

A Living and Eternal Hope – 1 Peter 1:1-12

Today we begin a new series in the book of 1 Peter! *Author/Audience/Time* I have titled this sermon series “Living for Christ in a Hostile World.”

This title is fitting for the context in which Peter is writing to his original audience – These Christians were scattered and facing trials & persecution of various kinds...

This title, this book, & the message Peter gives within these 5 chapters is also incredibly fitting & applicable for us as Christians today as well!

There has been a scattering of God’s people, there is persecution, we too are facing trials of many kinds, but there’s hope for the Church in every age!

These past 2 weeks I have been reminded of the videos I posted a year ago on facebook, on the days immediately following the onset of the pandemic.

In the midst of those uncertain days, what could we hold onto? What words /message could I offer during a time of such great anxiety & fear? Hope!

But this hope, that I shared with all of you daily, was not of this world! It was hope in a God who is sovereign & in a gospel that only He provides!

No matter what we encounter in this life, God’s sovereignty is never thwarted, & Jesus Christ is still alive & is making all things new! All that we see & experience now will pass away, but behold something new is coming!

We exist in an “already” & “not yet” reality! We have already received every good & perfect gift from above in the finished work of Christ on the cross, but we have not yet received the fullness of Heaven that is coming!

I’m convinced that true hope, amidst trials, is found in both what we have already received in Christ, as well as what has been promised to us in Him!

Peter offered this hope to the Christians of His day, & it’s offered to us as well today, through the words of this letter written to a scattered Church!

Vs. 1 – “To those who are elect exiles...” 2 opposing words, yet Peter brings them together to reveal the dual nature of our shared experience!

To those of us who are both chosen by God & rejected by men. Those who are God’s children, but also strangers in this world that He has created.

To those of us who have an eternal home, but who have not yet received it!

To us... ***Vs. 2 - “According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for the obedience to Jesus Christ & for sprinkling with his blood: May grace & peace be multiplied to you.”***

The grace & peace of God is multiplied to us!

- By God’s sovereignty! We can trust His plan, His goodness & His love.
- Through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives!
- By our obedience to Christ in the midst of our trials!

In these things we have a living & eternal hope that cannot be taken from us! But that’s not all, there’s more!

Vs. 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...

In Christ, we are reborn! Our eyes are opened, our ears can hear, our minds & hearts made new! Jesus’ resurrection resurrects us to a new life by faith!

Vs. 4 – “to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,”

We can face the struggles of today with the confidence of knowing what will be our tomorrow – the glory of heaven!

We can endure, and stand secure, because we know who we are. Those...

Vs. 5 – “who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

This is how a scattered & bruised Church faces the hostilities of this world! It’s also where we find reasons to rejoice, even in the midst of our suffering!

Vs. 6-7 – “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 & glory & honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

The prophets of old searched for such a hope. The angels of heaven long to look upon it, and this is the very hope that is ours in Christ! Do we have it?

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