

Strangers Scattered Abroad

Arthur Barry

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 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. 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, 1 Peter 1:3

Peter was recognized as the apostle to the Jews (Galatians 2:8) and when he writes this letter he uses some typically Jewish language. Eg. *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* (1 Peter 2:9).

Is Peter writing to Jews in his letter(s)? His greeting to strangers in the world scattered throughout the region sounds very Jewish. Some of these phrases might seem misplaced if he was talking to Gentiles but let us look at some other phrases that would be misplaced if he was talking to Jews.

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 1 Peter 1:14. This is much more appropriate for Gentiles.

1 Peter 2:9 speaks of them having been called out darkness into His marvelous light. Darkness would naturally refer to heathens and not Jews. The most obvious reference would be from 1 Peter 2:10 where they are described as not being a people in times past but now they are the people of God. This is always a biblical expression referring to Gentiles particularly.

Peter obviously expects his readers to understand him, so they must have had some significant exposure to Judaism. It is very likely that Jews and Gentiles were both being addressed. At the very least it was unlikely that some Jewish person had not been involved in teaching them initially. We must not be too rigid in the use of Peter's expressions when determining who he was writing to. After all it was a new reality that Gentiles are now part of the chosen people and it was also a new reality that Jews were actually in darkness prior to being baptized into Christ. Jews and Gentiles had a lot of adjustments to make in their thinking about each other, but at the end of the letter Peter lets us know who he is writing to when he says,

"Peace to all who are in Christ" (1 Peter 5:14)



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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November 21, 2021

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross.

Paul is preaching today

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** November 24th, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3rd Sunday):** December 19th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, November 23rd, here at the building.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Chapter 3, Day 3.
- ❖ **5th Sunday Singing- January 30th at Ithaca. (?)**



- **Do you have questions about Communion?**
The Lord invites everyone to His Supper, but it is important to understand that the invitation is through the gospel. The Lord adds those who are saved to His Body, the Church. Those who obey the gospel by repenting of their sins and being baptized in His name are invited to the Supper, because they are added to the Body of Christ. Please make sure you have obeyed His gospel invitation if you are thinking about partaking of the memorial of His Body and blood today. If you have not properly obeyed, we can easily help you take care of that if you ask us.
- **The Thanksgiving Meal was held here at the building last evening.** There were 25 of us who enjoyed a lovely meal and delicious desserts, all prepared and served by our brothers and sisters in Christ, Robin and Pat Gutherie, and Barb and Randy Salsgiver from the church in Kittanning. We are very grateful for their servant attitude and loving care of our young church group.
- **Keep the MAGI box items and money coming in! Thank you to all who have been so generous!**

PRAYERS

- **Jackie** is spending a couple of weeks in rehab following her surgery to repair her broken hip. They recently changed their policy of no visitors because of Covid, and now Darlene and Dara can visit. We pray for a quick recovery and comfort for Jackie.
- Pray for **Linnett Short** (lung cancer), **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army), **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant), **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's), **Steve and Amy's neighbor's sister, JoAnne** (cancer).
- **Pray for our MAGI box project** which will be sent to children in Honduras, ages 5-7. Deadline: May 1st.
- **Arthur** has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He does not have cancer in his bones and will be deciding soon how he is going to proceed with his treatments. Please pray that he can be cancer free.
- **Pat Gutherie will be checking in with the hospital tomorrow to see about the status of his pneumonia.** Pat is dealing with lung cancer and effects of chemo, for which we have been lifting him up in prayer.
- **Darlene has asked for prayers for her friend Connie** who used to teach with her at Epiphany. Connie has advanced stage lung cancer and wants prayer for peace and healing.



If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.