

Sermon Notes

Encouraging Words to Exiled Christians “Comfort from the Knowledge of God’s Election”

I. Introduction.

A. Background

1. Written by Peter from Rome.

a. I Peter 5:13; 1:1,17

2. Date would be between A.D. 60-68.

B. Occasion

1. To encourage persecuted Christians.

II. Main text

A. I Peter 1:1-2

1. Peter’s credentials.

2. The recipients.

3. Chosen according to God’s foreknowledge.

III. Understanding Foreknowledge

A. The Golden Chain Romans

1. Romans 8:29-30

a. John Stott

b. John Piper

c. Illustration of the sky scraper.

B. Foreknowledge as the foundation.

1. Eternity past.

C. Divine Foreknowledge

1. *Ginosko* – to know

a. More than simply foreseeing.

2. Old Testament “know” as an expression of love.

a. Amos 3:2; Jer. 1:5; Gen 4:1; Gen 18:19; Ps. 1:6; Ex. 2:25

3. New Testament usage.

a. Matt. 7:22-23; I Cor. 8:3; Gal. 4:9a; I John 3:1

4. New Testament usage of the term “foreknowledge.”

a. Romans 11:2; I Peter 1:2; I Peter 1:20; Rom 8:29

IV. The Blessing

A. God’s enabling power.

1. Verse 2

a. Work of the Spirit – I Peter 1:3; I Peter 1:18-19.

V. Points for Reflection

A. Peter writes to beleaguered Christians who feel as pilgrims.

B. He encourages them by reminding them of God’s particular affection for them.

C. Note that the Trinity is involved in the process of the call.

D. Peter says, here is the best way for me to pick you up.