

## THE BASIS FOR OUR HOPE

### 1 Peter 1

Our hope in Christ is sure and certain

People place their hope in a variety of things.

Money

Possessions

Fame

Good Health, and others

But many events in just 5 short months of 2020 have demonstrated that these hopes are certainly not guaranteed. Today we see a society walking around wearing masks. Before March 2020 we never heard of the terms “social distancing” and “flattening the curve”, and Covid-19. Just in the past week, our hopes of living a peaceful life, following our dreams have been shaken each night as we view destruction, rioting, mayhem, going on throughout our country. We can take some solace that it hasn’t happened here----YET.

As believers, we can “take to the bank” the promise from one of our beloved hymns, “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness”. We cannot be guaranteed to be free from trials and troubles, but our trust in Jesus gives us the strength to rise above anything the world throws our way.

The book of 1 Peter was written about AD 60 to Christians in Asia Minor (modern Turkey), to encourage those believers to persevere through persecution they were suffering. WHY? Because of their sure and certain hope in Jesus.

A living hope

An imperishable inheritance

Short term grief, long term gain

A living hope 1 Peter 1: 1-3

vs 1,2. Peter addresses this letter to churches in 5 regions in Asia Minor--Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. He refers

to them as “exiles”. Recall in Acts 8: 1, that the early church in Jerusalem was heavily persecuted, and so Christians fled, to various parts of the known world at the time. And everywhere they fled, the Gospel was preached and taught. How about today? Aren’t we still “exiles”? Recall the words of the song “The world is not my home, I’m just-a-passin’ through.”

But Peter also noted that as believers, we are “chosen”, just as Paul spoke in Ephesians 1: 3-7..

vs 3. In this verse Peter gives us a hope and the basis for that hope.  
Hope--new birth and life  
Basis for Hope--the Gospel--Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead. see 2 Cor. 5: 17-21.

An imperishable inheritance 1 Peter 1: 4-5

vs 4. Three words to describe the gift of salvation.

imperishable--not prone to decay or become corrupted.  
undefiled--the Greek term here has the idea of purity, similar to the sexual purity described in Christian marriage. see Hebrews 13: 4.  
unfading--just as gold is a metal that does not tarnish, our salvation is secure in Jesus, and remains fresh for all eternity

But Peter also refers to these three attributes as part of an inheritance--not something we obtain as a reward for our work, but only available because we are FAMILY. Recall 1 John 3: 2.

vs 5. God’s power is guarding our inheritance, ready to be revealed when Christ returns. Recall Hebrews 11: 1, a verse that relates faith and hope.

Short term grief, long term gain 1 Peter 1: 6-9

vs 6-7. In verse 6, Peter admits that in this world we will go through trials, tribulations, problems. Anyone not believing that? Recall what Peter said in 1 Peter 4: 12-16. Then in verse 7, Peter reminds us that good things can result from us having triumph over our trials. Recall James 1: 2-4.

vs 8-9. Peter is writing these verses also to us--those who have not “seen” Jesus, yet we love Him. Recall what Jesus said to

Thomas after His resurrection. see John 20: 27-29.

Then in verse 9, Peter describes our salvation.

We were saved--God forgave our sins, and gave us a new nature

We are being saved--In our lives, God is continually leading us to become conformed to the likeness of Christ.

We will be saved--Though our bodies will physically die, we will never be separated from God, and will enjoy an eternity in His presence.

There is a Southern Gospel song titled "I Read the Back of the Book, and We Win". "Winning" is described in Revelation 21: 3-4.

That's about all for today. If you weren't able to be with us in person today, please stay safe and well.

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