

1Peter 10-10-15b

We pick up our study now in 1 Peter and the conclusion that I probably should have stated at the beginning of our first class tonight with regard to what we saw in these first few verses is that it is so helpful for objectivity, it is so helpful in terms of decision making, setting of priorities and goals, in other words, for living our lives the way we should, it is so helpful to begin with our identity in Christ. Who are we in Christ? And I don't mean to mislead you when I say that you ought to know who you are. It doesn't necessarily mean that you've got to sit and fret and try to identify your spiritual gift.

That's one aspect of our identity in Christ, but don't wrap around the axle on that. Who are we in Christ? This is what Peter is going to explain for this particular group of people to whom he is writing. As I mentioned, this area in northern Turkey where these five regions are, you start at the Black Sea and you work, if I said counterclockwise, I should have said clockwise.

You go, my hand moved clockwise for me, but it was probably counterclockwise for you. But these people are in a strange place. They are strangers.

They epitomize in many ways the nature of our lives as heavenly citizens dwelling on earth. We don't fit in with a secular materialistic culture. We don't fit in with people who see the universe and the world as mechanistic and deterministic and a happenstance and a series of strange accidents and one of many possible outcomes and driven by DNA and by experiences and by the happenstances of other times and places.

What happened to you when you were a child? What were your formative influences? Which kind of a village did you get raised by and so on? None of that. We are heavenly citizens. We have been chosen by God to live in this time, in this place, in this family, in this marriage, in this environment, this workplace, this community, whatever aspect we find ourselves in.

And it doesn't matter how you got here. Did you make what you think might have been a bad decision? It doesn't matter. Did somebody else make what you think might have been a bad decision? I wish my parents had never moved here.

I wish I had never had to grow up here. I wish, I wish, I wish. Forget about all that.

Right here, right now, where you are, with the people and the relationships and the circumstances and the associations and the challenges and the blessings, whatever else it may be, God ordained it. God knew you would be here right now and He gives us the opportunity in His grace and through His provision to invest in eternity as we deal with whatever it is that is on our plate right now. We can redeem the time.

We can lay hold of inheritance. We can lay up for ourselves treasure. We can prepare ourselves for service.

I don't care whose fault it is. I don't care how fortunate or unfortunate the weaving together of time and fateful factors is or was. It doesn't matter about heredity.

It doesn't matter about environment. And for some people, this is saying a lot. Really, for all of us, it's saying a lot.

But some of us have more invested than others in how we got to where we are. There is a huge, huge prevalence of victimhood, of victim mentality. It's not my fault.

I couldn't help it. It was beyond my control. You can't make that claim as a believer.

You cannot make that claim. I am saying a strong thing here. You cannot claim victimhood as a believer.

You are not a victim. You are a conqueror. You are a victor.

You are an overcomer in Christ. If you find yourself still being a victim, guess what? You are not living in the victory and the overcoming and the faith and the confidence that comes through Jesus Christ. Not to say that you're not going to be suffering slings and arrows.

Not to say that you're not going to be dealing with some disadvantages or dealing with some setbacks. I'm not saying that at all. It's the attitude with which we meet them.

Am I a victim or am I a prince of God? Am I a slave or am I free? Am I an overcomer or am I an underwhelmer? What am I? If any man be in Christ, he is a neighbor. If any man be in Christ, he is a friend. This is Greek for news.

This is the New Creation. All things are passed away, all things have become new. And this is new.

This Greek word for new means new in the sense of potential, new in the sense of, you know, how much... those of us who have passed a certain age, what do you think you could do if you had a new body a new you know 22 year old issue body what do you think you could do if I had the knowledge I have now in the body I had then I would be an unstoppable force in the universe I could get so much done so fast so well so cleanly with such ingenuity and such grace and aplomb that I would dazzle anybody in my vicinity I was capable but dumb when I was young I am slightly smarter and largely incapable now and you just you say you know why couldn't I be as smart as I am now and as capable as I was then well you just you know it's a it's a well bucket as as your brain and your body sink your wisdom grows and by the time you completely cratered out you're just about ready for eternity you're ready to start over with a new body with a new set of potentials but here's the thing if any man be in Christ new creation half the battle is remembering who we are in Christ we don't deal with people in our strength we don't deal with people on our qualifications Peter doesn't say well I know some of y'all are really wonderful businessmen and

and maybe I'm not well known for that or I know y'all are probably well off and I'm kind of a humble guy I know some of y'all are probably very erudite and very learned and you've probably got university education so you've been through the Greek system of philosophy and education and so on and I'm just a Galilean fisherman you know the people in Galilee had an accent that in those days was kind of like an Alabama or a Mississippi accent is in the United States you have to wait and hear somebody talk before you think they're very smart when they first start out with a southern accent you just kind of naturally assume well they're just a they're just some kind of a hit there's some kind of a backwoods person they've got a southern accent we assume this we just it's it's a default and and you suddenly find out that some people you listen to J Vernon McGee if you listen to him talk for just a couple of minutes you think well you know he sounds kind of kind of southern you know he's he's probably not going to come out with any great insights and then the more you listen to him you begin to think wow you know this this guy's not not not slow by a long shot well people from Galilee had that accent Peter might have might have had kind of an inferiority complex or if I might have thought he wasn't going to impress anyone because he had that Galilean accent that's how the girl in the courtyard recognized him you're one of those Galileans aren't you you're one of those you're one of those Georgia Hicks you're one of those southern crackers aren't you you're one of you probably listen to Lynyrd Skynyrd and feast on hog jowls in your spare time or something but it's not who we are in our flesh it's not who we are with our set of givens when we're born or our set of circumstances when we grew up or our background or or even anything that we think that we've attained by way of education or accomplishment it's none of those things we are who we are in Christ you can be greatly accomplished in this life and if you're small in Christ you're nothing you can have very few attributes very few impressive qualifications and be great if you're great in Christ we are who we are in Christ and we are declared to be and we ought in fact to be overcomers Peter Apostle how many failures could you attribute to Peter there's plenty the scripture is very unsparing in showing Peter's flaws but he's Peter the Apostle you think about David scripture is very unsparing in giving David's shortcomings and failures as a father and and as a husband and and also his some of his successes but his successes are in the Lord you come to me with a sword and spear I come to you in the name of the Lord God of hosts whom you have defied you say you're going to feed me the birds and the fowl the air and the beasts of the field I'm telling you it's gonna be the other way around and it was not because David was a mighty warrior he couldn't even wear armor it's because he served the Living God that's what we have to remember David and Goliath is a famous famous story but they typically say well you know we're rooting for the underdog it's got nothing to do with underdog it has everything to do with who David is as a relative youth inexperienced never been in combat never had any formal training his brothers are in the army he's not he's a shepherd he's had a little bit of experience in terms of self-control and remembering what he knows when he faced the lion and the bear he he can use his skills under pressure that's the kind of training that he has but he did it in faith he said the same God that helped me defeat the lion and the bear is going to help me defeat this Philistine I'm going to use the same faith that I developed in small ways on this big problem we are who we are in Christ if

you don't remember anything else from that first lesson remember Peter and who he would have been without Jesus Christ just another nameless fisherman just another Galilean and even with his flaws and even with his failures look who he became in Christ we are who we are in Christ in Christ we are overcomers in Christ we are victorious in Christ we are headed for glory in Christ we are going to rule and reign with him we will walk with him we will wear the white robe we will have the new name we will have the white stone we will ride white horses we will push enemies over the brink into the eternal lake of fire we are going to be qualified and have the potential to do great wonderful things that we can't even begin to think of in Christ in Christ we are a new creation we ought to define ourselves in Christ don't let other people define you this is one of the things you have to learn as a teenager growing up you can't let your self-image be defined by those around you good or bad there's you know girls that have a cute face a nice figure and people who and all over them and they define themselves by that and that's how they live there's there's others that that aren't so gifted in the appearance arena and they let other people define who they are and they develop a complex and they start you know acting wallflower ish and and shy and and lack lacking confidence the Lord Jesus Christ died for you died for me just as much an investment in you as in the Apostle Paul or King David or Moses or anybody else you want to name just as much of an investment just as much of a sacrifice just as much love just as much opportunity there is no reason why you and I cannot be just as great in our field of endeavor as any biblical character you want to name they were people they put their clothes on you know one sandal at a time just like we do one one garment at a time they probably didn't have pants with legs I can't really use that turn a phrase but they were ordinary people just like you and me they were great because they let God work in and through them and you and I can do the very same thing so this is what Peter is getting across to his audience he says look don't think you're a lesser Jew because you don't live in the land don't think that you're kind of a hybrid weird thing because now you're a Jewish Christian and the Jews don't like you and the Gentiles still don't accept you and you're really a fish out of water God chose you for this you are there on purpose it's not an accident don't look at it as a deficit don't look at it as a disadvantage now the secular world tries to say oh you know every cloud has a silver lining and think positive and this those are pale echoes of a very real truth God says my strength is made manifest in your weakness this is where the truth of it is because there's not only the statement you know look on the bright side or think positive this will actually work out better there is a reality in it there is a divine power in it there is the presence of God in it think of your deficit think of your weakness think of your inability sometimes this is the thing that God uses why do you think Peter is so well known he's one of them spectacular disciples you know if if this letter began Bartholomew an apostle of Jesus Christ how much of an impact is that going to me I mean bless Bartholomew he'll probably smack me when I see him in glory but you know if it said Bartholomew the Apostle what would people be thinking and what do you want when he says Peter the Apostle people say wow Peter I've heard of him he's the guy the only other human besides the Lord Jesus to walk on water he's the guy that denied the Lord three times he's the guy that Jesus restored three times he's the guy that was preaching in boldness and power after being such a craven coward on the

day of Pentecost what a transformation in seven weeks seven weeks he goes from the world's biggest coward to the world's boldest spokesman for Christ it's incredible that's Peter well would he have been as well known without his weaknesses that God repaired and and turned to advantage and is comforted and encouraged countless hundreds of millions of believers ever since probably not we can't sit around dwelling on what we don't have and what we didn't get and what what doesn't work right and how it fell short and we got the short fuzzy end of the lollipop or whatever we are what we are in Christ we view ourselves in Christ he doesn't say Peter the failure that you've all heard of he says Peter Apostle that's what Jesus made me I am no longer just a fisherman I am no longer just a failure I am Peter the Apostle so remember that we are privileged to claim the spoils of victory of the Lord Jesus Christ don't let anybody tell you any different don't let anybody make you act any different don't be intimidated don't be made shy don't be made insecure don't be made uncertain don't be belittled certainly not in our own minds don't take any fertilizer off of people because they seem to be making claims and they think that they've got a status or a standing you are a child of God you are a blood-bought redeemed saint you are a brother of the Lord Jesus Christ you are a sister of the Lord Jesus Christ you are an eternal heir you're a citizen of heaven God willing and if we stick with it we will be citizens inside the new Jerusalem where these people are if they're there at all are going to probably be in the darkness which is outside if they're ne'er-do-wells who are you in Christ we need to remember who we are and why we're here and look at life in that light this is what Peter is going to tell them in this next verse he says you are chosen to be pilgrims dispersed they're looking at this as a bad thing Jews ought to be in the land Jews ought to be in Jerusalem Jews ought to be down at the temple sanctified Jews in Christ so much the more so the church is in Jerusalem the Apostles are in Jerusalem we just saw that in Acts even when the church got scattered the Apostles stayed in Jerusalem why am I not there I I'm a second-rate Jew and I'm a second-rate Christian because I'm not where I ought to be I'm scattered out here to the winds for whatever reason Peter says not at all you're right where God wants you reminds me of the Marines at the frozen chosen when they found out they were surrounded they said that's great right where we got them right where we want them we can advance in any direction and and and shoot the enemy we don't have to go find them they're right there this is perfect this is great we can shoot in any direction to hit exactly what we want to hit it's great that's the attitude we ought to have get motivated be encouraged remember who you are this life is a fleeting thing nothing ought to be getting us down you are chosen to be these strangers of the dispersion in these five regions according to the foreknowledge of God now these words as I mentioned elect and foreknowledge and Calvinists are jumping on that with both hands and both feet yeah looky there God's for for not for new before the foundation the world chose you to salvation think about the context he says you have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God to be exactly where you are now how do I know this is not talking about salvation that it should be translated the way all of these English translations do you know elect according to the foreknowledge of God you are you are God's elect and and God foreknew you and how do I know that this is not talking about salvation keep your Bible open to first Peter chapter 1 and skip down to verse 20 we're not adverse 20 yet

probably wish we were but we're not we will be shortly Peter is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ look at verse 18 first Peter 1:18 knowing that you are not redeemed with corruptible things like silver and gold from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers by the way Jews tradition of the fathers' clue but verse 19 with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot who knows about lambs without blemish and without spot who understands what takes place at Passover what the requirement is on 14 Nisan look at verse 20 he indeed was what for known prognosco now if foreknown means for loved and chosen ahead of time for salvation how does that fit here Jesus would have been lost but he was foreknown and so now he's saved what foreknown means for you know loved before you were born and so on nonsense Jesus was foreknown it says foreordained there's no ordained this is foreknown prognosco it's a form of this word it's a it's a noun it's got minnow in it you know but it's this is from prognosco it's the very same word we have the foreknowledge of God prognoscan here he is pro egg note pro egg nose menu if you want the actual Greek form but you can hear it in there the e just gives you the the help in parsing this as a perfect passive participle having been foreknown perfect passive participle Jesus is the one having been foreknown has nothing to do with saving Jesus God knew ahead of time what Jesus' role would be in his plan and purpose in the same way that you whom he has foreknown have a place in God's plan and purpose and God knew it ahead of time it's your place in the plan and purpose of God that is foreknown God knows ahead of time now without flipping the page you should be able to find well you might have to flip the page to chapter 2 remember we looked at this week or two ago chapter 2 verse 4 coming to him as to a living stone rejected indeed by men but what rejected indeed by men but what's the word say it out loud chosen guess what the Greek word is for chosen it's the very same word that we have here in our context of 1st Peter 1 to it is the plural here in 1st Peter 2 for it is the same word applied to the Lord Jesus he is chosen it's just the singular now was Jesus chosen for salvation is he elect meaning he was foreknown and foreordained to be saved what does it mean he is a stone chosen by God well how many sons did God have any turn to pass that he could choose was there a vast number of you know angelic beings or something and God said well I could save them all I could choose them all but I'm just going to choose one you right there you're I'm going to choose you out of the group is that what it means that there was a greater number and God selected Jesus how many persons in the Trinity are there was this well I could choose the Holy Spirit or Jesus I'll choose Jesus I'll choose the sun I'll choose one out of the two this is how Calvin is constantly define chosen elect the elect there's a large group of unwashed condemned humanity the elect are the ones God chooses to effectively move and save we shouldn't ask why God didn't choose everyone we should ask why did he choose anyone bogus nonsense look at the way the word is used of the Lord Jesus he's not one of a larger group from which God selected him to be the Savior he is the only Savior he's the only son of God and yet he is described as chosen why not chosen to change his fate chosen to do something different than what he would have done otherwise he is chosen for a role in the plan and purpose of God God knew ahead of time what the role in his plan and purpose would be for Jesus prognosco God chose the Lord Jesus to fulfill that plan and purpose God called him called him out he was

already a son of God he didn't need saving our election is not election to salvation it is election to a particular role in the plan and purpose of God there are other people that have been saved in history and they're not elect they're not elect you know how I know that because it says elect in him before the foundation of the world you know who's in him church you know who's not in him Israel all Israel shall be saved but all Israel is not in him David is not in him Noah is not in him Moses is not in him doesn't mean they're not saved they are not body of Christ they are not bride of Christ they don't have the unique destiny they don't have the unique hear me now they do not have the unique role in the plan and purpose of God that the church has church age believers as a group are chosen guess what is Israel elect yes but not elect the way the church is not elect in the New Testament sense of election that like the Calvinist like to talk about still here in first Peter you have you are a chosen people coming to him verse four as to a living stone rejected indeed by men but chosen by God and precious you also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house holy priesthood and so on but all through the Old Testament remember Israel the chosen people that's elect that's a collect toys in the Septuagint chosen people chosen for that role and what's especially interesting and I wonder if I'm going to be able to find it in Romans let me think for a minute now where I saw this oh yeah chosen people wherever it is the chosen is singular when it talks about chosen people maybe Romans 8:29 I apologize some of these things came to me kind of late in my preparation no that's not it it's when he's talking about Israel in Romans 9:10 and 11 and the point is that it is a collective choosing it is a collective if the group is chosen elect in him before the foundation of the world that's the that's the phrase I'm looking for but it's it's singular you are not chosen ones in him before the foundation of the world the group is elect and it's singular so here's the point here's the bottom line when Peter talks to these people in the opening lines of this letter and he says you are chosen to be strangers scattered amongst the nations according to the foreknowledge of God God knew what that you are going to be a person that he wanted to elect an eternity passing is gonna like you to be saved you were gonna come to faith in Christ that's not the context at all God knew at this time in history at this time in the unfolding of his plan that with the coming of the Lord Jesus with the inception of the church at Pentecost in Jerusalem that he would spread the gospel through the spread of Christians so God foreknew that there would be persecution he knew that the religious establishment would react and drive Christians out of Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria God knew that and what did they do they went everywhere preaching the word that was according to the plan and purpose of God God foreknew that God incorporated that into his plan God if you will wanted them to be persecuted he wanted them to be driven out because they take the gospel with them now by the time Peter is writing they have spread beyond Judea and Samaria and Phoenicia and Antioch and they're all the way up in Asia Minor Christians that that got there and build communities starting on the day of Pentecost when they heard Peter preaching in their own language and now these church communities have grown so that Peter can write to them as relatively large groups in Bithynia and Asia and Cappadocia and Pontus and Galatia and so on God knew they would be there and because he knew in sanctification of the Spirit this is in Hagiasmo Numitas and I would be happy either way I wouldn't argue with anybody who wants to put a capital S on this and say

that this is the Holy Spirit but he's going to talk about the Holy Spirit down below and he phrases it differently when he talks about the Holy Spirit down below he's going to say he's going to say he's going to use Hagia since and specify that and he's going to use a different form of the word Numa here I think this is sanctification of their human spirit this is Hebrews chapter 10 your hearts having been sprinkled from an evil conscience your body's washed with pure water you can't be obedient you can't do the work in the will of God unless you are sanctified you have to cleanse your hearts cleanse your hands receive the forgiveness and cleansing of 1st John 1 9 and Psalm 51 and all those other great passages so through holiness of spirit this I think as the first use in the context if Peter wanted to talk about the Holy Spirit he would have put Hagia's in here might have been a little awkward if he wanted to say the Hagia's Moy of the pneumatism Hagia's sanctification of the sanctifying spirit or the sanctified spirit but Hagia's mo pneumatism I think this is sanctification of spirit our spirit you can take it either way because we're not sanctified without the Holy Spirit's work but here's the thing God has put you in your circumstances whether you're whether it's Peter talking to these people 2,000 years ago or us today God knew God put us exactly where we are what are we supposed to do we say okay fine God knew I would be here I get that I'm gonna remember who I am in Christ I'm gonna define myself by my spiritual identity not gonna let the crowd tell me who I am not gonna let the opposition tell me who I am not gonna let anybody tell me who I am but God I am who I am in Christ that's the rock upon which I stand I've got all of that so now what Peter says look there's a purpose in all of this in holiness of spirit meaning you're not going to be able to do this if you're lugging around sin if you're subjective if you are uninformed if you are not living in the power and the provision of God forget it you've got to have a sanctified spirit or you have to have the sanctifying capital spirit active in you take it either way it doesn't really matter with a view toward one of the most important words in this whole sentence is that little preposition ace e is unto with a view toward here's the purpose why is it important that you and I remember who we are in Christ why is it important to recognize that God knew and purposed and designed us to be exactly where we are right now in our circumstances why here's why with a view toward obedience who paku Oh to hear under to listen to authority that's obedience why are we in the circumstances we're in why are we facing challenges why are we having stuff we're wrestling with why to practice obedience anybody can obey when there's no pressure I'm seated in my lawn chair sipping a nice cold tea looking out over a over a wonderful view there's a little sign over there this is keep off the grass no problem I didn't want to go on the grass anyway why should I perfectly happy sitting here in my chair it's different when there's pressure it's different when there's challenge it's different when there is opposition when there is that pressure to do something we shouldn't do it's easy to be a wonderful God-fearing observant Jew when you're living right there in Jerusalem how easy is it when you're scattered when you don't have the support of the community you don't have the weight of tradition you don't have everybody else doing the same thing now you're a lone ranger you're out by yourself you're the only believer in this context you're you're the only Christian in your secular college class you're one of the few Christians in this environment and now it's time to obey not compromise not blend not do what the world does not do the expected thing do it the

hard way do it the right way do it the tedious way do it the exhausting way stick with it and be obedient remember what the Word of God says I do what I do not as unto men but unto God God is pleased if I do it this way he won't be pleased if I do it that way so I will do it this way I will do it the way that pleases God hoop a coo oh I will remain under the authority of God and I will obey I will be obedient though he slay me yet will I trust him I will not sin with my lips I will not disobey with a view toward all of this because the only time you're really going to show what you're made of is under pressure so there's pressure with a view toward obedience and pronomism on this is a really interesting word that's translated sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ now Calvinist would say you see you're elect according to the foreknowledge of God because God wants you obey the gospel and get saved and he wants you to get sprinkled with the blood of Christ and be sanctified that's how they take this verse well you can take it that way and reflect some truth we certainly are saved and sanctified the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from sin and so on but in this context is that what Peter has introduced without any preface without any foundation without any background or any frame of reference is he's just going to launch into election and sanctification at salvation he's writing to to scattered Jewish Christians who by this time already know how they got saved they already believe in Jesus Christ so they wouldn't accept him as an apostle because his apostleship rests on the commission and the authority of Jesus Christ if they're not already saved why are they listening to this letter Peter the Apostle who's that what do you think you are this would be like me getting a letter from you know Robert Tilton or somebody and trying to tell me I say who are you I don't recognize any particular authority that you've got so these are believers they already know who they are what is he talking about here you've been chosen for this particular role this particular geography this particular set of circumstances with a view toward living in obedience and sprinkling the blood of Jesus Christ sprinkling is real interesting I don't have time to go into a detailed review of what it is so I'll just summarize and you can find this when you go to Deuteronomy when you go to do a word study on this you'll find that sprinkling does two things you sacrifice an animal think about this now where does where does sprinkling of blood originate Hebrews 9 is all everything gets spattered with there's blood every has buckets of blood it's like a horror movie in Hebrews chapter 9 nothing is sanctified without blood the priests are sprinkled the altar is sprinkled the everything I have often wondered you know what kind of a horrific sight was this it sounds very holy you know there's this little ritual and this is sprinkled with blood and that's sprinkled this happens so much everything is just gory with black blood there's flies there's sunshine there's buckets and buckets and buckets of blood being slashed everywhere and it doesn't talk about them washing it off after every application there's rivers of they had to make trenches even in the temple and in the in the tabernacle precincts there were trenches for the blood to run down because there's just blood blood everywhere you think this is a nasty gory just horrendous looking religious right there's there's blood everywhere and Hebrews 9 talks about it man there is just blood blood blood till you're sick of it what is this deal with sprinkling of blood well here's a summary if you go back to Deuteronomy in particular blood does two things some blood sometimes it's mixed with oil or with water and is sprinkled sometimes you sprinkle something with blood and it is sanctified here come the Levites in these

wonderful you know how hard it was to make cloth in the ancient world they had to stay to make their own thread they had to weave their own cloth they had to you know some lady spent months making this Levitical garment the guy gets all dressed up and it looks all pristine and white anybody's worn a white uniform knows how hard is keep those things clean it's walking very carefully down doesn't want to get the hem smudge or anything gets down there first thing it happens Aaron takes his hand in a big bowl of blood spatters them all over with blood how do you get blood out of white cotton cloth or white woolen cloth and no sooner do they walk in there then they're just blood spattered and they spend all day hacking up sacrifices and just getting gory all up one side and down the other and you wonder if they you know if they wore it one way one for one part of the day and then halfway through they just flip it around you know so get the clean side out so that it would be equally spattered all the way around I don't know what they did but that I do know that they were just gory with blood so you sprinkle them initially as sanctification the blood of the sacrifice this was propitiatory toward God it is redemptive it is it is expiatory and the sprinkling of the blood identifies you with the sacrifice now your penalty is paid look I'm not guilty anymore I've got the blood of the payment on me this is kind of like marked paid in full no penalty required look I'm bloody the blood has been spilled the payment has been made so it sanctifies however it's not the only use because if you go back and read especially Hebrews chapter 9 I don't have time to go there but if you read it you find out some details from the author of Hebrews that aren't in the Old Testament one of the things that tells you is that Moses sprinkled the book of the law that he wrote with blood did the law need sanctifying the tabernacle that was built by the Holy Spirit inspired workmen when they got all finished spattered the thing with blood was it unholy was it defiled did it need did it need sanctifying sprinkling of blood is also recognition that even things that are done in perfect accordance with God's plan and purpose are still done with human hands just the fact that we are near it or in it the law on the tablet that Moses wrote was written by a man it's God's law it's a perfect record of what God said but it's handmade got to cleanse that thing tabernacle Holy Spirit filled workman you still got a workman got to sanctify it nothing is holy unless it's sanctified with blood but the sprinkling of blood blood doesn't have to cover every single part of it to make it clean a sprinkling will sanctify it doesn't say they were baptized in blood thank goodness can you imagine big vats of blood that the brass basin full of blood got to dip the priest in it from head to foot can't even leave his heel out to be like Achilles one part of him would be unsanctified got to dip every part of it any part that the blood doesn't touch it's not going to be holy no you can sprinkle it what is what is David say in Psalm 51 sprinkle and by the way the word in Hebrew and in the Septuagint is sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean sprinkle me this very same word quantities my I think is used in the Septuagint sprinkle me spatter me and I will be clean a little blood will do it what did what did God tell Abraham if the the wickedness and the horrendous filth of Sodom and Gomorrah if you've got ten righteous people in there I'll spare the whole city that's a sprinkling sufficient to sanctify the city and obviate and avert judgment just a sprinkling these people out among the nations are the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ they have been cleansed they have been sanctified they are the gospel witness God is using you you think that you're scattering is a bad thing you wish

that you were back at the ranch you wish that you were back in Jerusalem God is sanctifying the nations God is giving the nations the opportunity for holiness you are the blood of Christ sprinkled you are the message of God you are the truth of God now you think about us we think oh I don't like being in these circumstances I I would have chosen a different fate for myself I would have chosen a different role for myself God foreknew and God chose us collectively for salvation and for reflecting the glory of Jesus Christ but individually we are a sprinkle we're one drop of that sanctified salvation of Jesus Christ and where we are we can reflect Christ we can radiate that obedience that holiness and the glory of Jesus Christ can be reflected the Word of God can be illuminated can be communicated can be spread in and through us he's not talking I don't think he's talking about God foreknew you and chose you so that you could get sprinkled he foreknew you and chose you so that you could be a part of the sprinkling you are a means of blessing and a means of self sanctification outward that's why and notice diaspora and Ron Tiesman are complimentary this is another nice little chiastic thing you are scattered but you're scattering is a sprinkling of the blood of Christ don't look at it as a bad thing you're dispersed ooh bad bad I wish we were back in the land this do you want the blood of Christ not to be sprinkled do you want the blood of the sacrifice to never be applied you are the means by which this grace is going to the nations you are God's time bombs you are God's blessing you are God's fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham through you all nations of the earth will be blessed you're the blessing you are drops of the blood of Christ going out to the nations you are God's grace embodied you are a projection of Jesus Christ himself what an honor what a privilege what a what an opportunity what a great antidote to feel sorry for ourselves because we got a raw deal oh boo-hoo I can't live in Israel Oh glory to God look at what he has given me as an assignment I get to be a reflection of the Lord Jesus Christ himself I am out here in Cappadocia or Bithynia or Pontus and I am like a drop of the blood of Christ and God is going to use me and everything I touch can potentially be holy can potentially be blessed by God what a wonderful privilege that's what Peter is getting across and he does it all just in the first four verses of this letter it's just incredible you can hardly contain it and we're out of time for tonight so we'll pick up next time with the wonderful statement grace to you and peace be multiplied once you get that first set of statements under your belt it's easy to see why grace and peace have been multiplied and these people can nod their heads if they grasp what Peter said in these first few lines and he says grace to you and peace well God's going to have to multiply it because look at the grace and peace I've already gotten just in the introduction it's so amazing but that's what we'll pick up next time we'll close here in a word of prayer father thank you that you have chosen to take us as earthen vessels and fill us with the treasure of your grace of the beauty and the character and the work and the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and we know that many cases we are imperfect and flawed but the contents that you have chosen to place within us more than make up for any weakness on our part and you mend us you make us whole you enable us to be healed and glorified by the very thing that we contain and convey hopefully outward to others in our role as ambassadors and as ministers we pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in each day of our lives in each task that we carry out each hour that we spend and that his sanctifying presence will not only make us holy and

make us fit and useful but can be used to be a blessing and a shining forth of your glory to others
we pray these things in Jesus name amen