



The Epistles of Peter  
1 Peter 1:1-2  
From Sermon 9.14.25

Read *1 Peter 1:1-2*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: God the Holy Spirit has Peter begin his two New Testament letters with a doxology—a statement of praise based on facts. He acknowledges trials on this earth while still highlighting our victory in Christ. Peter opens by laying the groundwork for what he will build upon later in the book. At this point in his life, he's understood what Jesus meant when He said we are in the world, but not of the world. However, Peter's foundational starting point is a controversial one. This again proves that getting one key doctrine wrong will always result in flawed teaching and practice elsewhere.

1. What is that foundational (and quite controversial) doctrine upon which Peter begins and builds his inspired letter? That true believers are chosen, elect, and predestined.

2. What are some reasons for rejecting election/predestination: Poor exposure to the Scriptures. Redefining God according to our definitions. Wishful thinking. Weak understanding of the holiness of God and the total depravity of man. Misunderstanding of Church and denominational history.

2a. Do you still have trouble at times with unconditional election? Why do you suppose that is? Various Personal Answers

3. This historic debate was never "Are believers chosen?", but rather "On what basis did/does God chose?" Review both historic positions in church history. Also, how the debate has changed in recent times.

- Pelagian/Arminian view: God looked down through the corridors of time and saw which people would respond positively to the Gospel message. He then sent the right conditions for them to choose Him.
- Reformed view: Election is fully based God's own sovereign, unconditional reasons and purpose. We may never know why He chose some (me) and not others. See also *Romans 9:11 & 15-16*
- Recent times: Most in the modern church reject election/predestination all together. They claim it makes God arbitrary, ungracious, and unloving.

4. Does a Reformed view of Sovereign Election make you feel superior to others or does it, instead, cause you to better understand the utter sinfulness of man and the absolute holiness of God? Various Personal Answers. See also *1 Corinthians 1:26-29*

5. Why would God the Holy Spirit have Peter refer to us as scattered exiles (or aliens, foreigners, strangers)? Because both we and the world see the stark difference in our thinking, values, convictions, loyalties, and priorities. See also *1 Peter 4:3-4, Hebrews 11:36-38, & John 17:16*

6. Discuss also how this position as aliens likewise contributes to our "holy discontent". [Define: Holy discontent is the deep, internal void we feel. Nothing in this world fills the void. We just can't find perfect or long-lasting contentment.] This is not our home. At conversion, our citizenship was transferred to heaven. While we have a magnificent Savior, we are not with Him physically yet. We long for reunion. See *2 Corinthians 5:1-2 & 8*