

1 PETER 1:1-2 TRULY KNOWN

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout 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, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Perhaps there is one fear greater than the fear of the unknown. Let me suggest that the greater fear is the fear of not being known. I am not speaking of a lack of fame and celebrity, but rather that oppressive cloud of feeling isolated and alone. We might have experienced it by not being chosen for the team or otherwise being left out by our peers. It may have visited us as emptiness after the loss of a special relationship through death, separation or rejection. Who has not been “left twisting in the wind” after being abandoned by the very crowd that urged you to say or do something in the first place?

Peter is speaking to you – the strangers scattered in the world. Regardless of your physical and societal circumstances, as a Christian you are never unknown or alone. Your Father in heaven not only knows you today, but he has known you since before the world began. He has chosen you as his own through the work of the Holy Spirit within you and the death of Jesus Christ for you. Because of this you can know that *Grace and peace* are *yours in abundance*.

Lord Jesus, give me the eyes of faith that I might acknowledge in my life all that you have done for me. Through the Holy Spirit remind me of your love and your presence during those times I am tempted to succumb to feeling utterly alone. Thank you, O Lover of Souls, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.