

“Everyday life at the Margins”

1 Peter 1:1-12

Foreigners in the land.

This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.

I am writing to God’s chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. ² God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.

1 Peter 1:1-2 (NLT)

A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.

Acts 8:1b (NLT)

Everyday our culture is increasingly foreign to Christianity.

A future in heaven.

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, ⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance - an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. ⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NLT)

Because we know the future, we live for God everyday.

Don't be sad, be glad.

⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold - though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT)

“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹ The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

John 15:18-19 (NLT)

Everyday we have opportunities to live our faith.

Don't stop believing.

⁸ You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. ¹¹ They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ’s suffering and his great glory afterward.

¹² They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

1 Peter 1:8-12 (NLT)

Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”

John 20:29 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”
Luke 19:10 (NLT)

We must be an everyday church
with an everyday mission.

notes

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Have you ever lived in a foreign land? (Doesn't have to be another country, some people think California is a foreign land)

What was it like to feel like you were out of place?

2. In what ways do you see Christianity becoming more and more foreign to our American Culture?

3. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12 all the way through out loud. Pause for a minute of silence. Re-read the passage all the way through.

Share what one thing stands out to you from the passage?

4. Re-read 1 Peter 1:3-5. How does our priceless inheritance affect the way you live everyday here and now.

5. Re-read 1 Peter 1:6-7. What trials have you faced simply because you are clinging to a Biblical faith?

6. Re-read 1 Peter 1:8-9 & John 20:29. What challenges do you have in sharing your faith in Jesus Christ with out having seen him to people who have never seen him?

7. What can you do this week to move your experience of following Christ from a weekend event (or weekend plus growth group) to an everyday kind of faith?