

Sunday, January 20, 2020

“Hope-Filled Living”

Summary of Real Security

1 Peter 1:1-2

Wayne Shelton

The message of Peter’s first letter turned the world upside-down for his readers. He saw the people of the young church of the first century as strangers, aliens who were only temporary residents, travelers heading for their native land. Peter wants believers to realize that we never fully belong in this world. Strangers have no permanent residence. Aliens cannot hold positions of power and rarely enjoy full privileges. This is essential to a Christian’s identity. Yes, the church is privileged by God; we are his chosen ones. Yet, at the same time and for the same reason, the church is disadvantaged in society. Because believers are God’s chosen people, we are ‘strangers’ or ‘exiles’ in our own world. We must remember that we are exiles and therefore will never be completely home in this world. That is, we (exiles) live between two worlds. We need to grasp the right lessons from this. Scripture holds two ideas in tension. We are, simultaneously, exiles in this world and agents of change within it. So, then, we are engaged exiles. For this calling, we need grace. That is just what we find in First Peter.

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