**Elect Pilgrims – Faith, Hope, and Love**

*1 Peter 1*

**Introduction**

1. As carnality, selfish-ambition, and ignorance ate away at the Corinthian church, the apostle Paul showed them ***“a more excellent way”*** – **1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 8, 13**
   1. Rather than who has what gift, their focus should have been on faith, hope, and love.
   2. Love is the transcendent virtue which should dictate all our actions and motivations by God’s word who reveals its true character.
2. Peter penned his first epistle to Christians who were scattered all over Asia minor – **1 Peter 1:1-2** – they were elect pilgrims.
3. His epistle touches on several things, with the continued emphasis on the sufferings and trials the brethren were having to endure or would have to endure.
4. Chapter 1 sets the foundation for the endurance of these trials – the faith, hope, and love of these elect pilgrims.
5. Faith – Our Pathway
6. The pathway God has planned for all to follow is faith – **Romans 3:29-30; 2 Corinthians 5:7**
7. The Elect Pilgrims are Those Who Walk by Faith
   1. **(v. 1)** – different cities in Asia minor – largely Gentile recipients.
      1. **Pilgrim** – *parepidēmos* – “pert. to staying for a while in a strange or foreign place, sojourning, residing temporarily” (BDAG) (**cf. Hebrews 11:13, 16**)
      2. **Cf. Philippians 3:20-21** – citizenship in heaven.
   2. **(vv. 2-3)** – the election was in the realm of sanctification by the Spirit, obedience (of faith – **Romans 1:5**), and the cleansing blood of Christ.
      1. **Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:13** – ***“and belief in the truth”***
   3. (**2:6-10**) – quoting from the from **Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22**, and **Isaiah 8:14**, Peter shows why these belong to God, and are being used by Him as a temple and priesthood – **(v. 7)** – they trusted Jesus and obeyed Him.
      1. **(1:20-21)** – they believed God through Christ concerning His plan.
8. The Pathway of Faith is One of Testing
   1. **(v. 5)** – faith is God’s method of keeping us by His power.
      1. His power to salvation is in the gospel accessed by belief (**cf. Romans 1:16**).
      2. Salvation (final, spiritual body, heaven) in the form of a promise – hope.
   2. **(vv. 6-7a, 7c)** – trials are necessary to show our faith is genuine at the final coming of Christ.
      1. ***“that the proof of your faith” (NASB)*** – we have to prove ourselves.
      2. **(v. 7b)** – like precious (though faith is more precious) metals – the dross is eliminated by the fire, the result being purity.
   3. **(vv. 8-9)** – the promise of Christ’s coming is received by faith, and faith gets us through to the end.
   4. This pathway of faith we walk, maintaining it through trials, is one which Jesus took, showing us the way – **2:21-23** – obedience, commitment to God, even in suffering.
9. Hope – Our Promise
10. The elect of God who walk by faith were promised eternal life – **Titus 1:1-2** – they hope in this.
    1. Hope – *elpis* – expectation.
    2. Because God cannot lie – **Hebrews 6:16-18**
    3. **(vv. 18-19)** – redeemed from ***“aimless conduct”*** – i.e. the way they lived before in response to what was handed down to them had no hope.
       1. ***“from your fathers”***
       2. **(v. 3)** – now God is your Father, and the traditions you receive from Him, His word which guides your faith, is a pathway with promise – with hope.
11. The Hope of the Elect Pilgrims is Living
    1. **(v. 3)** – Peter calls it a ***“living hope”***
       1. ***“through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”***
       2. The hope is living because Jesus is living – **cf. 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**
       3. **“Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, just because He lives.” (“Because He Lives”)**
    2. The fact that Jesus was raised from the dead, and reigns from heaven now ensures He is coming back to receive us – **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**
12. The Hope is of Incorruption in Heaven
    1. **(vv. 3-5)** – as children, the hope is of an inheritance.
       1. It is spiritual, thus, not subject to the vagaries of life.
       2. ***“reserved in heaven”*** – i.e. not heaven, but what gives us the ability to be in heaven (**cf. 1 Corinthians 15:50**).
       3. An incorruptible, spiritual body – **2 Corinthians 5:1**
    2. **(vv. 3, 23-25)** – our birth is from incorruptible seed.
       1. Born of man – physical, subject to decay, etc.
       2. **Born of God (through word) – eternal, glorious.**
       3. Who we are is not what we will be – **Romans 8:21, 23**
13. The Hope is Sobering
    1. People of hope do not waste it away on temporary, immediate pleasures. They don’t get overwhelmed by the temporary matters of life.
    2. **(vv. 13-17)** – if we are set apart **(v. 2)** by God’s will for a different purpose and place **(v. 1),** then why would be conform ourselves to our previous, aimless **(v. 18)** way of life?
       1. ***“rest hope FULLY”*** – true expectation holds no reserves for anything else, but places everything on that prospect.
14. Love – Our Purpose
15. What specifically does Christ lead us in by faith? – in Love – **John 15:9-10, 12-13**
16. What specifically makes our hope so wonderful? – abiding Love – **1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 John 4:8**
17. Paul stressed that God’s purpose in Christ for all was love – **Galatians 5:6**
18. The Love for Christ is the Pilgrim’s Purpose
    1. **(v. 8)** – it is love for Christ that ultimately drives us in all the difficulty.
    2. ***“kept…through faith”*** – but ***“faith working in love” (Galatians 5:6)***
    3. **1 Thessalonians 1:3** – it is a labor of love.
    4. **2 Timothy 1:6-8** – the spirit of love is what compels us to do what we’re called to do for Christ. (**cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15** – His love provokes our love, and compels us to give ourselves entirely to Him.)
       1. “Nothing will do more to inspire courage, to make a man fearless of danger, or ready to endure privation and persecution, than ‘love.’” (Albert Barnes)
    5. Our purpose is to follow God’s commandments faithfully – **Ecclesiastes 12:13**
    6. The greatest of these which define our purpose is love – **Matthew 22:36-37**
19. The Love for Brethren is the Pilgrim’s Purpose
    1. The second is like the greatest – **Matthew 22:39**
    2. **(v. 3)** – begotten again with others means we are a part of a family – **(2:9** – the family of God in Christ)
    3. This relationship comes with purpose, and responsibility – **(vv. 22-23)**
       1. *Eis* (to, unto) *philadelphian* (brotherly love) *anypokriton* (unfeigned)… allēlous (one another) *agapēsate* (love, imperative) *ektenōs* (fervently)
          1. **Eis** – is a preposition showing that the obedience to the truth BROUGHT US INTO THIS RELATIONSHIP
          2. **Philadelphian** – is the relationship – brotherly love – inherently includes expressed affection.
          3. ***“Since you have purified”*** – marks a basis for following action – gives a reason for the imperative that follows.
          4. **Agapēsate** (imperative) – is the commanded action – the love of service which acts sacrificially for its object’s best interest.
       2. ***“You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.” (NLT, paraphrase)***
    4. Our unique birth, as well as that of our brethren with whom we have a share in all things glorious, ought to motivate us to drop fleshly distinctions and destructive attitudes, and grow together in Christ – **(1:23-2:5)**

**Conclusion**

1. As pilgrims, this world is not our home, but our citizenship is elsewhere. As those elect, we belong to God who chose us in Christ.
2. Our pathway in this life is faith(fulness), our promise is of hope of an eternal inheritance in heaven, and our purpose is love for God and His people, our brethren.
3. **Is this the path we’re walking? Is this the promise we’re longing for? Is this the purpose we’re living with?**