

Mercy and Hope – 1 Peter

1 Peter 1:3-12

“A Living Hope” – April 21, 2019



Introduction

After Jesus died, the hopes of many of Jesus' disciples died with Him. This wasn't how they thought things would happen! And yet, when Christ rose from the dead three days later, that group of disciples was transformed from a fearful bunch to being bold, joyful and courageous. The Apostle Peter writes to a group of Christians (in modern day Turkey – [1:1](#)) who were suffering and struggling to find a reason to praise God. But just as Peter had experienced a transformation because of the truth of the resurrection, he offers them the same *living hope* that's true for them because of Christ and *His* resurrection. In 1:3-12, Peter offers 3 reasons to praise God based on what He provides.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. A living hope (1:3-5)
- II. Joy, even in trials (1:6-9)
- III. Grace that we can see (1:10-12)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [1 Peter 1:3-5](#)

Peter starts off saying because the Christian's been born again, they have a *living hope*, an *inheritance kept by God*, and a *sure salvation*. Notice the language he uses: imperishable, undefiled, unfading, kept, guarded. What difference does it make that our hope and salvation is made secure by God? How does this differ from the things in this world that we can invest our hope in?

Additional Reading: Hebrews 11:13-16, 1 Corinthians 15:13-19

2. Read [1 Peter 1:6-9](#)

Peter offers three reasons why the Christian can have joy in trials: they are *relatively* brief (v6), God has good purposes for them (v7), and our relationship with Jesus (v8-9). Have you gone through a trial before and experienced God's care in it? Have you seen how God can use the trial to purify your faith, proving the genuineness of your faith? How is that helpful when we're grieved by various trials?

Additional Reading: Romans 8:18, James 1:2-5

3. Read [1 Peter 1:10-12](#)

What the Old Testament prophets longed to see, what the angels are peeking over the fence to watch, we have the privilege of experiencing and seeing more fully: God's grace in Jesus Christ. Are there ways you're tempted to give up and go with the flow of the world? How does seeing the angels, with God's perspective on what's important, move us out of self-pity to exulting in our privileged position?

Additional Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<p>*Next week's sermon text: we'll return to our study of 2 <i>Samuel</i> to look at 2 Samuel 21:1-22, "Taking God's Name in Vain"</p>
