-15. Here is where the books of deeds are opened, and those who have chosen to be justified by their deeds are judged. Here, also, is one book opened called the Book of Life which contains the names of those who have chosen to be justified to God by their faith. Of course, God knows the names from the foundation of the world, actually before the foundation of the world. Man, does not know, but only God. This angers fallen man to a jealousy and contempt for God. Cain fell into this contemptuous abyss, and he murdered his brother Abel. Cain allowed anger and hate to rule him instead of God's Spirit.

Fallen man cannot control the gate to heaven, even thou he constantly tries. Fallen man can stack book after book on top of the Bible and subdue willful minds to bondage of the heart, but fallen man does not hold the keys to Heaven; for the key to heaven is faith, which is a gift from God given to all those who surrender their hearts to Him. In Acts 2:37 "And their hearts were cut, and they asked Peter what must we do?" this is the point of surrender to the conviction of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. They then were directed to repent and be baptized, and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Remember that there must be a surrender to the conviction (John 16:8) of the Holy Spirit before receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. Fallen man does not have the life-gift of faith to give.

There are many Scriptures to support Peter's message. Along with Peter, there is John, Paul and the writer of Hebrews, who all present sanctification as the work of God's Holy Spirit. The triune God has three manifestations or presentations, but all are the same. God is not limited in form or space. The key message given when we see God's Holy Spirit in action is highlighting that God works inside of us. This declares that God and man can be united. This is the presentation at Jesus' baptism. God and man can co-exist with God coming to reside in a person's heart. The transition is one of authority. When God comes to reside in a person's heart, He becomes the boss, the ruler of the

person. This transition takes place by a person surrendering their heart to God. God then comes into a person's heart and reorders things so that God can guide and mature (sanctify) a person into a full image of Jesus Christ who is our example in the flesh of God's intent for mankind. This is why God came and lived with us (John 1:14).

1 Peter 1:2 according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, by the **sanctifying work of the Spirit**, [John 6:63]

Sanctify Scripture

John 17:17 "**Sanctify** them in the **truth**; Thy word is truth.

John 17:19 "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be **sanctified in truth**.

Ephesians. 5:26 that He might **sanctify her**, having cleansed her by the washing of water **with the word**,

1 Thess. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you entirely**; and may your spirit and soul and body be **preserved complete**, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Th 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning **for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth**.

Hebrews 13:12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might **sanctify the people through His own blood**, suffered outside the gate.

1 Peter 3:15 but **sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts**, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

John 6:63-71

63 "It is the Spirit who gives life;

the flesh profits nothing;

the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

64 "But there are some of you who do not believe."

For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

65 And He was saying,

"For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father."

66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.

67 Jesus said therefore to the twelve,

"You do not want to go away also, do you?"

68 Simon Peter answered Him,

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

⁶⁹ "And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them,

"Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and *yet* one of you is a devil?"

⁷¹ Now He meant **Judas** *the son* of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going **to betray Him**.

continue

1 Peter 1:2 according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father,

Foreknowledge

Acts 2:23 this *Man*, delivered up by the predetermined plan and **foreknowledge** of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

Romans 8:29 For whom He **foreknew**, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

Romans. 11:2 God has not rejected His people whom He **foreknew**. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in *the passage about* Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

From the Foundation of the World

Matthew 13:35 so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world."

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Luke 11:50 in order that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Hebrews 4:3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 9:26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

1 Peter 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

Revelation 13:8 And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

Revelation 17:8 "The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

It is worthy to note that “foreknowledge” and all the things God knew before or since the “foundation of the world” are spoken by Jesus in Matthew, Luke and John. In addition, Paul, and the writer of Hebrews along with Peter all speak of these two interconnecting truths in God’s Word. Listed above are nine books in the New Testament that have these references.

Continue 1 Peter 1:2 . . . by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, [John 6:63] that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

Therefore, due to all we have just learned, we read verse three. Verse three would not be a true statement, if it were not for all the work God did as declared in verses one and two. God caused us to be born again to a living hope, not by any act of man. It is only through the Cross of Christ that we have the ability to overcome death and be born again, that is resurrected to a new life now and an eternal life later. Verse three does not assign causation for rebirth to be assigned to anyone else. No church of man or other living thing has been assigned the causation for life or eternal life. No man in a colored robe, no golden altar made by the hands of man, no work designed by any priest of man has the power or mercy to create a living hope leading to eternal life.

The rest of 1 Peter 1 is possible because of the truths that God took care of referenced in the first two verses. We are therefore, blessed, receive God's mercy and are eligible to be born again due to God, as Jesus Christ, going to the Cross and defeating death and sin exemplified in the Resurrection. We believers have a living hope and have obtained an imperishable inheritance reserved for us in heaven. God knows who we are from the foundation of the world. We are the ones that will overcome, we will not be the false followers of Jesus described in [John 6](#) who were never saved.

Continue in 1 Peter 1

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

⁷ that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him,
and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him,
you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ As to this salvation,
the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you
made careful search and inquiry,

¹¹ seeking to know what person or time
the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating
as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but
you,
in these things which now have been announced to you through those
who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—
things into which angels long to look.

¹³ Therefore,
gird your minds for action,
keep sober *in spirit*,
fix your hope completely
on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ As obedient children,
do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your
ignorance,

¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you,
be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;

¹⁶ because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

¹⁷ And if you address as Father
the One who impartially judges
according to each man's work,
conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *upon earth*;

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed
with perishable things like silver or gold
from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

¹⁹ but with precious blood,
as of a lamb unblemished and spotless,
the blood of Christ.

²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world,
but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

²¹ who through Him are believers in God,
who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory,
so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Since you have in obedience to the truth
purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren,
fervently love one another from the heart,

²³ for you have been born again
not of seed which is perishable but imperishable,
that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

²⁴ For, "All flesh is like grass,

And all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers, And the flower falls off,

²⁵ But the word of the Lord abides forever."
And this is the word which was preached to you.

End of 1 Peter 1