



1 PETER 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

GIFTING OF THE AUTHOR

Apostleship

Apostle (Hillman Bible Dictionary):

- *Derivation of the Greek word apostolos, one who is sent.*
- *Apostolos was used to refer to a ship or a group of ships. Ships by their nature are built to explore, expand, and are built to withstand all manner of sea conditions. A measure of ship's worth is not how it handles smooth seas, but how it handles rough seas. The measure of our relationship with Jesus is not how it handles smooth seasons but rather seasons of struggle.*

It's important to remember how they were sent out, 2 by 2. Commentators will object to Peter's authorship and break many of the rules they set in place. They will cite scriptures to infer, bring into sight unknowable questions. Such as, how did Peter, a fisherman, write such a beautiful Greek letter when he was so unlearned?

1 Peter 5:12 (gives us a hint at the answer)

Later it designated a bill, invoice, or passport. God hands his authority to you to break new ground. A passport is only as good as the approving authority, the same authority Jesus had, we have. The point is that God will bring who and what you need to accomplish the work that He has for you.

In the NT, "apostle" has three broad uses:

- First, it referred to the Twelve whom Jesus chose to train for the task of carrying His message to the world. Following His resurrection, Jesus commissioned them for this task. These men had been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry and were witnesses to His resurrection. Paul was an apostle in this sense because he had seen the risen Christ.
- The second designation of apostle (messenger) is a person authorized by a local congregation with the safe delivery of specific gifts for another Christian church (2 Cor. 8:23; Phil. 2:25).
- The third sense of apostle is those whom Jesus Christ has sent. Paul refers to a number of people as apostles in this sense (Rom. 16:7; 1 Cor. 9:1, 5; 12:28; Gal. 1:17–19).

Pastor Jay's commentary on Apostleship (*subject to change and grow with new information and revelation through study of the Word of God*)

- Apostleship can be defined as the 12 whom Jesus chose and then sent out like a squadron of ships to advance the Kingdom, those who personally saw His ministry and sufferings.
- Apostleship could also be defined as those who are designated to be messengers authorized by the CHURCH which we are still apart of.
- Apostleship, according to 1 Cor. 12:28, refers to those who are still being sent out (call of God) to advance the gospel in regions all over this world to unreached people groups including those who are the church but not THE CHURCH.
- Apostles, Elders, and Deacons make up the leadership team of THE CHURCH. (Which you have a part to play)

LIFE OF THE AUTHOR:

It was Peter who was among the inner circle of Christ's disciples. It was Peter that Jesus addressed in Matthew 16:18 when He stated, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it". It was Peter who denied the Lord at a time of fear and weakness, thankfully his fellowship with Christ was wonderfully restored (John 21).

Restoration is a beautiful thing!

After being filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, it was Peter who stood on the street in Jerusalem and courageously proclaimed the Gospel of Christ. And, as he was empowered by the Holy Spirit, some three thousand responded to his message and received Christ as their Savior.

That was just the beginning of Peter's ministry. He continued to see scores of people come to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

No wonder he believed in salvation!

This Peter wrote nothing about his experience (Pentecost) in this letter.

It amazes me that the Holy Spirit didn't inspire him to write about the things HE saw and experienced in Pentecost; not tongues, healings, miraculous moments.

In the end, what you see is a man maturing from passion to conviction. From immaturity to maturity. Peter was a passion filled person. God used it, and created a passion filled mature man of God.

MISSION OF THE AUTHOR

The mission assignment from Jesus to Peter: **John 21:15-19**

His focus in this letter was on the advancement of the gospel through applying the teachings of Jesus to the early church life. He was literally feeding His sheep. He was a denier no more. He would literally feed the sheep in 3 ways: **Instructing the believers in their life, duty, and how to handle suffering.**

With these things in mind: Peter "the rock", upon his confession and those like it, the church would be built. Peter the first pentecostal preacher. Peter whose mandate was to feed the sheep. Peter who was told the gates of hell would not prevail the advancing Kingdom, wanted you to know that how you handle suffering, adversity, your life, your priorities, will determine your advancement as a believer.

We, in the end, accept Peter as the author because there is no sufficient evidence to the contrary.

1 PETER OVERVIEW:

Key word: Suffering - used 15 times (est.)

Key theme: Prepare for the suffering that produces the advancement of the Kingdom in and through us.

Key Person: Peter

Author: Peter

Footnotes on Suffering - A Biblical Definition and Picture

- A goal of human existence is not to avoid suffering but become godly. Suffering can be redemptive or vicarious (Hos. 1:1-3:5; Isa. 53:1-12; 2 Cor. 1:3-12; 1 Pet. 3:18).
- Joseph realized his suffering led to blessing his people, so although suffering is not good in and of itself, it may lead to greater good (Gen. 50:15-21; Rom. 8:28).
- Christ exemplified vicarious suffering in the crucifixion (Matt. 16:21; Luke 24:44-48; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Heb. 2:9-10; 9:24-28).

- Believers may participate in His suffering (Matt. 5:11–12; Mark 13:7–9; Luke 9:22–26; Acts 5:38–41; Rom. 8:17–18; 2 Cor. 1:5–11; 4:7–18; Phil. 1:19–29; 3:8–11; 1 Thess. 1:4–8; 1 Pet. 4:12–14)
- Another question is, “Why does God allow the righteous to suffer?” The unrighteous do sometimes prosper, and the righteous sometimes suffer (Ps. 73:2–12; Jer. 12:1–4; Mal. 3:13–15).
- Job was a righteous man, but he suffered great disaster. Yet through all his suffering, Job continued to serve God (Job 1:21).
- At a national level Habakkuk asks why God allows an unrighteous nation to defeat a more righteous nation (Hab. 1:12–13).
- When David realized the eternal consequences of unrighteousness, he reaffirmed the goodness and justice of God (Ps. 73:1–28).
- Believers should not suffer with resignation but with hope (Pss. 39:7–13; 73:15–28; 1 Cor. 15:57–58; 2 Cor. 4:16–18; 1 Thess. 4:16–18; 1 Pet. 5:8–11).
- Through hope in the resurrection, Christians can endure victoriously, not in defeat or despair (John 16:33; Rom. 5:1–6; 8:17–39).
- The promises and presence of God turn the sufferer toward the future with confidence God will redeem even the worst suffering.
- The ultimate solution to suffering comes in heaven (Rev. 21:4–5). Even amid suffering, Christians experience God’s care. He hears and answers prayers for strength in suffering (Pss. 23:1–6; 66:13–20; 102:1–17; Mark 11:22–24; Heb. 4:14–16).
- However painful suffering is, it is a shadow compared to the glory yet to come (Rom. 8:17–18)

Some things to consider:

- God doesn’t cause it, but He will use it.
- Understanding the fallen world we live in is important.
- Our sin has created a mess. My sin has created a mess. Jesus came to give us life and life more abundantly. This is the good news. This world is not our home, we’re just passing through. This good news allows us to experience heaven on earth today, not one day.

If you are going through it, it’s Jesus that will bring light in your tunnel not at the end of it.



Missed the sermon? Watch online at
[PARKWAYCC.COM/SERMONS](https://www.parkwaycc.com/sermons)