

# In Christ: **SAVED**

## 1 Peter 1:1-12

Week Beginning 1 February 2009

**Discuss** (a quick 5 minutes as a group)

Do you know anyone who has an easy life?

In a word—what is tough for you right now?



## Read, Reflect and Apply

Read v1-2

1. Who is this letter from? Apostle means a sent one (see Mark 6:7 and Acts 3:11-15)
2. Why might it be important that Peter describes himself as “an” rather than “the” apostle? (see also 5:1)

(Pontus, Galatian, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia are all areas of modern Turkey. They cover an area about half the size of NSW).

3. What three words describe the recipients of this letter? What do the first two mean?

The third word is scattered (NIV). In the original language it is Diaspora. It is a word that 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews understood well. Foreign domination and poverty in Palestine had led to the emigration of Jews all over the Mediterranean. They could be found from Spain to Southern Russia and down into North Africa. Eleven or twelve synagogues were in Rome. A million Jews lived in Alexandria and Egypt. They kept their religious and cultural identity and refused to take on the pagan practices of the places they went to. They were often excluded from power because they refused to conform.

Peter effectively takes a well known Jewish idea and applies it to people who have come to believe in Christ.

4. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are all mentioned in v2. What is their work in relationship to these believers? (For extra reading see Numbers 16:5 & Amos 3:6 for God’s foreknowledge applied. See Exodus 24:3-8 for the sprinkling of blood sealing a covenant relationship (deal) between God and His people.)

5. Jews had a long history of being strangers and aliens in a land that wasn’t their own; Abraham; Moses and the people in the wilderness; the Exile. How might this be very helpful for Christian believers understanding their walk with Christ?

6. What sort of things might a person fleeing one homeland for another take with them? What do you think they will leave behind?

7. What do you think are some of the things the Shead family left behind when they went to Chile to serve Christ? What about Glen and Beth McDonald at Moore College?

8. Share with the group a time when you felt you didn’t “belong” at work; or school; or TAFE; or Uni; or sport; where you felt a stranger because of your Christian faith.

## Read v3-9

In these verses Peter shifts from thinking about what is lost to what is gained.

9. What has God done for us and given us? v3-5 What is God's gift conditional on?

10. Peter speaks absolutely confidently about the future inheritance of believers. Where does this confidence come from?

11. What are some of the reasons Christians lack assurance of salvation? How are these verses a remedy to that?

12. Verses 6 & 7 describe present joy and present testings of various kinds. What are some of the particular testings that you have experienced because of your relationship with Christ?

13. Where is God when I hurt and life is tough—verse 7 gives a wonderful picture of God's relationship to His people in difficult times. What can we be confident in when those times come? (Precious metal was refined in the ancient world by heating it to very high temperatures and burning off the impurities to make it even more valuable).

14. Describe a real believer from verses 8 & 9. What will their life be characterised by? What is missing for all of us from our relationship with Jesus now.

(After the group why not quietly encourage someone in your group where you see those qualities at work in their life).

## Read v10-12

15. What is the Holy Spirit called in these verses? What does this suggest about His ministry? What do these verses teach was some of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament?

16. God worked out His salvation at a time and place in history. The prophets and angels were "craning their necks" trying to see what God would do. What does this say about the importance and value of God's salvation? What does it mean to you? How did it affect something you did today?

## Pray

(Try to stay focussed on the issues the passage raises)

- For confidence about who we are in Christ and what He has done for us.
- For friends in particular difficulty or testing at present because of trying to be faithful to Christ.
- For God's perspective on life and our world that we might be filled with inexpressible joy.
- That we would not be ho hum and mediocre about God's wonderful salvation.
- The Chilean Christian leaders that the Sheads are teaching.
- Many connections with and beyond our community that we might speak of God's wonderful salvation in Christ.



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