

Opening Remarks: “Open your Bibles to 1 Peter...”

TOPIC: **You are a Chosen, Blood-Sprinkled, Work in Progress**
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INTRO STATEMENT: As a Christian, your authentic identity is founded on the basic truth that God chose you in Him before the foundation of the world. Everything you both are today and will someday become is because — from eternity past — God chose you before the foundation of the world to be saved, sanctified, glorified, and to live forever with Him and the saints for all eternity to come. God foreknew you, chose you, and elected you to be saved and become His child. Everything you have comes from God — absolutely everything! That is the foundation of your most blessed Heavenly Identity.

God chose you and planted you to reside where you live today...because He has a purpose for you. He chose you to be saved and is sanctifying you at this very present hour. You are blood-sprinkled according to His plan and a bright, hot, shining light in the darkness of this world. That is your Heavenly Identity.

However, Believers in Jesus Christ need to very careful about self-identifying with anything that God has not intended. As a Christian, you’ve been chosen by God from eternity past to live with a Christ-centered identity, rather than be focused on the accumulation of temporary, worldly pleasures. This is why reading and studying the Bible is so crucial, because doing so enables you to form a proper understanding of who God is, who you are in Christ, and what God wants from you. These first two verses in 1 Peter set the stage to remind Christians of our foundational Heavenly Identity SO THAT we may live a transformed life for the glory of God alone!

READ: 1 Peter 1:1-25

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, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

I. The Author's Identity

(verse 1) - "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ"

A. Peter

1. **Always named first in the lists of 12 disciples**
2. (c.f. listen to Jim Cecy's message two weeks ago for more information about Peter)

B. apostle

1. **The Greek word means: "sent one" or "one who is sent"**
2. **"sent one" —> sent by Jesus Christ, Himself**
3. Requirements to be an Apostle:
Acts 1:15-21

21 Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us— 22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." 23 So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen 25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

II. God's Identity

("Trinity")

A. God the Father - (1st Person of the Trinity)

1. **Deuteronomy 6:4 ('Shema')**
"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!"
2. Genesis 1:1 - ('God' —> 'Elohim' - plural form of word)

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

a. God is 1 God, manifested in 3 distinct Persons.

B. the Spirit - (3rd Person of the Trinity)

1. John 15:26-27

2. John 16:7-15 - (“Helper”)

7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. 12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

C. Jesus Christ - (2nd Person of the Trinity)

1. **Co-equal with the Father & the Spirit in all points of deity.**

2. **2 Peter 1:1**

“Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ”

3. The gospel of salvation not only expects Jesus to be God but the gospel DEMANDS the deity of Jesus Christ.

4. **QUESTION: How did people “get saved” before Jesus was born?**

ANSWER: They “believed in God” and it was accounted to them as righteousness. (They believed God and were, therefore, saved.)

(Genesis 15:6) “Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.”

(James 2:23) “and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God.”

(also c.f. Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6)

III. The Christian's Identity

(Resident Aliens, Scattered, Chosen, Being Sanctified, Obedient, Blood-Sprinkled, Recipients)

A. Resident Aliens - "reside as aliens"

(often translated: sojourners, strangers, exiles, pilgrims, transplants, or non-natives)

1. **Alien —> Not of this world —> Heaven is our home!**
2. Ruth 1:1, 4 (Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon, and Chilion)
"Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons. ... And they lived there about ten years."
3. Ephesians 2:12, 19
12 "remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ... 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household"
4. Your temporary dwelling is here on Earth, but your eternal home is in Heaven with God. As a Christian, you are an alien in this world. Being a resident alien here on Earth is part of your heavenly identity.

B. Scattered - ("scattered") - a deliberate positioning by God

1. 'diaspora' - (dia: "through"; spora: "sowing")
 i.e. "Sowing through: —> God has sown His people (seed) throughout the world...as He sees fit.
2. 1 Peter does NOT use the definite article (general scattering)
3. James 1:1 uses the definite article and refers to a specific dispersion of the Jews.
4. Acts 8:1, 4
"Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ... Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

5. God has you where you are at today for a purpose. There are no coincidences in the plan or purpose of God.
6. Part of your Heavenly Identity is the reason He has you living in the city you are in right now.
7. QUESTION: What is the reason God has you at a time and place such as this? (*Have you thought about that?*)

C. Chosen - ("who are chosen") - present tense

1. 1 Peter 2:9-10

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*

2. "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father"
Ephesians 1:3-5

3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love **5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will"

John 15:16

"You did not choose Me but I chose you"

Romans 8:28-30 ('Golden Chain of Salvation')

28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; **30** and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."

3. Man's Responsibility to Believe
Romans 10:9-13

9 "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; **13** for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

4. **Hell was created for Devil and the fallen angels (demons).**

Matthew 25:42

"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels'"

5. QUESTION: How do these things work together?
(Divine Sovereignty vs. Human Responsibility)
- ANSWER: **It would be wrong to hold one doctrine over the other, because the Bible clearly teaches both — unapologetically!**

Romans 11:33-36

33 "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? 35 Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

6. **The foundation of your Heavenly Identity is rooted in the reality that God chose you. So, be sure to act like one of the chosen and not like one of the unsaved!**

D. Being Sanctified - ("sanctifying") - consecrate, separate, holiness

1. **You are a "Work In Progress"**
2. The sanctification process immediately began at the moment of your justification (when God imputed His righteousness to you when you trusted in Jesus as your Savior).
3. "Sanctifying" is in the present tense (not past or future).
4. Part of your Heavenly Identity is your being molded and shaped into the image of Jesus Christ.
5. QUESTION: How are you doing living out this part of your Heavenly Identity?

E. Obedient - (“to obey”)

1. **Obedience to Jesus Christ is the effect or by-product of being chosen by God and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.**
2. Ephesians 2:10
“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”
3. Matthew 28:19-20
***19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”*
4. Part of your Heavenly Identity is that you would be obedient to Jesus Christ and His Word.
QUESTION: How are you doing with that?

F. Blood-Sprinkled

1. Exodus 24:1-8 - (Jewish people affirming their covenant with God ... publicly, with one voice ... declaring absolute and total allegiance to all the words which God has spoken.)
***1** ‘Then He said to Moses, “Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and you shall worship at a distance. **2** Moses alone, however, shall come near to the Lord, but they shall not come near, nor shall the people come up with him.” **3** Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!” **4** Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. **5** He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the Lord. **6** Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. **7** Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!” **8** So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”*

2. Part of your Heavenly Identity is that you would be public and vocal about your willingness to identify as a Bible-believing, Christ-honoring Christian!
3. Hebrews 9:17-22
17 "For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives. 18 Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you." 21 And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. 22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."
4. QUESTION: How are you doing lately with your willing, blood-sprinkled obedience to God's Word?

G. Recipient - ("grace and peace be yours")

1. "grace" - unmerited favor; something we don't deserve.
2. "peace" - to no longer be an enemy of God.
3. "be yours in the fullest" -
 - a. The "fullest measure" means that there is no potential for even more grace and peace —> that God literally gave you every ounce of grace and peace necessary.
 - b. "measure" - God has a very BIG measuring cup.
4. Part of your Heavenly Identity is that you acknowledge having received the fullest measure of God's grace and peace.
5. QUESTION: How are you doing with that?

Application:

- 1) Your identity today is founded in being foreknown by God from eternity past, as well as through the progressive work of the Holy Spirit, and also a blood-sprinkled willing choice by you. ARE YOU LIVING ACCORDING TO YOUR HEAVENLY IDENTITY?
- 2) Spiritual aliens (a.k.a. Christians) aren't to be focused on getting more of the world, but on living more for Christ who sovereignly scattered them around Earth as Ambassadors. ARE YOU LIVING ACCORDING TO YOUR HEAVENLY IDENTITY?
- 3) Part of your spiritual identity is having been blood-sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ for willing obedience to everything God says in His Word. ARE YOU LIVING ACCORDING TO YOUR BLOOD-SPRINKLED IDENTITY?
- 4) Hebrews 12:18-24

18 "For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, 19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. 20 For they could not bear the command, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned." 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am full of fear and trembling." 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel."

"All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!" (Exodus 24:3)

"All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!" (Exodus 24:7)