

1 Peter 1:1

Why EVERY Christian Today is a lower case “a” apostle but no Christian since John is an upper case “A” Apostle and What This Means to Us/the Church

Purpose Statement of the Book of 1 Peter (2:11-12)

As spiritual aliens/short-timers on Earth, Christians should not be controlled by our emotions/feelings but we should consistently live our faith centered on our Lord Jesus Christ so that unbelievers who slander us because we are believers will see the reality of Christ in our lives and ultimately glorify God by coming to Him in faith.

Peter (Πετρος)

The nickname of the human author of this book, which by convention bears that name. His actual birth name was Simon (“Listener”) but our Lord in John 1:35-46 nicknamed him Cephas/Aramaic or Petros/NT Greek which means “Little Rock” or Rocky” IOWs: “rough around the edges.” Question: This being true, how should we understand what Jesus is calling Peter and Andrew to do in Mark 1:14-18?

The Divine Author of 1 Peter is the Holy Spirit-God the Holy Spirit superintended the human authors such that they composed/recorded with any error the exact message God desired as Scripture in the words of the original manuscripts.

2 Peter 1:21

Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God...

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable...

Hebrews 4:12

The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword...

Matthew 22:41-46

(Our Lord Jesus quoting an OT prophecy about Himself) asks: “Then how does David in the Spirit call Him (The Messiah) Lord (Adonai/David’s Superior)....”

IMPORTANT

The man who wrote 1 Peter was NOT the loud/brash young Disciple described in the Gospels. 30 years later, God had shaped his character such that he was an Elder Statesmen of the first/foundational generation of the New Testament Church.

The Point: God can/will produce world-class people out of believers who seek and submit to His will/who keep on trusting and obeying Him even when there doesn't seem to be any "earthly reason" to keep on trusting and obeying Him....this is a process not a point act (experiential sanctification or the "present" tense of salvation-see 1 Peter 2:1-5 and 2 Peter 3:17-18. IOWs: What God did in Rocky's life, He can do in ours.

An Apostle (αποστολος)

Peter was a "Capital A-Apostle" he and a handful of others were eyewitnesses of the risen Christ specifically commissioned to represent Jesus after His ascension as the human foundation of the "Capital C-Church" (Eph 2:19-22). Those Apostles had unique authority over the Church/churches (The Universal Church/individual local churches). This is in contrast to a generic use of the term which applies to all NT believers. As He says about us in John 17: "I do not ask for these (Capital A-Apostles) alone, but for those also who will believe in Me through their word" (their personal preaching/teaching and "their" (2 Peter 1:21) word in the books of the New Testament.

In a similar way "The A-postles" are often referred to by the term "The Disciples" i.e. Capital "D" Disciples as opposed to all other believers = "d" disciples (Matt 28:19-20). IOWs: Ron Miller is unique and special...but so are Pam Cox and Amanda Burch...and none of them are as unique and special as the Capital A-Apostles.

of Jesus Christ (Ιησου Χριστου)

"Jesus" = "God-Savior/God Saves" Christ = "Anointed One" or "Messiah/Savior"

The Truth that Jesus of Nazareth is THE Christ is the Primary Affirmation of

- 1: Apostolic Preaching in the Book of Acts
- 2: The Entire New Testament (1 John 5:1-5)
- 3: All True Gospel Presentations anytime/anywhere/any language-color, country/culture

Acts 2:36 Peter in Jerusalem

God has made Him to be both Lord and Christ, this Jesus Whom you crucified

Acts 3:18 Peter in Jerusalem

God announced...His Christ would suffer and this He has fulfilled

Acts 5:42 The Apostles in Jerusalem

Kept on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ

Acts 8:5 Philip in Samaria

Went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them

Acts 9:22 Saul-immediately after his conversion

was confounding the Jews...proving that Jesus was the Christ

Acts 17:3 Paul in Thessalonica

This Jesus Whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ

Acts 18:5 Paul in Corinth

Paul began testifying...that Jesus was the Christ

Acts 18:28 Apollos in Ephesus

Refuted the Jews...demonstrating that Jesus was the Christ

John 1:51 After Meeting/Believing in Jesus Andrew Tells His Big Brother Simon

We have found the Messiah (which translated means "Christ")

Luke 24:26-27 Explaining the OT Basis for His Suffering Jesus Told Two disciples

Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory? Then beginning with Moses and with all the (Old Testament) Prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in the Scriptures.



To the aliens scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia Persecution in the areas in/around Antioch of Syria had forced the original readers to leave their homes/jobs, and their extended families and thus to become aliens (παρεπιδημοι) in what we would today call central and north central Turkey.

Aliens or Refugees (parepidemioi) = temporary residents in a particular location who have a higher allegiance to another place. Eugene Nida in **The UBS Handbook on the Translation of 1 Peter** says it emphasizes 1: the transitory existence of these Christians in this world, they were temporary residents of this world holding citizenship in Heaven and 2: the sense of strangeness (and Nida wasn't just talking about Doug and Meg Strange here) among them as they (the original readers in 63-64 AD) lived in the midst of pagan neighbors and thus faced difficulties (conflicts due to their unique perspective toward life/death rooted in their faith in and desire to please their Lord Jesus Christ).

The POINT: Persecution/forced relocation was the status quo of the original readers of 1 Peter. Today we will suffer in the will of God but most of us will probably not suffer in that same way. NOTICE: these believers were suffering BECAUSE of their faith in Jesus the Christ. How does that relate to much current preaching which insists if a Christian's faith is strong enough/specific enough, she/he will always prosper and never suffer?!?

Take This to Heart

As lower case a-apostles (those sent out on a mission) every believer involved in TBF (and every believer everywhere today) has been commissioned to consistently live out the Gospel (as the effect/fruit of our salvation NOT the cause/root of our salvation) in thought, word and deed.

But as 21st century believers while our faith is rooted in the testimony and the ministry of the Upper Case A-postles, none of us are in that category. They were unique in many unique ways. But as 1 Peter 4:10 tells us: Each one of us has received a special spiritual gift/gifts and we should use them in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God...so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.