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Structural Analysis of 1 Peter via Outline

I. INTRODUCTION 1:1-2

A. Peter, and Apostle of Jesus Christ

1. Interesting to note in 2 Peter he calls himself Simon Peter

And in 2 Peter also calls himself a bondservant of Christ, but not here

B. To the pilgrims (travelers) of the dispersion (diaspora)

1. In Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia
2. This language would have stood out to a Jewish audience

C. Elect – according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

D. In Sanctification of the Spirit

E. For Obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ

F. Grace and peace be multiplied

A lot of Jewish buzzwords in this introduction. Dispersed/spread out also had a meaning for the Jews who had been taken captive and removed from the Promised Land – many who had not yet been returned, as a nation, Israel had not been fully restored and this was one reason they eagerly had been awaiting the coming Messiah who they thought would restore their literal kingdom at His coming. Peter may be leading in with this, reminding the that Christ has yet to usher in His coming kingdom to all believers (including the long-awaited restoration of Israel).

II. GOD'S MERCY PAVED THE WAY 1:3-25

A. God's mercy paved the way for salvation through Christ

B. The past prophets caught only a glimpse, but not the whole, wondering when this would occur

C. Christ's sacrifice paid the debt

D. Faith results in salvation

E. Be holy for He is holy

1:13-16

F. You were redeemed by incorruptible things

G. Having been purified, love one another with a pure heart

1:22

Peters reminds the readers of this epistle that they have a unique experience that past generations could only catch a glimpse of. Salvation through Christ was here, they had obtained it, their debt was paid in full, and now they were called to accept it in faith and move forward in purity of heart and to live a holy life, not a works-based salvation, but a holy life in practice based on that assurance of salvation.

III. THEREFORE, LAY ASIDE FILTH & BE BUILT UP 2:1-10

A. Lay aside filth and malice

B. Desire pursue spiritual word for growth.

C. You are being built up by God

1. A spiritual house

2. As a holy priesthood offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus 2:5

D. Believers will not be put to shame

E. Jesus is

2:7

1. Precious to believers

2. An offense to those who do not believe

F. Chosen generation/people

2:9

1. You are a chosen generation for Christ

2. He called us out of darkness into His marvelous light

3. Having now obtained mercy

Peter remind them that they have been called out of darkness and are to now live in that light of Christ, no longer in shame and no longer in sin.

IV. EXHORTATIONS AND TEACHINGS

2:11-3:21

A. You are Sojourners/Travelers in this world

1. As such: abstain from fleshly lusts
 - i. These war against the soul
2. Have honorable conduct among the Gentiles
 - i. That they may glorify God through your good works upon His return
 - ii. Even if they call you evildoers now

B. Submit

1. Follow man's laws (as unto the Lord/if they do not conflict with God's)
 - i. For the Lord's sake (to honor Him ultimately)
 - ii. To silence ignorant men (foolish)
 - iii. Free but not using liberty as a cloak or reason for vice
 - iv. As bondservants of Christ – He is instructing you to submit (don't rebel against Christ's command to submit to them)

2. Honor all people

2:17

- i. Love the brotherhood of believers
- ii. Fear God
- iii. Honor the king (man)

3. Submit to masters – both the good and bad ones

- i. When you do good and suffer, it is commendable before God
- ii. This suffering is what we were called to
 - Modeled after Christ Himself

4. Christ suffered setting the example

- i. He committed no sin
- ii. When reviled, He did not revile
- iii. When He suffered, He did not threaten
- iv. Instead committing Himself to God who judges righteously

5. Wives submit to husbands, as unto the Lord, trust in God

3:1-6

6. Husbands dwell with your wives with understanding, honor your wife as heirs of grace

7. Submit to all (believers, etc.)

3:8-16

- i. Be of one mind (united)
- ii. Compassion, love, tender-hearted, courteous, not returning evil – instead blessing
- iii. Do good, be prepared to give the reason for your hope. Keep good conduct as a witness for Christ.

8. Remember, Christ suffered to bring us to God, death to life

This portion is both applicable and difficult in practice. Submitting to authority is not man's natural tendency since the fall in the garden. Peter reminds his readers that this world is temporary, whatever they may be holding onto should be let go of. Any sense of pride or ownership, whatever worldly goods or status that might puff one up does not truly exist for the believer who is simply passing through. In the same way, passing through, one needs to submit to the leaders in place, only inasmuch as they do not contradict the Word of God, there's plenty of Scriptural support for that position. But, for matters of preference, Christians are called to give up those supposed freedoms for the sake of honoring God and to act in obedience. For a freedom-loving flag-waving pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps kind of person, this is a hard pill to swallow (including myself).

- V. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY 3:22-4:11
- A. Christ has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God
 - 1. Angels and authorities and powers have been made subject to Him
 - B. Because of Christ's sacrifice and authority in our lives – arm yourselves with the mind of Christ
 - C. Stop living for the world – live for Christ
 - 1. We have spent enough of our past lifetime doing the will of the world, it's time to live for Christ.**
 - D. Be serious and watchful in prayer, have fervent love for one another
 - 1. Be hospitable without grumbling, minister gifts to one another as good stewards of Christ
 - 2. Use the abilities as God supplies as faithful servants

Peter reminds the readers that Christ is not some mental construction, He is in fact in a very real place of authority in the here and now, seated at the right hand of God. He is given a place of prominence and authority at this precise moment. A convicting statement is given which has been paraphrased above in bold, summarily – as believers, we've spent enough time living for ourselves, we need to start living for Christ. This can really hit home and rings true for all believers. It pervades across resources of a believer such as time, occupation, resources such as finance, property, and the way life is lived. Is it a self-ish life or a self-less life in service to one's true Master, Jesus Christ?

- VI. EXPECT TRIALS 4:12-4:19
- A. Partake in Christ's sufferings
 - 1. In these sufferings, He is glorified
 - 2. Do not let your trials be due to sin or wrong doing on your part, there is no glory in that

Trials brought on by sinful or wrong actions such as theft or murder would not bring glory to God. Trials brought about because of service to Christ in right and proper Christian conduct ultimately brings glory to God.

- VII. CLOSING REMARKS FOR ELDERS, GENERAL CALL FOR HUMILITY 5:1-9
- A. Peter exhorts elders to step up to their calling and to shepherd the flock of God
 - 1. Serve as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly
 - 2. Not for dishonest gain, but eagerly.
 - 3. Not lording it over those entrusted to you but as examples to the flock.
 - 4. When God, the Chief Shepherd returns, you will be rewarded.
 - B. Submit to one another, humble yourselves. 5:5-6
 - 1. Younger submit to elders
 - C. Case your care upon Him for He cares for you 5:7
 - D. Be sober and vigilant/attentive
 - 1. The devil is on the lookout
 - 2. Resist him, knowing others face the same sufferings

The beginning of this section is a direct call to elders to step up to the plate of responsibility – taking on the flock which their giftings have been given in order to serve. Service should not be forced or for the wrong motives such as taking advantage or fulfilling some need to dominate someone. Instead, it should be as a recognition of one's calling to look after and tend to the needs of God's chosen and beloved people. Too often this is missed and people see it as a means of gain, either for elevating themselves – feeding their own pride or their own wallets, in both cases, their condemnation is deserved.

VIII. CONCLUSION

5:10-14

- A. May God perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.
- B. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever.
- C. Peace to all in Christ. Amen