

(1P 1.4); of marriage *intact, pure* (HE 13.4). Example: 'this is what God the Father considers to be pure and **untainted** religion' Jas 1.27.

ἀμάραντος -- of a flower in bloom *unfading*; figuratively *enduring, eternally fresh, everlasting* (1P 1.4), pertaining to not losing the wonderful, pristine character of something - 'unfading, not losing brightness, retaining its wonderful character.' Examples: 'you will receive a glorious crown which will not lose its brightness' 1 Pe 5.4; 'for an inheritance which will not decay and spoil and fade away' or '... lose its wonderfulness' 1 Pe 1.4.

ἔσχατος -- *last, final*; (1) of place *farthest* (LU 14.9); (2) of time *latest, last* (JN 6.39); *finally, last of all* (MK 12.6); (3) of rank *lowest, least important* (MT 19.30); (4) of a series *last, final* (RV 1.17). Examples: 'the **last** state of that man becomes worse than the first' Mt 12.45; 'until you pay the last small piece of money' Mt 5.26; 'I am the first and the **last**' Re 1.17.

πειρασμός -- to try to learn the nature or character of someone or something by submitting such to thorough and extensive testing - 'to test, to examine, to put to the test, examination, testing.' Examples: 'put yourselves to the **test** as to whether you are in the faith (or not)' 2 Cor 13.5; 'the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to **test** him they asked if he would show them a sign from heaven' Mt 16.1; 'don't be surprised at the painful **testing** you are experiencing' 1 Pe 4.12; 'you shall not put the Lord your God to the **test**' Lk 4.12; 'an expert in the Law stood up to **test** him' Lk 10.25.

“Stand Fast!”

The First Epistle of Peter

Lesson 2, for Sunday, October 21, 2001

Πέτρος ἀπόστολος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐκλεκτοῖς παρεπιδήμοις διασπορᾶς Πόντου, Γαλατίας, Καππαδοκίας, Ἀσίας καὶ Βιθυνίας, 2 κατὰ πρόγνωσιν θεοῦ πατρός ἐν ἁγιασμῷ πνεύματος εἰς ὑπακοὴν καὶ ῥαντισμὸν αἵματος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη πληθυνθείη.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure. 1 Peter 1:1-2 NAS

The Outline

- I. **Comfort and reassurance in suffering (1:1 -1:25)**
 - A. Salutation (1:1,2).
 - B. Reassurance in the realized facts of Christ's gospel (1:3-12).
 - C. Reassurance in divinely bought holiness of life (1:13-25).

The Argument

Peter addresses his letter to a group of “chosen aliens” living on the northern reaches of the Roman Province of Asia. which encompasses modern day Turkey. He acknowledges that they live there as aliens, not as much because of any ethnic differences as because they are citizens not of this world but rather that to come. He reassures them, in this time of persecution, that our Lord chose them himself, to make them holy.

Next, Peter reassures them of their salvation and its unchanging nature, in spite of their current difficult circumstances. Not only were they saved by grace, fellow heirs with our Lord, but furthermore that inheritance is kept safe for them, unblemished by their worldly trials. Peter stresses this point heavily.

Peter then urges them to rejoice because their trials were not dissuading them from their faith. Rather, those trials were proving them to be faithful and praiseworthy in the eyes of our Lord. This faithfulness would most certainly be remembered.

The Key Words

ἀπόστολος -- We transliterate this as “Apostle.” But if we translate it instead, we see that it means one who is sent on a mission with full authority, *ambassador, messenger, envoy*. It is, however, generally used as designating the body of disciples to whom he intrusted the organization of his church and the dissemination of his gospel, “the twelve,” as they are called (Mt 10:1-5 Mr 3:14, 6:7 Lu 6:13, 9:1).

ἐκλεκτός -- “elect.” Generally speaking of a quality of persons or things *choice, select, excellent* in the Gospels, of those who respond positively to the privileges of God's grace (MT 22.14) and place trust in him (LU 18.7); of the basis of salvation in God's calling people to belong to himself *elect, chosen* (CO 3.12). Examples: 'you are the **chosen race**' 1 Pe 2.9; 'for the sake of his **chosen people** whom he chose, he has reduced those days' Mk 13.20; 'what Israel sought so eagerly it did not gain, **but those whom he chose** did' Ro 11.7.

παρεπίδημος -- one who stays for awhile as an alien in a place *sojourning, staying*; subst. *temporary resident, sojourner, stranger*; fig. of Christians, as not counting this earth as their home. This is derivative of παροικέω and ἐπιδημέω 'to live as a foreigner,' a person who for a period of time lives in a place which is not his normal residence, i.e. 'alien, stranger, temporary resident. Example: 'his descendants will live as **strangers** in a foreign country' Ac 7.6.

πρόγνωσις -- “advance knowledge,” or *foreknowledge, what is known ahead of time*. The idea here is to know about something prior to

some temporal reference point, for example, to know about an event before it happens - 'to know beforehand, to know already, to have foreknowledge.' Examples: 'they have already **known** me **beforehand**, if they are willing to testify' Ac 26.5; '**known already** before the world was made' 1 Pe 1.20; 'God, in his own will and **foreknowledge**, had already decided that this one would be handed over to (you)' Ac 2.23; '**knowing ahead of time**, he spoke about the resurrection of the Christ' Ac 2.31.

ἁγιασμός -- the process of making holy, *dedicating, sanctifying*; (a) as the operation of the Spirit *making holy, causing to belong completely to God, sanctifying work* (1P 1.2); (b) as the careful moral behavior which expresses one's dedication to God *a pure way of life, upright behavior, holy living*; (2) as the moral goal of the purifying process *holiness, right behavior* (RO 6.22). Examples: 'to the church of God which is in Corinth, **consecrated** to him in union with Christ Jesus' 1 Cor 1.2; 'pursue peace with all persons, and **consecration**, without which no one will see the Lord' He 12.14.

εἰς ἐλπίδα ζῶσαν -- “...into hope living.” Peter frequently uses the word “living” or “alive” (1:23; 2:4,5,24; 4:5,6). This is one of the key concepts of this short epistle. Note the contrast with “dead faith” (James 2:17,26).

κληρονομία -- what is received as a gift fr. someone who has died *portion, inheritance, patrimony* (LU 12.13); figuratively as God's promised salvation, gifts, and benefits *inheritance, (eternal) possession* (AC 20.32); (2) the land of Canaan as the obj. of God's promise *possession, inheritance* (AC 7.5); (3) abstr. for concr. of God's people *the heirs* (RO 11.1). Example: 'he did not give him any part of it as his own **possession**' Ac 7.5.

ἄφθαρτος -- not subject to decay or death *immortal, incorruptible, imperishable*. Examples: 'and the dead will be raised **immortal**' 1 Cor 15.52; 'in the **immortal** character of a gentle and quiet spirit' 1 Pe 3.4.

ἁμίαντος -- *undefiled, unsoiled*; (2) in a moral sense *pure*; (a) of pers. *pure, spotless* (HE 7.26); (b) of things *unspoiled, undefiled, pure* (JA 1.27); of an eternal inheritance *beyond the reach of decay or change*