

Your expectations will determine your experience. If I go to watch a movie by one of my favorite directors with actors I like and an interesting premise and expect it to be a masterpiece and then it is only good. I will be disappointed. But if I go into a movie expecting it to be terrible and then it actually is good, I will be ecstatic. This is true not just of movies, but of most of life. Our expectations will shape our experience.

As we begin our study of the book of 1 Peter I want to help us have the right expectations for this book. Not everything in here is going to taste good. Some of it is going to sting. And a lot of it is going to challenge us. 1 Peter is going to try and recalibrate our expectations.

This morning will we talk all about our expectations in life. What can a Christian expect to experience? As we follow Jesus through our lives, what can we expect? Should we have high expectations? Should they be low? Because we need to have the right expectations. If we have the wrong kind of expectations in life, we are going to be vastly disappointed. And many people are.

Because I see too many Christians have the wrong expectations. There are too many Christians, who expect following Jesus to be something that is always amazing and always filled with blessings. Who believe that following Jesus mean that their life is always working out that Jesus always shows up. Our prayers are always answered and healed and restored. And when Jesus does not mean their expectations, their faith can crumble. Peter is trying to help us. And our text today is going to show us the kind of expectations. We need to have as we go through life as followers of Jesus.

Turn with me to 1 Peter 1:1-12

Point 1: Expect to be exiles (v. 1-2).

We need to expect to be exiles.

An exile is someone who has been casted off or removed from their true home.

Someone who is a wanderer or a refugee or a soldier or or an immigrant into another place.

Peter wants us to recognize understand followers of Jesus this is who we are.

Verse 1, **"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,"**

If you read too fast, you might miss what he says here.

Because this isn't just a cute introduction, letting you know where the letter is going to.

He writes and calls them the elect exiles.

He is not just describing their spiritual condition.

He is actually describing their physical and sociological reality.

This letter is going to a region located in modern day Turkey.

Which at this point in history these regions named were like the wild west.

They were new colonies most people did not want to be a part of.

And Peter writes to Gentile and Jewish believers who have been exiled there.

We don't know what their exile looked like.

They could have been forcibly sent by the government to colonize the area.

They could have had to flee their homes because of persecution.

This seems like what has happened to Peter.

Because Peter is no longer in Israel or Jerusalem.

Now he is in Rome as an exile far from home.

And he will die there.

These are all believe who may have believed Rome was their home.

That this was their nation and people.

They may have hoped to be welcomed and celebrated.

The glory of Rome was their glory.

They got to be a part of the greatest nation in the world.
They got to be somewhere that had the best art.
The richest place in the world.
Somewhere where everything significant in the world happened.

Peter wants these Christians to remember that they are exiles.
This is their spiritual condition.
This world and place is not their home.
The empire is not their home.
They are just passing through.
Our true home is in the kingdom of GOd.

And this is the same trap that we can fall into.
We have the same exact temptation.
We can believe that we are not exiles, but citizens here.
We can start to believe that our country is the kingdom of God.
And this is dangerous.
Because it causes us to forget our fundamental identity as Christians.
We are exiles here in this land.
We do not and should not have the same relationship to this country as other citizens do.
We cannot have the same relationship.

Now we can love this country.
We can be happy to be here.
We can root for the USA in the Olympics.
I have been doing a ton of that with plenty of USA chants in my house.
But we must remember that we are exiles here.

If you expect to be an exile.
If you expect to be treated as an exile.
If you expect to act like an exile,
then you will have the proper relationship with this land.

Even if massive revival swept through our nation.
Every single person was truly saved.
Every elected official was born again.
We passed laws based on the Scriptures.
And everyone lived out there faith.
This country still would not be the kingdom of God.
Even then we would still be exiles.

We are exiles here.
This is not our home.
We must not expect it to be.
Because if you forget that we are a part of another kingdom, your mood
and your life here will be tied to every election and every news story.
Instead of being tied to Christ.

But notice what else Peter says.
He says, **"to the elect exiles."**
We are not exiles on accident.
God has chosen and elected to make us exiles.
It is not that we are rejected by the world.
We have been accepted by God.

Verse 2 tells us how we have been elected.
"According to the foreknowledge of God the Father."
Foreknowledge means our election was based on God.
We were elected and chosen by God to be His sons and daughters based
on God.
It is not based on us.
And it happened before we were born.

Some will want to argue about the specifics of this and how it squares with
our freewill.
But the point is.
And what Peter is trying to remind us.

This happens because of God's grace.
We have not been chosen because of how amazing we are.
We are not elect because God foreknew our potential.
Instead, God saw all of us in our sin and weakness.
And He loved us anyway.

"sanctified to obedience by the Holy Spirit."

Part of what it means to be an elect exile is that God is sanctifying us.
And we are being sanctified so that we obey the Holy Spirit.
So that we obey God's laws more this year than we did last year.
He continually sanctifies us.

"Sprinkled by the blood of Jesus Christ."

Part of being an exile means we are marked by the blood of Jesus.
He died and shed His blood on the cross for our sins.
And we have been covered by the blood.
Like Israel's doorposts in Exodus and like the altar.
We have been strangely marked.
And we have been forgiven of all our sins.

We need to expect to be exiles here.
But we also need to understand the blessing of being an elect exile.
You have been chosen by God.
You are being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
You have been justified by the blood of Jesus.
Being an exile might not always feel fun.
But what a gift God has given us.

Point 2. **We need to expect to be saved (v. 3-4).**

Now this point is not necessarily about confidence or assurance of salvation.
In these two verses Peter is trying to expand our expectations of salvation.

Most of the time when we talk about salvation, we talk about it as something in the past.

We might ask someone, when were you saved.

We speak about being saved as a singular moment.

The time that you became a Christian.

But the Bible speaks about salvation as something that is more than a one time thing.

Peter actually describes how salvation is past, present, and future.

Verse 3, **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, he has caused us to be born again**

Here Peter reminds us of the past tense of salvation.

It is something God does to us.

The moment that we are born again.

When we put our faith in the crucified and risen Christ and come to new life.

There is a deep sense of salvation being something in the past.

And the past tense of salvation should encourage us.

There is one pastor named Evan Welcher I love who often reminds Christians to remember their baptism.

To call us to remember what baptism is and means.

It is the climatic moment where the church declares and affirms that we are born again.

We have been declared a Christian.

So we should look backward and remind ourselves that we have been born again.

Your salvation has been decided and you can take heart.

Salvation also has a present tense.

"he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Our hope is a living Hope.

Our hope is alive.

This means that our hope is a present tense reality.
Our hope is not something in the past that used to matter.
Our hope is not something that used to be significant, but isn't any longer.
Our hope is a living reality.

You see the hope of a believer.
The reason that we have been saved is because Jesus Christ is alive.
Hope it's not just that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, but that He came back and was risen.
Our hope is that He is risen.
Jesus still alive even today.
He is not among the dead.

And so our hope is a living Hope.
Our hope is a living Hope because Jesus is alive.
He is the living Hope.
Our expectation about salvation is that it has a present reality.
I have been saved in the past and I am currently alive because of Jesus.
The power of resurrection is flowing in my body.

This is part of what was mentioned before in verse 2 about how we now are being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
Being born again we should continue to live like those were born again.
Salvation should be a present reality.

The second part is later in verse 5,
"Who by God's power are being guarded through faith."
If you are a follower of Jesus.
If you are a Christian,
God is actively guarding you.
Your salvation is currently happening as God continues to guard and save you.
There is also a future tense to salvation.

Verse 4, **"to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."**

Salvation doesn't just refer to something that happened to us when we became Christians.

It does not just refer to the reality now as we are Christians.

It also refers to something that will be done because we are followers of Jesus.

And so there is a sense in which you can say, you will be saved.

There are many verses in the Bible that speak of it this way.

Romans 5:9, Hebrews 9:28, 1 John 3:2 and more.

Because that future tense of salvation refers to the moment of our death.

Because all of us in this room will die, but that is the moment where you will be saved.

Jesus will take you out of death and into eternal life.

That is the moment will be taken instead of down to hell in judgment which we deserve into heaven with Jesus.

It describes this future of salvation as an inheritance.

That there is an inheritance waiting for us.

But this is an inheritance that won't come to us when our parents die.

It's an inheritance that won't come in some long, distant family member dies, and leaves you.

This inheritance will come to us when we die.

It is an inheritance that is imperishable and filed and unfading.

It is a good inheritance.

It is not the kind of inheritance that leaves you scratching your hand and wandering what are you gonna do with all this junk.

It is not an inheritance that can't be squandered or lost.

It is not as if you had rich parents, but they lost all their money through bad investments, gambling, or bad advice and now someone else is going to take it all.

This also means that our inheritance can't go away because of our own failures.

Your inheritance is not dependent on your obedience.

Salvation is not dependent on your works.

Let's say you had aunt who was rich and older.

You might want to make sure you behave to a certain way to her so you didn't get written out of the will.

Might go over to her house or give her presents or things to make sure that she's happy.

You certainly would not want to steal from her.

You definitely wouldn't want to cut out of your life and scream and yell at her how much you hate her.

Because you recognize this inheritance could be yours.

But the inheritance that comes from Jesus and substitutionary death on the cross for us that we may be declared righteous that the riches of heaven may be taken and given to us.

Your sin will not make you miss out on the inheritance.

Jesus will not write you out of the will

As long as we have put our faith in Him.

There's also a sense that for the Jewish believers, this would've been particularly meaningful to them.

Because they viewed and the Old Testament talked about the promised land, the land of Israel is being their inheritance.

But it was a perishable inheritance.

It was an inheritance that they lost because of their disobedience.

They were kicked out of the land and welcome no more.

Peter wants them to know the land is not their true inheritance.

It's not the best part of the inheritance.

The true inheritance is what we will receive in the kingdom of God that is to come.

I don't know if we fully recognize and understand what it really means to be saved.

Because salvation is not even fully revealed into the last time.

Let me give you an example.

I love going to the movies.

So one of my favorite things and I even the weird part about it is that I like previews.

I want to get to the movie theater early so I can watch 30 minutes of trailers.

Especially when I haven't seen them yet, and I just so sucked and absorbed in the magic of cinema and the beauty what's coming.

And every time I will lean over to my wife before the real movie starts and ask "wait, what are we watching again?"

And sometimes it really is true.

I love the previews so much I forget what I came to see in the first place.

And what I have paid to see has not even started.

What all of us who are followers of Jesus have experienced of salvation so far in this life.

The joy in the beauty and the blessing that you have gotten to experience in the past and the presence of salvation in the days months years or decades is just a preview.

The movie hasn't started yet.

You will not believe how wonderful it's gonna be.

So it's important for us to have the right expectation about salvation.

Salvation isn't something that happened past that in your future.

Expect it to be even better.

Point 3: Expect to suffer (v. 6-7).

Suffering is normal.

Experiencing trials and hardship is the normal Christian experience.
If you find yourself really being tested.
If you find yourself feeling like you are under a lot of spiritual attack.
If you find yourself facing a lot of suffering, that's normal.
It is normal.
You likely have not done anything wrong.
You were just experiencing what all Christians should be experiencing.

Christians often don't expect to suffer.
Often Christians don't expect to experience hardship or trials.
They expect or want to experience blessings and things getting better and better all the time.
And then when they are suffering.
When they see the church of God suffer.
When they see their local church experience trials.
They see people in the community experience suffering they start to think wow what is God doing? This is so strange.
Peter and tell us over and over and over and over again we will suffer.

This is one of the big themes of the entire book of Peter.
We are going to talk about suffering over and over again.
The main thing that we need to understand, we need to expect that is gonna happen.

None of us like feeling pain or suffering.
But it is easier to take the pain when you know it's gonna come.
It won't feel better.
But it can be less of a sting and surprise.
This is Jesus before saying I'm so glad you're following me.
It is gonna hurt.

Verse 6, **"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials."**

You notice Peter does not even specify what kind of trials these are.

They could be trials of persecution.

They could be trials of health problems and suffering.

They could be trials of poverty.

They could be trials of demonic opposition of gospel work.

Peter does not specify because on some level he means all of them.

All trials are here and to be expected.

We should not be surprised no matter what kind of trial we find ourselves in.

Because suffering and trials are normal.

Why?

Verse 7, **"so that the tested genuineness of your faith - more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."**

The reason Peter calls them trials is because they test us.

Enduring trials proves that our faith is genuine.

There are plenty of crowds who follow Jesus.

Thousands of people follow Him during His ministry to see Him heal and to hear Him teach.

But when His teaching gets difficult and challenging, the crowds leave.

But on the day He is crucified only a few women remain.

True faith and genuine Christianity is revealed by how we respond in trials.

How do we respond and act when the fire comes.

Part of why we suffer is to separate the wheat from the chaff.

To reveal who the true followers are.

But also there is part of it that sanctifies us.

Few things will help you grow in your faith like suffering.

Few things can bring you closer to Christ than going through trials.

And our faith is more precious and valuable in gold.

But it will go through the fire.

Part of our encouragement is that our God endures the flames and fire with us.

Jesus walked around with Sharach, Meshach, and Abednego.
He goes with us.

You will experience trials and suffering.
It does not mean God has abandoned you.
It does not mean your faith is weak.
It does not mean you have failed.

What does this mean for us?
It means we should expect trials.
We cannot act surprised when Christians suffer.
And we should face them as tested of our faith.
As experiences that will sharpen us and help us follow Christ.
You cannot follow Jesus without carrying your cross.
And you cannot carry a cross without expecting to die on it.
To be a Christian is to face trials.
We should expect them and not be surprised when they come.
But they will only last a little while.
We are going to talk about this a lot more as we go through the book.
But we should expect suffering and trails.
Do not be surprised when they come.

Point 4. **Expect Jesus (v. 8-12).**

The greatest thing we can and should expect in our lives is Christ.
We should expect our lives to be filled with Jesus.
We should expect our lives to be centered around Jesus.
We should expect Jesus to be close to us.
We should expect Jesus to never leave us nor forsake us.
And ultimately all of our expectations should be centered on Jesus.

Look at verse 8, **"Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,"**

This verse is beautiful.

Peter is blown away by their love for Jesus.

He is encouraged by their belief in Jesus.

He is floored by their joy.

When we read this we need to remember who is saying it.

This is Peter.

The chief apostle.

The one who knew Jesus better than most.

Probably knew Him better and loved him more than even some of the other apostles.

He knows what Jesus' laugh is like.

He knows what Jesus smelled like.

He knows all the little things about Jesus that only someone who knows them closely can know.

But how does Peter respond to faith?

He does not mock others.

He does not tell people, "well you don't know Him like I did."

Instead, he is filled with joy.

He is so excited that we love Jesus too.

He is amazed that we have faith even though we did not see Him.

The man who walked on water.

The man who has cast out demons and healed the sick.

He is amazed at your faith.

Now we can only really do this if we expect Jesus.

We can only love Jesus and believe in Jesus if we expect to see Him one day.

If we expect our faith to be fulfilled.

Verse 9, **"obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."**

The outcome and hope of our faith is being with Jesus.

Being saved from our sins and death.

This is that future tense of salvation again.

We need to recognize the blessing it is to live on this side of Christ's coming.

To live in this time period of salvation history.

Because all of the prophets.

Isaiah, Moses, Elijah, and Jonah would trade places with you in a heart beat.

Verse 10, **"Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,"**

The salvation you Christian, have experienced.

The simple message of the gospel you have heard from childhood.

They searched and inquired carefully about it.

They asked God again and again what their prophesies meant.

Who the Messiah would be.

When would He come?

What would He do?

They prophesied about Christ, but they did not get to see Him.

They believed even though they knew very little.

Because they expected Jesus would come.

Even if they did not know what to fully expect.

Verse 11, **"inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories."**

Again they wanted to know the stories of Christ.

They asked about what He would suffer.

They wanted to know the coming glory.

Verse 12, **"It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look."**

The prophets learned that they were prophesying for the generations to come.

Isaiah said, "Send me I'll go."

Even though no one in his time listened to him.

But he knew even thousands of years later we would.

We would read Isaiah 53 and see Jesus described.

We would hear Isaiah 40 describing the grander of God and weep.

and so they served.

Expecting that Jesus would show up.

And that Jesus would make it all worth it.

So that those of us who have received the good news.

Who have been sent the Holy Spirit.

Would come to faith in the risen Savior.

"Things into which angels long to look."

What a beautiful phrase.

Angels longed to read the book we read this morning.

Angels would have given anything to read portions of Scripture you have been bored by.

Angels would have traded places with you in a heart beat just to go sit with the cubbies on Wednesday night to hear a little about what Jesus would do.

Now if all of that is true, how should that change how we live?

How differently should we act?

If we have inherited such a great and rich faith, should we expect Christ to keep His promises?

Go back to verse 7, "**result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**"

We should praise and glory and honor Christ.

He has been revealed to us.

He is revealed every time His word is read.

And He will be fully revealed to us again one day.

We should expect it.

And we should live like it is coming.

CONCLUSION:

Expect to be exiles.

Expect to be saved.

Expect to suffer.

Expect Jesus.

These should be our expectations as Christians.

And this is just a taste of what 1 Peter has in store for us.

I hope you expect to behold Christ in these words.

And my prayer and expectation is that as we behold Him, we will continue to be sanctified in his likeness.

Let us pray.