

ALIENATED

THE GOSPEL IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD



Scripture

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so 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. ⁸Though 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, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:1-9 ESV)

Outline

Big Idea: Trials point us to the hope we have in Jesus' resurrection

Point 1. God's grace and peace are multiplied to us as we live in exile

Point 2. God's power is sufficient for us through the trials we experience

Point 3. God's plan is to sanctify us and make us holy

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: How dispersed is your extended family? How often does everyone come together?

Point 1: God's grace and peace are multiplied to us as we live in exile

- Peter calls the people he is writing to “elect exiles.” What is significant about each word? What is significant about the way Peter puts them together?
- What work is each member of the Trinity doing in our lives?
- What role does God's grace play in the lives of believers?

Point 2: God's power is sufficient for us through the trials we experience

- What is the purpose of the trials believers face according to Peter? How does this align with the idea of "testing"?
- How does Peter describe the nature of believers' faith? How does having a “living hope” cause us to live differently when we receive bad news or have to walk through trials or disappointments?

Point 3: God's plan is to sanctify us and make us holy

- How does Peter define "sanctification"? What does it mean to be "holy"?
- What role does obedience play in the process of sanctification? How does Peter connect obedience to love?
- How does the hope of seeing Jesus provide motivation for believers to live holy lives?

Application Questions:

- How have you personally experienced God's grace and peace amid trials?
- What is one practical step we can take this week to grow in holiness and obedience to God?

Your Prayer

Write out a three-sentence prayer based off this passage.