



Welcome everyone and introduce all. Share together how God was glorified in and through your life during the Christmas season.

Read I Peter 1:1-2

Peter is mentioned in the Gospels more than anyone other than Jesus. No disciple speaks in the gospels more than Peter. Jesus spoke to Peter more than to any other individual. In a real sense Peter was the leader of the Apostolic group. Considering this, how would the early church have received Peter's letter?

"Apostle" means "sent". In what sense was Peter sent? With what was Peter sent? If you were sent with the gospel today, would you know the basic elements of the good news?

J.I. Packer defines the gospel as, "God saves sinners."

Here is a definition by Ed Stetzer:

*The gospel is the good news that God, who is more holy than we can imagine, looked upon with compassion, people, who are more sinful than we would possibly admit, and sent Jesus into history to establish His Kingdom and reconcile people and the world to himself. Jesus, whose love is more extravagant than we can measure, came to sacrificially die for us so that, by His death and resurrection, we might gain through His grace what the Bible defines as new and eternal life.*

As a project, write in your own words a definition of the gospel.

What does it mean to be elect?

In what sense are the believers to whom Peter writes exiles?

What is the advantage for the Kingdom of God that Christians are dispersed? Are you living out the strategy of God's dispersion?

Why is it important that Peter includes the Trinity in his opening salutation?