

PETER, THE MAN BEHIND THE BOOK



1 PETER 1:1-2 | ERIC SIMPSON | JANUARY 5, 2025

1 Peter 1:1-2

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout 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.

"The first and most basic thing we can and must do is to keep God before our minds...This is the fundamental secret of caring for our souls. Our part in this practicing the presence of God is to direct and redirect our minds constantly to Him. In the early time of our 'practicing' we may well be challenged by our burdensome habits of dwelling on things less than God. But these are habits – not the law of gravity – and can be broken... A new, grace-filled habit will replace the former ones as we take intentional steps toward keeping God before us. Soon our minds will return to God as the needle of a compass constantly returns to the north. If God is the great longing of our souls, He will become the pole star of our inward beings."

– Dallas Willard



➤ Peter – ordinary, far from perfect

Matthew 16:22-23

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Matthew 16:33-35

33 Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." 34 "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." 35 But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

➤ Peter – bold, courageous

Acts 1:15

In those days Peter stood up among the believers...

Acts 2:12-14

12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd...

Acts 4:7-8

7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them:
"Rulers and elders of the people!

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.

"I preached as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men."

– Richard Baxter, 17th century English Puritan

➤ **Peter – sacred suffering**

Nero – Emperor of Rome (54-68 AD), executed Apostle Paul & Apostle Peter

Peter would have remembered Jesus saying...

John 15:20

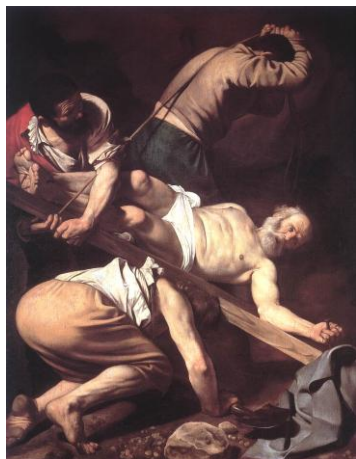
...If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also...

John 16:33

... In this world you will have trouble...

Matthew 5:11

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."



Crucifixion of Peter by Caravaggio

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