

### Scripture – 1 Peter 1:1-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup>according 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.

### Summary:

The readers of the apostle Peter's letter were in a difficult situation. Because of persecution that had broken out in Jerusalem, they found themselves scattered in Asia Minor, north of the Taurus Mountains (take note of the locations in v. 1). In their continued persecution, Peter charges them to trust God, live obediently, and look to Jesus for hope. In the opening verses, Peter reminds his readers that they are "elect" exiles. God had chosen them "before the foundations of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). God's plan for them in persecution was the same for them at any other point – sanctification (or growth) and obedience.

A note about the sprinkling of blood: "Under the Old Testament law, the blood of an animal sacrifice was required for the forgiveness of sin, and for showing what belonged to God. We have not been literally sprinkled with Jesus' physical blood, but His blood was literally spilled when He died on the cross to pay for our sin. His shedding of blood made it possible for us to be made clean from our sin and for God to claim ownership of us and declare us 'holy.' We fulfill our purpose in the universe when we obey Christ. It's what we were chosen for."

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**START (the group):** How has your first week of school been? Has there been something about the last seven days that was unexpected?

Transition: We are going to begin a study in the letter of 1 Peter. Because of persecution that had broken out in Jerusalem, the recipients of this letter found themselves scattered about in the ancient world. However, even in their persecution and location in a foreign land, Peter charges them to trust God and

live obediently. In other words, there was a purpose for their time in exile, just as there is a purpose for our time at USF.

**STUDY (the passage):**

Read: 1 Peter 1:1-2

Ask questions about the text:

"Let's go ahead and look back over the text"

1. Is there anything that you have a question about?
2. Who's the author of this letter? Where does his authority come from?
3. Who does he say he's writing to?
4. What does Peter call them? Why do you think that's significant?
5. Summarize verse 2 in your own words.

**APPLY:**

6. If it's true that our location is a part of God's plan, how does that shape our purpose?
7. How can you apply this passage to your life today? (1 measurable goal)