

**Title:** The Living Hope

**Passage:** 1 Peter 1:3-12

## **Introduction**

"Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible" (Hellen Keller)

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." (Desmond Tutu)

**Passage:** 1 Peter 1:3-12

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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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. 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 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.

## **EXPOSITION**

1 Peter

- The original audience were scattered Christians because of persecution
- they were living in pagan culture and were persecuted for being different in holiness.
- Response? Remember there is a living hope, which is secure!
- Hope (Biblical) is full assurance (rather than a desire)
  - "A living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

Psalms 42:5

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation

- "Hope in God" = have full assurance and confidence in God (not "have a desire for God")

**1 Peter 1:3**

***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,***

Story: Victor Franklin - writing of observations of prisoners of World War II

- 3 types of People's reactions:
  - Brutal, cynical, hard hearted
  - Gave up
  - Misplaced (hope for complete restoration as before war but in post-war times became depressed)
  - Inner Liberty
- Life only has meaning if suffering cannot destroy it. Remember that Someone is looking down from heaven; we must not disappoint Him.
- Conclusion: The foundation of our hope determines how we live our lives now
- Key point : If your ultimate hope is a finite object (health, family, position, wealth), we will be disappointed. You will become disillusioned or give up.
  - Everything (except for living hope) is a dying hope.
  - Ex: if you make your spouse your "living hope", you will be disillusioned because spouse will change and even die.
  - The reality is you will be stripped of finite objects
- Unless you have an infinite reference point (living hope), you will not be able to handle suffering (which is the stripping of finite things.)
- If you cannot handle suffering, you cannot handle life.

### ***1 Peter 1:4***

***to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,***

- Living Hope = Inheritance
- inheritance: transfer of property from one generation to another.
- In Old Testament, word referenced the Promised Land.
- In New Testament, word refers to kingdom of God / heaven.

2 Peter 3:13

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Colossians 3:2, 24

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth....knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Hebrews 11:16

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

## **Qualities of Inheritance**

*imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,*

### *Imperishable*

- Not corruptible, not subject to destruction or loss

### *Undefiled*

- pure and without sin (honorable, secure)

### *Unfading*

- Analogy: A flower that does not wither or die
- Never loses its magnificence or bliss.

### *Kept in heaven by God*

- God is the one who guards it personally
- He guards it for every believer in earth
- Secure and certain because God Himself makes sure you will get your reward/inheritance!

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## **1 Peter 1:5**

***who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***

- Living Hope = Salvation

Salvation - several parts

- Justification: Saved from the penalty of sin. Moment when a believer comes into saving knowledge of Christ, saved from God's wrath,
- Sanctification: Saved from the power of sin. Present process becoming more like God
- Glorification: Saved from the presence of sin that will occur in the future in heaven

Hebrews 1:14

Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

## **Question: How can obtain this living hope?**

1 Peter 1:3b

he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

*he has caused us to be born again*

John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:10

Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?

Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

- God will put His Spirit in you. You will then see in yourself you have been born for something different.

Question: How do you know you are born again?

- Answer: You have a desire to live a life in a way that honors God.
  - Thinking and acting in a way that is different.
- Only God causes this.

John 1:13

who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- Be humble (not prideful or condescending of others) as your change of heart is only by God's grace and mercy
- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"
  - Give any and all credit back to God.
- When see others, pray for others ("as You have changed my heart, change their hearts too)

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

*through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

- the basis of Living Hope is objective fact and truth as Jesus' resurrection is true!

Colossians 3:2

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- What truth? God is good and in control Trust Him.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.