INTRODUCING 1 PETER

THE AUTHOR: PETER

1 Peter 1:1a "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ …" (NIV)

Mark 1:16-18 "16 As Jesus was walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 18 At once they left their nets and followed Him." (NIV)

"Apostle" = Gk: "Apostolos" = send as a messenger, envoy, ambassador

1. God can use any PROFESSION.

Acts 4:13 "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." (NIV)

2. God can use any PERSONALITY.

Mark 8:31-33 "31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke Him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciple, He rebuked Peter, "Get behind me, satan!" He said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (NIV)

3. God can use any PAST.

John 21:15-19 "15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love

me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." 18 "Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God." Then He said to Him, "Follow me!" (NIV)

THE RECIPIENTS: Christians under PRESSURE.

1 Peter 1:1-2 "1 … To God's elect, exiles scattered through the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 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." (NIV)

1. In Relationship to God: The ELECT

1 Peter 1:1-2 "1 … To God's **elect** … 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 …".

a. A people apart of God's PLAN.

1 Peter 1:1 "… who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father …".

b. A people with God's POWER.

1 Peter 1:2 "… through the sanctifying work of the Spirit …"

c. A people living God's PURPOSE.

1 Peter 1:2 "… **to be obedient** to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood …" (NIV)

2. In Relationship to Society: EXILES

1 Peter 1:1 "… **exiles scattered** through the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia …".

a. This is to be EXPECTED.

John 15:18-19 "18 If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." (NIV)

b. This can be ENDURED.

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world." (NIV)

THE THEME: There is HOPE!

1 Peter 1:3-5 "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, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade …" (NIV)