

Be Reminded: God is not Finished with me Yet! 1 Peter 1:1-12...

The “Twelve Apostles” are a spectacular collection of seven limestone “stacks” off the coast near Victoria’s Port Campbell. Their title, “Twelve Apostles” obviously has a Biblical origin. This reminds me of the twelve disciples chosen by Jesus 2000 years ago who after spending time with Jesus became “Apostles” after being commissioned by Jesus for ministry. These disciples were very ordinary people, mostly fishermen and a tax collector. They went on to make an extraordinary difference. Let’s look at the example of Peter.



1. A wonderful confession of _____ Mt. 16: 13-16

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” ... Matthew 16:13-16..



- Jesus praised Peter for his confession of faith. It is faith like this that is the foundation of Christ’s Kingdom.. A wonderful beginning but then Peter “blew” it badly!! We are well capable of this too!

2. Peter denies Jesus _____ times Luke 22:54 ff

- Just imagine: A fire blazed brightly through the long night hours in the courtyard of the old city of Jerusalem. A curious crowd of men and women shifted back and forth around the fire wondering how the trial of the Man called Jesus was going on close by.
- A young woman in the gossiping group kept staring at a nervous man among them. As Simon Peter muttered a few words in subdued tones the woman declared, *“This man was with him.”* *But he (Peter) denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.* Luke 22:56,57. Three times Peter denied Jesus and the cock crowed.. Peter fled and wept. Thankfully they were the tears of a “broken and contrite heart” - a teachable heart .. Psalm 51:17..

3. Jesus _____ Peter... John 21

- God gave Peter a 2nd chance.. Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love Me”? three times beginning in John 21:15 *After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love (ἀγαπάω) me more than these others do?” “Yes, Lord,” he answered, “you know that I love (φιλέω) you.”* The first two times Jesus used the word “agape” (sacrificial love) and the third time He used “phileo” - signifying affection or brotherly love. Jesus said to Peter... *Feed My sheep..* John 21:17... We, nearly 2000 years later are fed by the words written by Peter under the guidance of the Holy Spirit .. (2 Timothy 3:16,17)
- How do I respond to that question of Jesus “Do you really love Me?”



4. An _____ mission 1 Peter 1:1

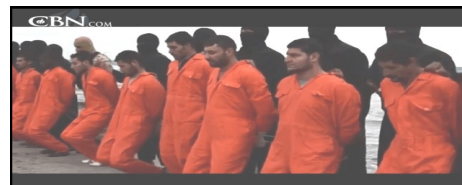
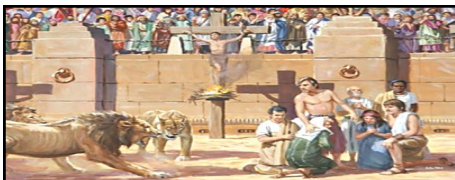
Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia... 1 Peter 1:1..

- Verse 1... *Peter an apostle* (ἀποστολος) *of Jesus Christ*, .. Sent forth—on a mission—by the Lord Jesus Himself ... Peter's given name was Simon, but Jesus changed it to Peter, which means "a rock" in Greek (John 1:35–42). The Aramaic equivalent of "Peter" is "Cephas," so Peter was a man with three names. (Wiersbe) ..
- Peter and Paul were the two leading apostles in the early church. Paul was assigned especially to minister to the Gentiles, and Peter to the Jews (Galatians. 2:1–10)

5. "Feeding" and _____ vs1 & 6.

vs 1... To God's elect, exiles scattered.... and see vs 6... now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials...

- That's the understatement of the century when Peter was writing. Studying a little church history reveals that at that time Christians were being fed to the lions. They were being burned at the stake. Nero burned Rome in 64AD....this fire raged for 3 days and 3 nights....hundreds of public buildings were burnt down and thousands of homes. The people blamed Nero for starting the fire and Nero blamed the Christians...a scapegoat.
- Historians estimate that 3 million Christians were killed in the first 100 years of the Christian church. It was indeed true the statement...*the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church*



- Listen to the world news and we hear lots of bad news...accidents, famine, war...terrorism— Christians are often the victims in other countries. . Mission statistician, David Barrett, estimates 250,000 Christians alone are killed each year because they say "Jesus is Lord"... and not the equivalent of "Caesar is Lord"... 2 Timothy 3:12..*In fact everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*

Don't give up... we live to an audience of One!

- Peter wrote this letter to God's elect... to Christians everywhere, but especially *scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. Vs 1...*This is modern day Turkey. The *elect* were Jews and Gentiles who became followers of Jesus. Things don't happen by chance in God's economy. God is Sovereign. God offers salvation but we still need to respond..

6. "Feeding" and _____ vs1 & 6.

- Notice Peter under the direction of the Holy Spirit wrote that God's people are *strangers in the world* (1 Peter 2:11) (1 Peter 1:1.. *exiles*). This is a reminder that this world is not our real home...we are just a passing through. Enjoy God's world but don't get too attached to it because it is a temporary residence.

Vs 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.*



Amazing photo of an unborn infant being operated on by a surgeon and the little one reaches out and grabs hold of the surgeons fingers. Tragically 1500+ abortions take place in Australia each week...

- Many people feel the hurt of rejection.. eg even at school or in the workplace. Be reminded the Creator of the Universe has chosen each of us. Peter is saying that our salvation is no accident. Jeremiah 1:5 *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...* 1 Corinthians 6:19,20... *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price* So honour God with your bodies—don't violate God's standards for living.
- If God made us... and He did, then He owns us. He owns our life...Live our lives in a way which honours Him. There is an enormous hope In Jesus Christ..
- The word for 'hope' in the NT .. ἐλπίζω.. Hebrews 11:1.. *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.* .. speaks of a confident and sure expectation. Jesus gives us a reason for hanging in there even when the pressures of life get overwhelming..a sense of hopelessness can produce dark thoughts so when we face tough times... *keep looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.* There is great hope in Jesus. (Romans 5:3,4)

Why would God choose us?

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ...Ephesians 2:8,9

God's

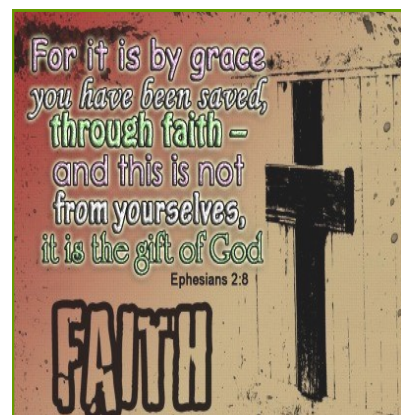
R.....

A.....

C.....

E.....

On what did God choose us?



7. We are chosen because we are _____

.....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.. 1 Peter 1:2

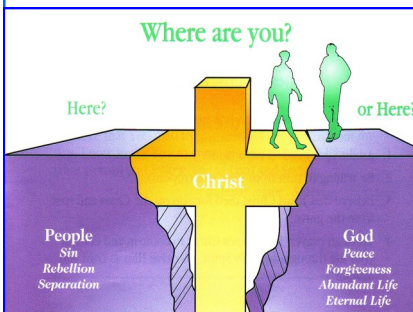
- Why would God choose us? Certainly not because I've done something to deserve this but simply because He is a God of love. He is a God of grace. The more you understand grace the more you're going to be amazed by it. God chose you and me...
- Note the word "mercy"...vs 3...*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...* Salvation is dependent on God's mercy ... not our performance.. We can never earn it... We can escape the punishment we deserve if we come to Jesus in repentance and faith - that's mercy. In coming to Jesus with a broken and contrite heart we can receive forgiveness and salvation - which we don't deserve – that is grace, amazing grace. Mercy—is not receiving the punishment we deserve. Grace—is receiving what we don't deserve ie forgiveness & salvation, when we repent and receive Jesus.

8. My _____ to God's amazing love...

John 1:12...

Romans 10:9....

God's solution... Acts 3:19.... *Repent then and turn to God so that your sins maybe wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord*



How to Receive Christ

- A. A _____ I am a sinner... Romans 3:23; 6:23..
- B. Believe that Jesus Christ died for me. Romans 10:9; Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 3:18
- C. Commit my life to following Jesus—repent (Acts 3:19) and through prayer receive Jesus as Saviour and Lord ...

What to pray.....

Heavenly Father.. *I admit I have done wrong and need forgiveness. Thank You for Jesus who has taken the punishment for my sins on the cross. Please forgive me for my sin and help me turn away from doing wrong (repent). With Your help Jesus I am willing to follow and obey You as Lord and Saviour of my life. Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit and eternal life with You. In Jesus' Name. Amen*

Let someone know if you have prayed this prayer sincerely for the first time.. You need to **keep growing** as a disciple of Jesus..

Be patient! God is not finished with me yet!