

THE EXPRESSION OF OUR HOPE

I Peter 1

Our hope in Christ changes how we view the world and live in it.

Ever hear this saying? “He who dies with the most toys wins.” Yet another saying also rings true. “You can’t take it with you”. Although each saying is a contradiction, many people live their lives as though both are true at the same time. People will chase after a bigger house, a better job, more money, fame, popularity, prestige. We have witnessed a national scandal in which folks with money and power have been guilty of bribery in attempts to get their kids into the “best” school, so they can have the “best” job when they graduate (assuming they do).

But if Christ is the center of our lives, then our perspective changes. We are motivated by the teaching found in Matthew 6: 33. It becomes less important to strive for what we can gain. Instead, we will strive to be known by how we love and serve God.

Today’s study continues from the book of I Peter, written by the Apostle Peter to the believers in Asia Minor, who were experiencing trials and persecution. He taught how to demonstrate their confident hope on a daily basis.

Be a non-conformist.
Hope is built on nothing less
Love for the brethren

Be a non-conformist. 1 Peter 1: 13-16

vs 13. “minds ready for action”. Literal translation renders “gird up the loins of your mind.”. The soldier in the day would pull up his long outer garment and tuck it under his belt in preparing for battle. This is visualized in Exodus 12: 11. We need to put aside things that distract; same thought as in Hebrews 12: 1. Peter also tells us to set our hope on God’s grace, in bringing salvation.

vs 14. Peter in this verse tells us to not let the world make us in its mold. Paul expressed the same theme in Romans 12: 1-2.

vs 15-16. Peter repeated the command from the Old Testament.

See Leviticus 11: 44-45. So what does “holy” look like? Recall that Jesus said we were to be “in the world, but not of the world”. In the Sermon on the Mount, He encouraged us to “let our lights shine”.

Hope is built on nothing less 1 Peter 1: 17-21.

vs 17. In this verse, Peter reminds us that we are strangers in this world, and to live our Christian lives reverence to the God of our salvation, knowing that God will reward us according to our works. (Good works don’t save, they are done because we have been saved.

vs 18-19 The term “redeemed” has the idea of being purchased. Back in the 1950’s Eagle Stamps were given by many stores with purchases. When you filled the book with stamps you were able to REDEEM them for either cash or merchandise at a REDEMPTION STORE. The writer of Hebrews expressed this idea in Hebrews 9: 28.

vs 20-21. “foreknown before the foundation of the world”. This idea is so incredible. recall Genesis 1: 1. God had already planned for Jesus to become a man, live a sinless life, and be crucified for our sins before Genesis 1: 1.

Note the last phrase in verse 21. Yes, we are to have hope through faith in a person--Jesus Christ. He is the object of our faith.

Love for the bretheren 1 Peter 1: 22-25.

vs 22. In this verse, Peter encourages believers to have love for one another. Love for the bretheren is important for two important reasons.

1. It is an indicator of our salvation. see 1 John 3: 14. As believers, God gives us the ability to love fellow Christians, even if they aren’t very “lovable”.

2. It becomes the emblem of our Christianity to the world. See John 13: 34-35. Fancy that!! Even more than dynamic worship services, beautiful church buildings, great programs, Jesus said the world would know we are Christians by our LOVE. vs 23 and following. Peter reminds us that our salvation is eternal,

just like the word of God.

Well, that's about all for today. God bless, stay safe and well.

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