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# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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| <b>Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.</b> |   |                     |

## First Peter Survey

by Dempsey Collins

### AUTHOR

The apostle Peter (1:1). His amanuensis was evidently Silvanus (another name for Silas) 5:12. The true author of all Scriptures is the Holy Spirit (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21; John 16:13).

### TO WHOM WRITTEN

“To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who are chosen...” (1:1). The word “chosen” or “elect” shows that the recipients were Christians. Verse two shows that being chosen of God involves obedience to Jesus. The first recipients were both Jew and Gentile Christians as the provinces mentioned (1:1) were made up of both nationalities. In fact the churches in Asia Minor, in which all these provinces lie, were predominantly Gentile.

Those of the dispensation (1:1), K.J., must refer to all Christians in the sense that many (Gentile as well as Jew) as a result of persecution had now been scattered. For further proof that Gentiles as well as Jewish Christians are in mind, see 1:14; 2:9-10; 4:3-5.

### PURPOSE AND OCCASION OF LETTER

The purpose is stated in 5:12: “I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.” Hence, the design of the epistle is threefold:

1. To exhort
2. To testify with reference to the true grace of God
3. To encourage saints to continued faithfulness

Jesus had said to Peter some 30 years earlier, "when thou art converted strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:32). Having experienced both the agony of defeat and the thrill of victory over trials and persecution, Peter was well qualified to strengthen fellow Christians facing the same ordeals. These Christians were being "tested by fire" (1:7). The Jews persecuted up until Jerusalem's fall (70 A.D.) and the Neronian persecution began in 64 A.D.

Many reasons for faithfulness are given by Peter:

1. Inheritance in heaven reserved for faithful (1:4)
2. Rejoicing will come at the revelation of Christ's glory (4:12-13)
3. Suffering for Christ's sake glorifies God (4:15-16) and finds favor with God (2:20)
4. Remember Christ's example of unjust suffering and his attitude toward His persecutors (2:21-25)

Since Christians rejected idolatry and the common religions, enemies of the cross sought to misrepresent and malign Christianity before the magistrates and various rulers. (cp. Acts 16:19-20; 17:6-8; 18:12-13; 24:1-9). Peter, therefore, urges the brethren to remain blameless in regard to all men (2:11-20), "keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles so that in the thing in which they slander you as evil doers they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them glorify God..." (2:12).

#### THEME

"If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God" (4:1b). Perhaps the chief value of First Peter is that it shows Christians how to live a redeemed life in the midst of an unbelieving and often hostile world. Peter shows that faithfulness often involves suffering, but with patience, God's grace, the hope of heaven and the example of Jesus, we can overcome all obstacles.

#### DATE

63-67 A.D.

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### **News and Notes:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* James 5:16