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Pastor Dan Seitz

The Cozy “Cathedral” of the Christian Mind (Or How Christians Understand Themselves) - I Peter 1:1-9

ESV **1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² 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. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith -- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire -- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Christian Mind as a Cozy “Cathedral”

NIV **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

How Do Christians Understand Themselves?

1. “Elect _____” (1:1). ¹

ESV **1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion...

¹ A *fantastic* book to read on what Scripture teaches regarding our “this earthly” future is J. Richard Middleton, *A New Heaven and a New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014).

***Christians understand themselves as exiles of *time* rather than *territory*.**

ESV **Matthew 6:10** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

ESV **1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion...

ESV **2 Corinthians 4:5** For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

2. Expectant _____ (1:3-4).

ESV **1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and *unfading* (Gk: *ἀμόραντος*) kept in heaven for you,

ἀμόραντος, pronounced “**A-mar-an-tos**” (pertaining to not losing pristine quality or character, unfading).

3. Obsessive _____ (1:6-7).

ESV **1 Peter 1:6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith -- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

ESV **Job 1:21** And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

4. Long-suffering (but extremely confident!) _____ (1:8).

ESV **1 Peter 1:8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy

But How Can I Keep on Loving (When My Vision Grows Dim)?

***Set your mind upon the ultimate “long-suffering suitor.”**