

A LIVING HOPE - 1 PETER 1

Vs. 1-2:

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

- The Father elects
- The Spirit sanctifies
- The Son cleansed
- We obey Jesus
- I appreciate how our obedience seems to be tied to Christ's sacrifice. And it was a sacrifice - it didn't come easy. And we've not yet resisted to the point of shedding our blood. Before we get into hope through suffering, it would be good to remember that Jesus walked the road first and we can look to His great love.

Vs. 3-5:

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- Here's what's going to happen: Peter will address living holy lives, putting away evil living in order to act like the spiritual house of God. He'll instruct them to submit to authorities, servants submit to masters, wives submit to husbands, husbands honor you wives and to suffer for doing good. He'll remind them again to not live as Gentiles, to be ready for persecution. He'll give instruction to elders, to cast their anxieties on God, and be ready for a spiritual fight. But you know what he does before getting into all of that? This is the power behind vs. 3-12. He gives them the correct motivation - reminds them of the big picture in order to navigate every day life.
- Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again by water and the Spirit in order to enter the kingdom. Peter will go on to say they, *"have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;"* 1 Peter 1:23.
- These passages teach of a new family, Father and inheritance. The result is a living hope through the resurrection of Christ from the dead. It's our faith, but God's power.
- So many know nothing of a healthy home or father. No true identity. There's nothing to look forward to - nothing left for them. Not so in His family.
- Who do you want to see first in heaven? My father did well in teaching me, because it instilled the desire and permission, if you will, to want to see God first. Then family ;) Who do you want to first see?

Vs. 6-9:

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith-more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire-may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus

Christ. 8 Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- Sometimes it's necessary to be grieved by various trials. It's in this fiery trial that God burns away what's useless: old identities, false promises, bad habits, pride, distractions, etc. "Suffering is a blessing in that it burns away false hopes and distractions."
- The goal is to come out like Christ. It's through our suffering that others get to see Christ. We've not seen Him, but we've learned about Him, believe in Him, love Him, and rejoice in Him. It's in our suffering that we show the nature of Jesus. Jesus loved His enemies and stayed true to God during His trials. It's through our suffering that we show love, kindness, service, etc. It's when and where others can find Jesus. It's through trials, while holding on to faith, that we find salvation.

Vs. 10-12:

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

- We can't see Christ yet, but we can read His mind. Salvation was His plan through Christ. The prophets didn't quite get it and the angels wanted a sneak peak. Now it's been fully revealed.
- I'm not trying to shame anyone (because I'd condemn myself), but we forget to appreciate what's readily available to us all. Especially in the States. You have a bible. You've got the app. It's on your Kindle, etc. Our challenge isn't if it's available, rather, is it desired.

Vs. 13-16:

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

- It's not all rainbows and butterflies. Get prepared to get out of this world. "Girding up the loins of your mind" is also the idea. Kind of like when Israel was instructed to be prepared to get out of Egypt. **Exodus 12:11** *"In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover."*
- In order to do so, you have to prepare your mind. The goal is more than, "don't be like the world" but rather, "be like Christ." What I mean is, like the works of flesh vs. the fruit of the Spirit: it's not enough to walk away from the bad, but to walk in the good. Our goal is to have the mind of Christ - to walk like Him.
- **Leviticus 11:44** *For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground.* (Taken from laws concerning clean and unclean animals.)
- How holy do you want your God to be? A little? Mostly? Or totally holy? Yes, we're so grateful that our God is Holy. How much do you appreciate the life of Christ in all His holiness. All His righteousness. He knows you don't match His goodness, but He calls invites you into it! This is a blessing, not a curse! Don't you want to be like your God?

Vs. 17-21:

17 And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

- I thankful that God doesn't show partiality, but that also means He doesn't play favorites towards you. He's a fair and just God. I don't believe this passage is saying that God doesn't take individuals into account (new babes in Christ, some produce more than others, etc.). It does remind us to have reverence towards God while we're here because of what He has done for a people who lived in ungodly ignorance.
- Israel was God's chosen people, but were exiles for a long time. However, God liberated those who were obedient, who made it into the house with the blood over the doorposts.
- **Exodus 12:5, 7** "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, . . . Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it."

Vs. 22-25:

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

- Peter quotes from **Isaiah 40:6, 8-9**. In this passage God's people are reminded how God would come to His people and be a shepherd to them.
- This is during the time of God's new covenant. We're all in this together and we are to love one another.