

# Elect Exiles

## 1 Peter 1:1-2

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Joy in Suffering (1 Peter Series)

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We're looking in our Bible **1 Peter 1:1-2**.

"We all profess that we are bound for heaven, immortality, and glory: but is it any evidence that we really design it if all our thoughts are consumed about the trifles of this world, which we must leave behind us, and have only occasional thoughts of things above?"

~ John Owen

### Happy Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers! It's a hard day for some. But truly we are all fathers and mothers in God's forever family, amen? On this Mother's Day, I want to give thanks for all that moms do. And the most important thing moms do is prepare their children for the life to come, and that's what this message is all about.

### Out of Place

Do you know what an exile is? It means you are not at home. You are "exiled" from your home. Some of us have been in very strange places, and we've felt out of place, like we didn't fit in. I remember moving from Chicago to Louisiana.

**Louisiana.** In **Louisiana**, everybody talked funny. They said things like, "Y'all" and I'm "fixin'" to do something. The only thing I ever fixed was my bike, but in Louisiana, they're fixin' everything.

In Louisiana, I learned how to eat red beans and rice and jambalaya. They were Cajuns there. It almost never snowed there. When they read the "Night before Christmas" Santa's sleigh had flying alligators instead of reindeer. I felt out of place.

**Spain.** Then later on, Jill and I moved to Spain. We felt out of place there too. We had to speak a language that made our head hurt and our tongues hurt.

I remember going to the supermarket, and it seemed everyone went shopping at once. Everyone ran into everyone else. Every 30 seconds someone bumped my shoulder, and I would say in Spanish, "Discúlpame," "Pardon me, sorry!" "Excuse me!" They just kept saying: "Tranquilo" which means "Relax!" I kept saying "Sorry!" and they finally said, "Why are you so polite?"

When I came back to Chicago, it was so funny. I went to the supermarket and was bumping into people, just getting the stuff I needed, not paying attention, like I was in Spain. They kept saying, “Excuse me! Pardon me.” I was like: “Why are you so polite?”

There are sometimes when we feel out of place in on this earth, but for the Christian, Peter tells us that we are “out of place.” We are foreigners and exiles on this earth.

### **Reading of Holy Scripture**

Listen to **1 Peter 1:1-2**, “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.”

### **In the World, But Not of the World**

Peter says, we are “elect exiles.” From God’s perspective we are elect. We don’t belong here on earth. We belong with Him. From the world’s perspective, we are exiles. We do not fit in here. We are “in the world, but not of the world” (Jn 17:16).

### **Rome Burning**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, AD64, Rome burned. It was a massive fire. Many historians believe Nero set the fire so that he could rebuild Rome in his name and receive more glory. He blamed the Christians as scapegoats, and we have those horrible stories of Nero putting Christians on poles and dousing them with oil, lighting them with fire as barbaric human lanterns, like the ones they had around the city of Rome. Unimaginable cruelty. Peter died in that persecution on October 13, AD64.

The **result of this persecution** is that as scattered as the people of God were when Peter wrote this letter, they became **more scattered abroad upon this earth, like seeds for heaven.**

This letter was likely written a year or so before AD 64 when Rome burned. The letter doesn’t read like that kind of persecution is happening in the churches. It reads like it is on the horizon. Peter says, “Do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you” (**1 Pet 4:7**). He must have been sensing something on the horizon.

Peter seems to be writing from **Rome** since there is a reference to “**Babylon**” in chapter 5 which is codename (as in Revelation) for Rome. Peter wants to get something across to everyone in the church: we do not belong in this world. In a very real way, we are exiles.

### **I. In relation to the world, Christians are exiles. (1 Pet 1:1).**

#### **God's OT People Twice Exiled**

Peter writes “To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion” (1 Pet 1:1). Why does he use that nickname?

It really brings us to the history of Israel. Twice in Israel’s history the people of God were exiled.

**Egypt** – 400 years. You remember how the people of God were exiled in Egypt? They were slaves for **400 years** until the Lord sent Moses to deliver them from bondage.

**Babylon** (and Persia) – 70 years. Then the people of God were taken away from their homes to Babylon for **70 years**. Peter even refers to the nation they live in (**Rome**) as “**Babylon**” in chapter 5.

**Chicago** – your lifetime. As a child of God, you are in exile on this earth. This world is not your home. I am not tied up in the idea that I need to go vacation in my exile. I have no desire to go to Florida or Arizona (for better weather or fun) when I get older. I don’t think of life in those terms. I am in exile. I need to reach the people for Christ wherever God puts me.

### Examples of Good Exiles

**Daniel** – Daniel is an excellent example of a good exile. There he was 70 years in Babylon. He didn’t check out of the culture – instead he changed the culture. He pointed the King to the Lord and King Nebuchadnezzar was born again by God’s grace. He was faithful during 70 years in exile in his earthly pilgrimage.

**Joseph** – Joseph is another excellent example of a good exile. He found himself in a prison, and by following the Lord, he was exalted to be prime minister of Egypt. He did not conform to this world but was transformed. He pointed the entire population to the Lord, and the Lord was with Joseph in Egypt that “land of the iron furnace” (Jer 11:4).

As exiles in this world, hear the words of St. Paul: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (**Rom 12:2**).

### Example of a Bad Exile

**Demas** – Paul says in **1 Timothy 4:10**, “Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world...” Demas, in love with the things of this world forsook Paul. He forsook the faith of Christ.

### Refugee Millionaires

Peter says we are “elect exiles.” A great synonym he gave us for what this means today is **refugee millionaires**. That’s what he calls this church in the midst of this culture. You’re like refugee millionaires. Here’s what that means. You are at the same time the most despised and looked down upon in all of the world and yet the richest and most blessed in Jesus Christ of anybody on the face of the planet.

### Something Radical Has Happened

We are aliens. The language and values and customs and expectations of this world feel foreign to us. Something really radical has happened to us. Peter says in verse 3: God has caused us to be born again to a living hope—for another world, another, greater kind of existence. Paul put it this way: “You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you will appear with him in glory” (**Col 3:3–4**).

Jesus said it this way – don’t make it your main priority to get clothing and housing. You need to do that, but what should you do first? “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (**Mt 6:33**).

### You Don’t Fit in Here!

Christians are out of place in this world. We don’t fit. We are salt in a rotten world. We are light in a very dark world. We cause offence. We bear reproach for Christ’s name. Jesus said

Cursed are you when all men speak well of you. We are “pilgrims and foreigners in this earth.” We are citizens of heaven on this earth.

We are not first citizens of this earth, we are **citizens of heaven**. This **present evil world** is not our home. We are pilgrims and strangers. We are rejected by this world. Jesus said, “if the world hated me, it will hate you also.” Be instructed saint: you don’t belong here. You don’t fit in here. If you’ve been touched by God, you will never fit in here.

My brothers and sisters, the more you love and honor God, the more you expose the evil of those who do not. The more you expose the evil of those who dishonor God, the more they’ll hate you. They’ll hate you because of who you love, because of who you resemble. They hated Jesus and they’ll hate those who are like Jesus.

### **Dispersed in Turkey**

Peter is writing from Rome to those scattered throughout what is modern-day Turkey. He names states or provinces of Rome in today’s Turkey. Peter is writing to the “elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” (**1 Pet 1:1**). So sad – today there are 52 million souls in Turkey, almost all without Christ. Some know Christ because of Dave and Pam Wilson and others. Turkey is about the size of Texas. This is like Peter saying, I’m writing to the elect exiles of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. I’m writing to you Christians in the local churches scattered throughout the Roman empire.

### **Who are the Elect Exiles?**

It’s interesting that calls these Christians “exiles of the Dispersion.” Right off the bat, we have to ask, what does Peter mean when he addresses the “exiles of the Dispersion”?

They could be **Jews** exiled from Palestine or they could be **Christians** exiled from heaven. Is Peter writing to Jews only in these Roman provinces? It could be. Peter is the apostle to the circumcision. Furthermore, in the Old Testament, this would have referred to the physical descendants of Abraham. They lived in the promised land, but because of their disobedience God sent them into captivity for 70 years, and they were scattered abroad. James uses this language opening his letter. “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion” (Jas 1:1). What a beautiful thing that God remembers his people who are no longer in their homeland.

A more likely option is that this is more likely not referring to Jews away from Palestine, but indeed, **Christians who are living away from heaven**. Peter talks as if the Dispersed exiles include the Gentiles.

Peter tells us a little later in 1 Peter **1:17**, “conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.” They are no longer looking to go to Palestine, but to heaven.

**2:11**, “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” This is the battle for sojourners from heaven, not just a geographic location on earth.

Outside 1 Peter we see the same idea. We are exiles from heaven.

St. Paul says, “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (**Phil 3:20**).

The author of Hebrews connects Gentiles to God’s people in the OT, saying “These all died in faith...having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth” (**Heb 11:13**). Well if we are exiles on earth, then what city are we seeking? Are we seeking Jerusalem on earth? No. “For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come” (**Heb 13:14**).

## God's Presence in Jerusalem

So the Jews of the Old Testament sought an earthly city. It was so tragic that the Jews were in the Dispersion, disconnected from their homeland in Jerusalem. Why? Because Jerusalem is where **God's presence dwelled in the Old Testament**. They wanted to get back to that place. But today we don't seek earthly Jerusalem. We seek the heavenly Jerusalem (cf. **Gal 4:25-26**). Paul says the earthly Jerusalem in Israel is like Mount Sinai. It's got only laws and condemnation. But we seek the heavenly Jerusalem, which is free. We are seeking the city of God, not of man.

Don't get me wrong, I would love to visit Jerusalem here on earth. But my eternal salvation is not there. My eternal salvation is in Christ and in heaven. That's where my inheritance is.

## God's Presence in Us

But in the New Testament times, in this age of grace, we no longer have to go to Jerusalem to partake in God's presence. Jesus has come. He is "Immanuel, God with us." God's presence in Jesus is with us! The Holy Spirit minister's God to us and in us. Peter says **2 Peter 1:4** that we have "become partakers of the divine nature."

Peter views the Dispersion a little different than physical Israel. Peter views the church as Israel with the Gentiles grafted in who get to receive all the promises of Messiah. Christ is not only for Jews but for all the families of the earth! I'm included in that. So when Peter says we are "elect exiles of the Dispersion" he is talking to both Jews and Gentiles.

We are not in exile from Palestine brothers and sisters. Israel was the shadow promise land. It's like a black and white picture. The ultimate promised land is to dwell with God in a renewed heaven and earth. We are exiles from heaven. As Paul says in another place, "we are citizens of heaven."

## II. In relation to God, Christians are **elect** (1 Pet 1:1-2).

The Christian has been *chosen* by God – each person of the Trinity is involved in this work:

### A. **Chosen by God the Father.**

**1 Peter 1:2a**, "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father..."

#### How Did God Choose Us?

We are elect exiles, chosen "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father" (1 Pet 1:2a). God the Father, who is every Christian's Father has taken the initiative to bring the Christian into his family. He did not merely '*know in advance*' the decision that they would make about him. Of course he knew in advance, but it's deeper – he chose us according to His foreknowledge. The Scriptural idea is not mere **intellectual** knowledge but **intimate** knowledge. The word here means a vast and expansive and intimate knowledge of us – we could say God **forLOVED** us. He loved us from all eternity. Wow!

Before we jump to conclusions as to what this word means, let me help you understand the word "know." In many languages, there are two words for know. Greek has two primary words in the New Testament (*prognosis* and *oida*). Not many know Greek, so let me demonstrate in Spanish. You have **saber** and **conocer**.

- **Saber** means to know intellectually, to know ahead of time.
- **Conocer** means to know intimately.

The Greek word here in **1 Peter 1:2** (πρόγνωσις *prognosis*) is to know **intimately**, not to know **intellectually** (*oida*) or merely ahead of time. God's love is much deeper than that. God knew you intimately. Of course, God knew you ahead of time, but this knowledge is an **intimate** knowledge, it goes beyond the English language concept of mere **intellectual** knowledge, but is more like **foreloving** us.

### Bible Dictionary Definition of Foreknowledge

Look up "foreknowledge" in a Bible Dictionary. I picked up Nelson's Bible Dictionary and here is the definition: "God's foreknowledge is much more than foresight. God does not know future events and human actions because He foresees them; He knows them because He wills them to happen. Thus God's foreknowledge is an act of His will."<sup>1</sup>

According to Warren Wiersbe, former Pastor of Moody Church, "Foreknowledge does not suggest that God merely knew ahead of time that we would believe, and therefore He chose us. This would raise the question, "Who or what made us decide for Christ?" and would take our salvation completely out of God's hands. In the Bible, to foreknow means 'to set one's love on a person or persons in a personal way.'"<sup>2</sup>

Foreknowledge conveys the idea that God 'chose in advance to set His love personally upon each and every individual Christian.'

### When Did God Choose You?

Now when did our election take place? It took place in the secret counsel halls of eternity before we knew anything about it. A corresponding passage in **Ephesians 1:4** says, "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world." Romans 9:11 says God chose Jacob and rejected Esau before they were "born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might" stand.

God has chosen us – elected us. Before you were born, before your father or mother, before the creation of the universe, God chose you. We were all equally deserving hell. He knew that we were part of the sinful world: "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

### Chosen Because of Something in us? Never!

When I was younger, I moved from Chicago to Louisiana. I was the strange city boy! I can remember a game of stick ball on the playground, and I was the last one picked. I wasn't really that good.

In the same way in life, I'm not good. I'm a sinner. If God looked at what was in me to choose me, he'd never pick me. He'd never pick anyone of us. Listen God doesn't choose us because of anything in us. It is because of His goodness and glory He chooses us.

### The Point of Election: Worship

The point of the doctrine of election is not **theological debate**. That never helped anyone to grow and change in Christ. The point of election is **wonder and awe and worship**. God loved be even when I was "dead in trespasses and sins," when I was a rebel "Christ died for me,"

<sup>1</sup> Youngblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., Harrison, R. K., & Thomas Nelson Publishers. *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. "Foreknowledge."

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, W: *Bible Exposition Commentary*. 1989. Victor, 1 Peter 1:2.

- I love him, because he first loved me (1 Jn 4:19).
- Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you” (Jn 15:16. I chose him because he first chose me and not the other way around.
- “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood [human birth] nor of the will of the flesh [human passion] nor of the will of man [human planning], but of God” (Jn 1:12-13).

### **Objections**

(1) You might say, “Well, God’s not fair.” And I’m glad God is not fair. If God was fair we would all be tormented forever in the Lake of Fire.

Without the love of God electing us, we would all perish. Spurgeon said, “On the outside of the gates of heaven it reads, “Whosoever will may come.” And on the inside as you enter through it reads: “Elect from the foundation of the world.”

God is sovereign, and man is responsible. It is true: “God is not willing that any should perish.” He “takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.” God loves you. He set His affection on you before you were ever conceived. You were in the heart and the mind of God before He laid the foundations of this earth. Now that doesn’t do away with human responsibility. Yet God chose us and that’s why we came. You say, “Well, I don’t understand that.” Well, good, that’s two of us. God’s is sovereign and man is responsible.

## **B. Sanctified by the Spirit.**

**1 Peter 1:2b, “in the sanctification of the Spirit...”**

### **Definition of Sanctification**

The Father’s choice was worked out in history by **the activity of God the Holy Spirit** who works to sanctify each believer. To be “sanctified” means to be “set apart” for God’s purposes. It includes calling, conversion, cleansing and consecration. Sanctification is the Spirit’s work to accomplish a full salvation, and it encompasses our entire life.

**Calling.** Before you were saved, from your mother’s womb, you have been **called** by the Spirit. The Spirit uses your conscience and the Word of God and prayer to convict you of sin, righteousness and judgement. And you say, “I’m really changing now.” But you never do. You’re not saved yet, but you are being called.

### **A Difference Between Calling and Conversion**

**Conversion.** The Spirit not only calls, he **converts** your heart. There is a difference between calling and conversion. People say, “I prayed this prayer and now I’m saved.” That’s not how it works. You may be emotional and convicted of sin, and the Spirit is calling you. But many people after praying or going to church, it doesn’t stick. That’s because you have been called, but not converted. Conversion is described in **Ezekiel 36:25-27** where God takes out the heart of stone and puts in a tender heart of flesh – He says, **verse 27, “I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my judgments.”** In conversion, the Spirit gives the baby Christian the power to obey! Unless you have a heart to obey, you have no evidence that the Spirit has converted you.

The apostle John tells us this in **1 John 2:3-6**, “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his

commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

How do we know we've come to know Christ? The Spirit puts a heart of obedience in us. Our obedience could never in a million years save anyone. But it is the evidence that we have a new heart and the transforming Spirit of God in us.

**Transformation.** The Spirit is given to us to make us like Christ. Now this is very practical for you mothers. Listen to this.

You are longing for your children to change. You are preparing them for high school and perhaps college. But nothing meaningful can happen to them until they are converted.

You are trying to help them behave well, and that's good. But behaving well is not what gets them ready for eternity. Your children need Christ.

Introduce them to the Holy Spirit. You say how do I do that? Show them how impossible life is without his life-giving power.

### The Spirit is Getting Us Ready for Another Home

You are a refugee on earth – a spiritual exile from heaven. You belong somewhere, and God is moving you (by the Spirit of God) toward where you belong: You are a citizen of heaven living on earth. The Spirit of God is getting you ready to live with God. Heaven will one day come to earth and sanctify the whole earth. Sin and sickness will be banished. But until then, this world is not home.

This is not your home, so don't act like it's your home. You are an exile. You don't belong here. You don't fit in. So don't act like this is your permanent residence. “This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through.”

### The Great Miracle of the Spirit Setting Us Apart

The work of sanctification means that the Spirit works supernaturally in you through the Word and prayer and preaching or proclamation of the Gospel, and he “sets you apart” for God. When you hear this word “sanctification” I want you to think “**miracle**.” This is something you can't do. This is a miracle gift from God.

Mere human effort is not going to get you growing and changing. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zech 4:6).

### The Spirit like a Great Poet

This is a message for mothers for their children. You need the Spirit of God to do the work of crushing and transforming your heart and your children's hearts.

Bible knowledge and church attendance are good and absolutely necessary. With great seriousness, I recommend them. But you need more than knowledge and commitment to see conversion and transformation. We need a miracle from God.

Think of a great poet. He has a pencil. That's good. He needs that to write. But the pencil will not be any good without the hand and inspiration of the poet.

So it is that Bible knowledge and church attendance are necessary, they are nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit. We need the Spirit of Christ working deeply in us as moms and dads.

“All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down...”

## C. Purchased for obedience by the Son.

**1 Peter 1:2c, “for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood...”**

### **Jesus' Prayer**

Remember our Lord's prayer in **John 17:14-17**, “I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

You are not of this world. Christ has sent you into the world for you to live an obedient, sanctified life in spiritual response to the Word of God.

### **The Point of Sprinkling of Blood: Ownership**

Why are we called to obedience “sprinkling with Christ's blood...”? Blood has to do with **ownership** and covenant.

Three times in the OT we see the sprinkling of blood. All have to do with ownership.

Sinai – covenant commitment (Exo 24:3-8)

Leper – cleansing (Lev 13)

Priest (Exo 29)

### **1. Sprinkling of Blood at Sinai Covenant**

Let me explain. In the OT in **Exodus 24:3-8**, Moses sprinkled blood on God's people, ratifying the covenant at Sinai. This nation accepted the terms of the covenant and became God's people at Sinai. So Moses took blood from the sacrifice of lambs and mixed it with water, and put it into containers, basins – and he splashed the blood on the people. They agreed to the covenant. They consecrated themselves to God that day. And as a sign and seal of the covenant, they were sprinkled or splashed with blood.

**God's Part of the Covenant.** This sprinkling pointed to God's ownership of them now. He brought them out of exile. His part of the covenant is that **He would be God to them**. He would **comfort** them and **lead** them and **care** for them and **protect** them.

God would be their God and Israel would be his people. Today, we are God's people, walking worthy of the blood that was shed for us on the cross. **Peter says in 1:18-19**, You were purchased “not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

The blood of bulls and lambs were a picture of the price God would be willing to pay to purchase his people. It is the purchase of us by the blood of Jesus that makes our **obedience** the proof that we are sealed by the Spirit and worthy of the blood of Christ.

**1 Peter 1:14-16**, “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

### **2. Sprinkling of Blood for a Leper**

The second manner we see sprinkling of blood in the Old Testament was for a leper. When a person would have leprosy in the Old Testament, he would be facing a horrible death. He would

have to live outside the camp. If they came into contact with anyone within 100 feet they would have to cry out, “Unclean, unclean” (Lev 13:45).

But there were times when God would work a miracle. And the cleansing of a leper is analogous to salvation, and a leper would be supernaturally, miraculously cleansed by the mercy of God. And then he would have to go show himself, or healed by the mercy of God. And then he would have to go show himself to the priest for cleansing. And what the priest would take two live birds, and he would take a vessel, and put running water in that vessel. And he would take one bird and kill it and the blood would be mingled with the water in that vessel. Then he would take that other bird that had been captured and put him in that vessel and just put the water and the blood all over him and take him out and release him. And he'd fly away singing, "There's Power in the Blood." And so that leper, like the bird, would go free!

### **3. Sprinkling of Blood for the service of Priests**

And the third place you would have the sprinkling of blood would be for the consecration of the priest in **Exodus 29**. He would be owned by God for God's service. They would offer a sacrifice and take the blood of the lamb and put it on his hands (his thumb) and on his feet (his toe) and poor oil on his head.

That's what we are! We are kings and priests in the kingdom. We are a royal priesthood. We've been consecrated for service and obedience. We want to be faithful in our calling as priests to proclaim the Word of pardon through the blood of our Lamb of God, Jesus Christ!

### **Purchased to Live Separate from this World**

Being a Christian means you long for holiness. You long to live in such a way that is separate from this world. John says in **1 John 2:15-17**, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

In other words, as A.W. Tozer said, you cannot come to Christ without accepting him fully as Savior and as Lord. You cannot divide his offices. If Christ is not your Lord and Master, then he is not your Savior. “By this we know that we have come to know him...” John says in **1 John 2:3**, “if we keep his commandments.”

### **Walking Worthy of the Blood**

Child of God, are you walking worthy of the blood of Christ? Is your walk an evidence that a miracle has taken place in your heart by the Spirit of God?

In the New covenant, we have the power to obey. We have the Spirit of God moving and working in us that obedience. We “work out our salvation in fear and trembling...” knowing “it is God who works to will and to do” of “His good pleasure” in and through us (Phil 2:10-11).

We are elected by the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, and purchased by the blood of the Son. And it is because we belong to Him that we will also experience a permanent ‘exile’ in this life. It is because Christ dwells within us, that the world hates us. This is a type of exile for us. We can never be completely home on this earth.

**Closing**

“What’s he going to say? How’s he going to help us to endure and to persevere through all of this?” This is what he says. This is how he starts his letter. They rip it open, and they read it. It says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!” He worships. He says, “According to [God's] great mercy, he has caused us to be born again...” This exile is a mercy. I can’t wait to go to my true home in heaven. I’ve been born again – I don’t belong here.

I’m a refugee millionaire. I look poor on this earth, but I have the riches of Christ!