

FOUNDATIONAL CHRISTIANITY (Study of 1 and 2 Peter)

Chapter One

1:1 - Some believe that the epistle was sent to the Jews in dispersion because it says “to those who reside as aliens;” however, the content of the epistle makes clear it is addressed to Christians from both Jewish and Gentile background. Every believer resides as an alien since each of us is now a citizen of the coming Kingdom and foreign to this world (2:11).

An apostle is one sent by Jesus Christ to deliver his message verbatim – that is word by word, accurately without personal interjection. This epistle was written by inspiration of God - 2Peter 1:20 and 21; Galatians 1:11 and 12; 2Timothy 3:16.

2Peter 3:2 – Prophets wrote Old Testament, and apostles wrote the New Testament. Jesus is the prophet of the new covenant (Acts 3:22-26). The Scripture is now complete.

1:2 - By way of introduction, a number of concepts are stated but not explained:

- Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father
- The sanctifying work of the spirit
- To obey Jesus Christ
- Be sprinkled with his blood

Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father - The election to salvation is corporate as well as Christ-centered. Calvin and many others view election as both specifically individual and unconditional. However, the election is primarily corporate and only secondarily individual, and it is conditional.

Sanctifying work - the process of making holy, dedicating, sanctifying

Hebrews 10:10 – By the blood of Jesus Christ, we are made holy, sanctified, set apart as holy or for holy purposes, purified.

Titus 3:3-7 God saves us from our sinful lives by the blood of Jesus and applies sanctification to our lives by the holy spirit. The spirit makes us holy. A complete moral and spiritual reformation or regeneration is given, a new life recreated, reproduced. From debased, defiled, foul, and polluted lives, we are transformed by the holy spirit into clean, fresh, pure, and holy beings.

2Thessalonians 2:13-15; Romans 15:16; 1Corinthians 1:2; 6:11 - We have the responsibility to maintain a sanctified life.

Be sprinkled with his blood - Exodus 24:1-8 –Yahweh entered into a blood covenant with Israel referred to as the Mosaic covenant and the old covenant. The covenant and the procedure were a type for what Christ would eventually do with his death, resurrection, and ascension.

Hebrews 7:22; 8:6-13; 9:22; 12:24; 13:20 The sprinkling of the blood has three aspects: 1) ratified the new covenant, 2) cleansing, and 3) forgiveness

To obey Jesus Christ – 1Peter 1:14, 22; 3:6 and 4:17 Faith is the unmistakable requirement to receive God's blessings. Faith is confidence and trust that God's words are true. Genuine faith has the corresponding works of obedience, according to James 2:14-26. If we have faith that Jesus is our Lord, then we humbly obey his commands which are written in the Scriptures.

1:3 - Following are a few verses that succinctly and clearly state what the whole of the Scriptures declare concerning the relationship that Jesus has to God.

Jesus' God is his Father; Jesus' Father is his God:

Romans 15:6 - that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:3 - Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort;

2 Corinthians 11:31 - The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

Ephesians 3:14(KJV) - For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:3 - Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

1 Peter 1:3 - Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

John 20:17 -Jesus said to her(Mary), "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

God says Jesus is His Son:

Matthew 2:15 - He remained there until the death of Herod. *This was* to fulfill what had been spoken... "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."

Matthew 3:17 - and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Matthew 17:5 - While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

Mark 1:11 - and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Mark 9:7 - Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!"

Luke 3:22 - and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Luke 9:35 -Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!"

Acts 13:13:33 - that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.

Colossians 1:13 -For He [God] rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Hebrews 1:5 - For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

Hebrews 5:5 - So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU";

2 Peter 1:17 - For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased "

Ephesians 4:6 - One God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

1Corinthians 8:5-6 NAS - For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

1Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,

The verse that encapsulates the monotheistic essence of Judaism, called the **Shema** is Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel! The LORD [Yahweh] is our God, the LORD [Yahweh] is one!” The Shema is the most important verse and concept to the Jewish people and as such is the centerpiece of the morning and evening prayer, included in every service. Parents teach their children to say it before they go to sleep at night, and all desire for it to be their final words before death.

Yahweh, God's Name

Exodus 3:14 and 15 - The Hebrew word YHWH (which most pronounce Yahweh) is God's name. The root of YHWH is *hayah*, which means existing or eternal one. The New American Standard Bible and some other translations substitute the word LORD for YHWH. A number of Hebrew and Greek words are translated Lord, but when with YHWH, the translators always capitalized all the letters, hence, “LORD.” At some point in history, the Jews became obsessively concerned with obeying the second commandment not to take God's name in vain, which resulted in not speaking or writing His name. When it came to translating the Bible into English, the scribes decide not to use God's name; rather, they wrote “LORD” in its place. Regardless of their intentions when they changed God's name, they were reprehensibly cavalier, especially

when compared with the meticulous manner in which Yahweh repeatedly endeavored to make His name known.

Exodus 6:2 and 3 - God is called many things in the Scriptures, such as God ('Elohim), Most High God (Elyon), Almighty God (El Shaddai), and so on. All of these reveal some aspect of His magnificence; nevertheless, His name is Yahweh.

Psalms 83:18 – “That they may know that You alone, whose name is the LORD [Yahweh], Are the Most High over all the earth.”

Isaiah 42:8 – “I am the LORD [Yahweh], that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.”

Isaiah 51:15 – “For I am the LORD [Yahweh] your God, who stirs up the sea and its waves roar (the LORD [Yahweh] of hosts is His name).

Jeremiah 33:3 – “Thus says the LORD [Yahweh] who made the earth, the LORD [Yahweh] who formed it to establish it, the LORD [Yahweh] is His name,”

Hosea 12:5 – “Even the LORD [Yahweh], the God of hosts, The LORD [Yahweh] is His name.”

Nowhere in the Bible does God indicate that He wants His name hidden or not spoken; rather, the opposite is vigorously communicated. He wanted Israel and all the generations that followed to know His name.

Psalms 45:17 – “I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the peoples will give You thanks forever and ever.”

Psalms 72:17 – “May His name endure forever; May His name increase as long as the sun shines; And let men bless themselves by Him; Let all nations call Him blessed.”

Psalms 102:12 – “You, O LORD [Yahweh], abide forever, and Your name to all generations.”

Psalms 135:13 – “Your name, O LORD [Yahweh], is everlasting, Your remembrance, O LORD [Yahweh], throughout all generations.”

Jesus introduced Yahweh to his disciples as Father. My children know my proper name, but when they communicate with me, they call me “Father” or “Dad.” Jesus told us to call Yahweh “Father.”

Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel! The LORD [Yahweh] is our God, the LORD [Yahweh] is one!”

4 - Our inheritance:

Imperishable - Cannot decay, spoil, or perish; KJV is “eternal” - incorruptible and immortal

Undefiled - Cannot corrupt the purity or perfection of or make unclean, unpleasant, or contaminated

Not fade away – Cannot lose freshness, strength, or vitality; it will not gradually lose its brilliance

Reserved in heaven – God is watching over and guarding your inheritance as it is completely dependent on Him.

5 – We are protected by the power of God - 1Samuel 2:8 & 9; Psalm 37:22-25; 18:2; 55:22; 62:1-8; Jude 24; John 10:28; and Phil 1:6.

“Salvation” - Verses 9, 10; 2:2; and 2Peter 3:15 - There are three facets to salvation.

- 1) We were saved when we accept the lordship of Christ (Romans 10:9; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 2:1-9)
- 2) We are being saved as we walk in obedience to our Lord
- 3) We will be saved

The same pattern (called by some “already and not yet”) is consistent with many of our God-given blessings. Ephesians 1:4 states we are called to be blameless before Him, and in 2Peter 3:13-14, we are told to live a blameless life until Christ returns when we will be completely blameless. Ephesians 1:5 tells of “our adoption as sons through Jesus Christ;” yet, Romans 8:22 and 23 say, “waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons;” Ephesians 1:7 states, “In Him we have redemption through His blood;” while verse 14 refers to redemption as a future reality when Christ returns.

7 – Trials - 4:12-13; 5:10; James 1:2-4; Romans 5:2-4; 12:12; 2Corinthians 4:17; 12:9

10-12 – That which God accomplished in Jesus was kept secret from everyone in heaven and earth. Matthew 13:17; 1Corinthians 2:7 & 8; Romans 16:25; Ephesians 3:8; and Colossians 1:27

13 – 1Peter 4:7 and 8; 1Thessalonians 5:6-8

15 – Ephesians 1:4 These few words communicate God’s desire before creation and ever since (the true purpose of the ages to be completely accomplished in the end).

God chose us to be holy. The most common designation for Christians in the New Testament is “saints” meaning holy ones. The Epistle of Ephesians, according to chapter one verse one, is to the saints. Paul uses this appellation nine times in this small epistle. “Saints” is translated from the Greek word *hagios* that most often is translated “holy” (161 times). “Saints” are holy ones. God called us to be holy and refers to us as holy ones (saints).

1Corinthians 6:11 - The Scriptures teach that a person becomes a saint (holy one) when he accepts the lordship of Christ and believes that God raised him from the dead. At that moment, God’s gracious gift of holy spirit is given thereby making the believer holy.

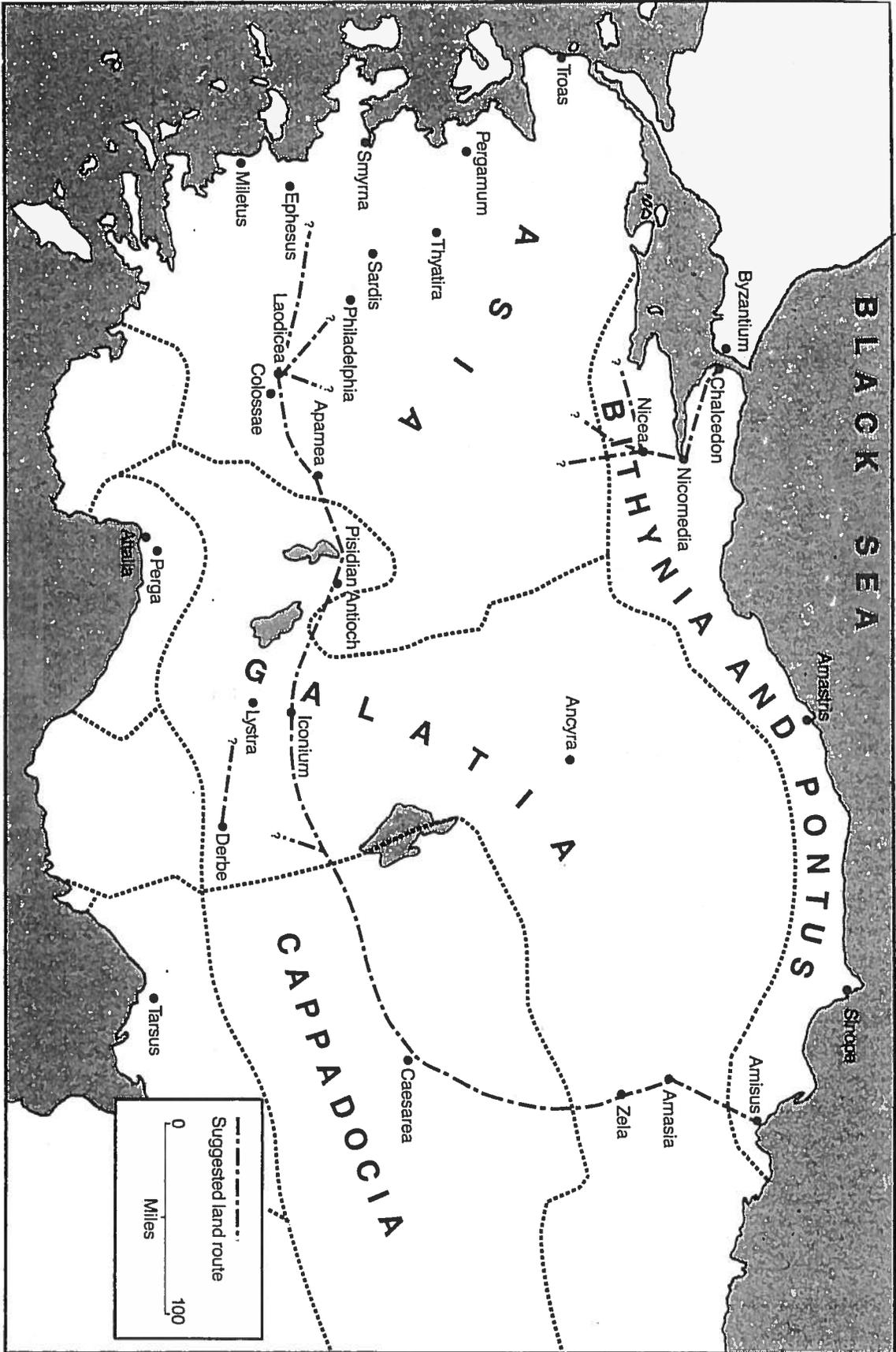
2Corinthians 7:1 - After our initial conversion, we strive to live a holy life and to progress or mature in holiness.

Saints are not perfect ones, rather holy ones – those striving to live with Jesus Christ as Lord. When we fall, which we will, we ask for forgiveness, get up, and continue on our way to the day of complete holiness. When Jesus comes back, with the resurrection, we will receive a new life which is completely free from all defilement and consummated in holiness. At that time, we will be perfect. To summarize, “holiness” consists of three aspects: 1) when we first believe, we are made holy by God’s grace through Jesus Christ; 2) henceforth, throughout life we endeavor to live holy; 3) when Christ returns, we will become completely holy forever.

16 –Quoted from Leviticus 11:44 & 45; 19:2; 20:7 Be “consecrated” means dedicated to a sacred purpose, hallowed (revered, venerable, highly respected).

20 – Foreknown – Greek *proginosko* means knowing beforehand (1:2 and 2Peter 3:16-18). Is God the only one with foreknowledge?

23 – Born again by the word of the Lord



Questions Session One

1) To whom is this epistle addressed? _____

2) The election has three features – Christ centered, corporate, and _____.

3) Biblical covenants have two parties – God and the believers. The Mosaic Covenant and the new covenant were ratified with _____.

4) Faith is confidence and trust that God’s Words are true. Genuine faith has the corresponding works of _____.

5) What is Yahweh’s relationship to Jesus? _____ and _____

Select three verses that support this truth _____

John 20:17 write out:

6) When and where did the Trinity begin to become the accepted doctrine of the church? _____

7) The Hebrew spelling of God’s proper name is _____, and English spelling is _____. In Exodus 6:3, God clearly states His proper name. Give four other verses that state straightforwardly God’s name: _____.

8) Explain the pattern of “already and not yet” as it pertains to salvation.

9) The most common designation for Christians in the New Testament is _____.

10) What is Jesus’ last name? _____

Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4 and 5 using God's proper name:

Hear, O Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is one! You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

John 20:17 - Jesus said to her[Mary], "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

Read 1 and 2 Peter at least once from two different versions of the Bible.