

God's Holy Nation

A Study of 1&2 Peter: "Where There's Christ, There's Hope"

1 Peter 1-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born to a living hope. (1 Peter 1:3)

I. The Apostle of Hope

- a. Peter is often referred to as the Apostle of Hope, because his primary message is to trust the Lord, live obediently no matter the circumstances and keep your hope fixed on God's promise of deliverance. A "Living hope" is the letter's center piece.
- b. Diaspora – scattering of Jewish people from Israel to foreign land. Peter used this theme and related it to Christians who live in this world outside their native home which is heaven.
 1. Christians are pilgrims/foreigners in this world living as temporary residents.
 2. This was comforting to those believers who were suffering persecution for being Christian.
- c. This letter grew out of Peter's personal life that he lived to the glory of God. (John 18:25, Acts 12)
- d. All Christians at all times have something to live for. You are the glory of God!

II. We are a Kept People

- a. By His great mercy, God has chosen (reserved) for you a heavenly inheritance that no man can touch, spoil or remove. (Eph 1:3-4)
- b. God selected you not based on anything you had done, because you were not on the scene.
- c. It was not based on anything God saw that you would be or do.
- d. We can't explain it, but we can rejoice in it. (Rom 11:33-36) (John 17:26)
- e. *To foreknow* means "to set one's love" on a person/persons in a personal way. God first acted.
 1. God's love also includes: His Son's sacrifice and the work of the Holy Spirit on the sinner's heart.
 2. All three activities must be in concert for there to be a true salvation experience.
- f. Fear not, our inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.
- g. *Imperishable* – impervious to corruption and death; *Undefiled* – without stain or blemish; *Unfading* – will not wither. (e.g. a flower in bloom)
- h. Be encouraged that you are guarded for glory and God *will not* be robbed of His glory.

III. Trials Prepare us For Future Glory

- a. Suffering is to be expected, but it is temporary and yields blessings for those who remain steadfast. (vv.6-7)
- b. *Trials* – are "general problems" that Christians face as they live surrounded by unbelievers.
 1. *Trials (if necessary)* – there are special times when God know we need to go through trials. For increased faith and spiritual growth.
 2. Various trials – (manifold, many colors) God matches the trial to our strengths and needs.
 3. Trials often brings a "heaviness" to our lives similar to what Jesus experience at Gethsemane.
 4. Trials are controlled by God. He keeps an eye on the clock and His hand on the temperature.
- c. It is encouraging to know that we are born for glory, kept for glory and being prepared for glory.

IV. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Peter urged the church to exercise love, faith and rejoicing to experience some of the glory of heaven *now* in the midst of suffering. (Psalm 28:7-9)
- b. Our love for Christ sustains us in trials. When we hurt we should immediately reflect on Christ's love and worship Him. Rejoice not over the circumstances, but in the circumstances.
- c. We endure trials through trusting Christ. Faith means surrendering all to God and obeying His Word in spite of the consequences.
- d. If we love Him and trust Him then we can receive from Him all that we need to turn trials in to triumphs. The victory is ours if we bring Christ into the situation!