

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Epistle of 1 Peter

Peter's "Beginning Thoughts":

- We are God's "Elect" and "Chosen" People
- We are "sprinkled with the blood of Christ"
- Our hearts are being changed through the "sanctifying work of the Spirit"
- We are "Exiles", looking for our home in Heaven.

1 Peter Ch.1, Verses 3 & 4 (NIV):

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy, He has given us **new birth into a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.**

An “Inheritance”:

- **Imperishable:**

- Free from death or decay

- **Undefined:**

- Free from moral impurity or uncleanness

- **Will not fade away:**

- Nothing can diminish or destroy what God has given

1 Peter Ch.1, Verses 4 & 5 (NIV):

This inheritance is kept in Heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the **salvation** that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Salvation (in 3 Tenses):

- **Salvation in Past Tense:**

- Verse 3, “In His great mercy, He **has given** us new birth”

- **Salvation in Future Tense:**

- Verse 5, “Until the coming of the salvation that is **ready to be received in the last time**”

- **Salvation in Present Tense (Continuous Action):**

- Verse 9, “For **you are receiving** the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls”

God's "Peculiar" people:

- Have a **Living Hope**
- Have a **Sure Inheritance** and a **Sure Salvation**

1 Peter Ch.1, Verses 6 & 7 (NIV):

In all this you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a **little while** you may have had to **suffer grief in all kinds of trials**. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though **refined by fire** – may **result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed**.

Truths - Trials:

- The purpose of trials is to refine faith:
 - “refined by fire”
- Trials are temporary, necessary & under God’s control:
 - According to His Sovereign Plan.
- The result of trials is reward when Christ returns:
 - “that it may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

BACKGROUND

Nero's Persecution

Tacitus, Roman Historian:

“Besides being put to death, Christians were made to serve as objects of amusement. They were clad in hides of beasts, and torn to death by dogs. Others were crucified, others set on fire to illuminate the night when daylight failed.”



Commentator:

We know that God is not always at work in producing circumstances that are good for us. But He is at work in every circumstance producing what is good in you and me, for His glory, and for His Kingdom sake.

1 Peter Ch.1, Verse 8 (NIV):

Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

Application Question:

- How “Peculiar” am I?
- How “Peculiar” are We?