

I. Intro

A. Last week

1. We talked about seeing things that don't exist yet and living like they do
2. We see a better a world, led by Jesus, and everyone loves Him
3. But, that world doesn't exist yet
4. This world hates Jesus and mocks people that follow Him

B. The conflict between both worlds is so strong, it erupts into persecution

1. This world mocks our values, our traditions, our devotion, and our faith
2. This world imprisons Christians for spreading their faith
3. This world kills Christians for claiming that Jesus is the son of God

C. Some of us have experienced persecution, some of us have not, but Paul promised it is coming (*2 Timothy 3:12*)

1. Our missionaries see it every day, and we will see it as we grow
2. It will look like:
  - a) The removal of our freedoms as Americans
  - b) Being lumped in with crazy extremist groups
  - c) Legal punishment for speaking the truth
3. I pray that the blessing America has received because of the Christians that live here continues, but as more people reject faith in Jesus we will see a natural decline in the godly benefit that comes with obedience

D. I say all this to prepare your heart for a promised persecution

1. We must learn how to persevere in persecution, and show love to a world that hates our God
2. We must learn how to stay faithful to God in a land that wants to tempt us away
3. We must learn how to grow in faith in a world that wants to steal our faith

E. This world I am describing is the middle east in 64 AD

1. Peter, the disciple and apostle, traveled around Turkey after Jesus ascended
2. He worked with new believers and new churches to spread the gospel
3. The world he worked in was just like America

- a) Rome ruled it
  - b) There were certain freedoms afforded to Roman citizens
  - c) But, there was punishment and persecution for not worshipping Roman gods and leaders
- F. Peter wrote two books to these churches, and we are going to read the first one
- 1. I pray this study will help us learn how to love God and love people in the midst of persecution

II. Text

**A. 1 Peter 1:1-2**

- 1. Peter calls these writers "exiles" and in 5:13 references his writing from "Babylon"
  - a) Peter is not writing from Babylon, he is calling Rome, Babylon
  - b) Peter calls the readers "exiles" because they are strangers in their own home
  - c) These people grew up in the area, but now have a totally different way of life
- 2. As a Christian grows in faith, they feel more and more like an alien
  - a) Our values, lifestyles, spending habits, and communication are different
  - b) This makes us feel like exiles too

**B. 1 Peter 1:3-12**

- 1. This change that is making you feel like an exile, praise Jesus for it!
  - a) You are "born-again"
    - (1) You get a NEW LIFE in Jesus, right now
      - (a) Not a better version of your old life, a totally new life
    - (2) You get treasures that don't corrupt
      - (a) You grow the fruit of the Spirit and receive the blessings of God
    - (3) You get eternal salvation
      - (a) All your past and tears will be wiped away
      - (b) You will achieve no punishment
      - (c) You will rule and reign with Christ in the new heaven/earth
    - (4) You live by faith
      - (a) You see what God sees, and you live accordingly

2. Under the benefit of faith, Peter reminds us that it will be tested
  - a) Your faith is offensive to this world and will cause conflict
  - b) Rather than remove the conflict, God uses it to test your faith
    - (1) He tests your faith to show you if it is real
    - (2) He tests your faith to show your friends/family it is real
    - (3) He tests your faith to show non-believers that God is real
3. All these benefits and testing of our faith adds up to "what a time to be alive"
  - a) Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, and the prophets were looking to our time
  - b) You may covet the stories of the OT or the book of Acts, but that only reveals your inability to understand what you are part of now
  - c) All history has been waiting to watch you spread God's kingdom

**C. 1 Peter 1:13-23**

1. So, how do we live in a world that persecutes us and hates our God?
  - a) Strive for obedience in your daily life - Do what Jesus says
  - b) Don't chase the passions of the world - Live a life that is set apart and different
  - c) Treat God like your Father - strive for intimacy and family in your Christian walk
  - d) Live with a respect and awe while in exile - Treat the things of God as holy and beautiful
  - e) Treat Jesus' sacrifice with respect - don't devalue the cross by inflating the value of sin
  - f) Contend for your local church to look like a family, not a corporation

III. Conclusion

A. Peter gives us one final thought before we leave chapter 1

**B. 1 Peter 1:24-25**

1. Compared to eternity, your time on earth is incredibly short
  - a) Don't waste your time
  - b) Don't waste a trial or test
  - c) Invest in the Kingdom that is coming, not this world that will perish