

Aliens to the Culture but Chosen Ones to God

1 Peter 1:1-2

The book of 1 Peter challenges Christians to reexamine our acceptance of society's norms and to be willing to suffer the alienation of our own home culture wherever its values conflict with those of Christ.

1. Who was the author of the letter? verse 1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ

2. When was the letter written?

Peter's release from prison and escape from execution by Herod (Acts 12:17) he traveled to Rome. 47 AD.

The date AD 63, after Paul's departure from Rome but before Nero's persecutions (64AD), is the most probable date for the letter.

3. Who were the Recipients and how did Peter Describe Them?

to the temporary residents dispersed . . .

"Dispersed" *diaspora* = a technical term for Jews living outside Palestine after the Babylonian exile.

Peter probably used "dispersion" to refer to Christians living away from the historic centers of the Church: Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus, or Rome.

4. What would have been the Recipients' Situation?

Peter identified them as "temporary residents".
NASB: "aliens"; ESV: "exiles of the dispersion."

The term was used in the first century to designate someone who did not hold citizenship in the place where he resided and was therefore viewed as a foreigner.

The situation reflected in 1 Peter appears to be one in which the threat of persecution had not yet escalated to the point of violence or martyrdom. There are no indications of official civil oppression.

5. To where was this letter written?

in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Five regions of ancient Asia Minor—modern Turkey.

6. How did the Recipients hear the gospel?

A. From Jews converted at Pentecost? Possibly

B. From Peter evangelizing in that region? Not likely

C. From Evangelists converted by Paul's preaching in the south?
Possibly

D. From Christian colonists immigrating from Rome? Very possible.

Colonization provides a reasonable explanation for why Peter would have written in general terms about his readers' situation but does not seem to know specifics he would have known had he personally visited their locations.

7. With what Spiritual Identity did Peter address his Readers?

chosen How was their "chosen" status established? Verse 2.

A. *according to the foreknowledge of God the Father*

God the Father was the one who acted in personal intimate knowing on these people to bring about their salvation. Rom 8:29.

B. *and set apart by the Spirit*

Their chosen status was brought to reality by the instrumental agency of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the agent by which God makes His electing foreknowledge produce new spiritual life in those who come to faith in Christ.

C. *for obedience and for sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ.*

The promise of God's continuing forgiveness and grace secured by Christ's atoning death.

Are we, as members of CrossWay Church, willing to suffer alienation from our society out of obedience to Christ?

1 Peter is a book that teaches how to be faithful active Christians in a society where opposition to Christianity is growing.