

Born To A Living Hope

Text: *1 Peter 1:1-9*

Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter, in writing to the Christians in the early part of the first century, is telling them that they have a living hope.
 - a. This is some encouraging words to those who lived in perilous times, when the Romans disliked them and persecuted them (*even to death*) because they did not worship their Caesar, and the Jews because of Jews adherence to the Old Testament Law of Moses.
 - b. They were persecuted, falsely charged, taken and imprisoned because of their belief.
 - c. These Christians in the first century needed something that was encouraging during these times – as we do today.
 - d. The apostle Peter encouraged them with some words of wisdom from God as he penned his first letter – *1 Peter*.
2. This morning we are going to look at some of the reasons that Peter has given for this living hope.

Because of the great mercy of our Great God we are born again to a living hope:

I. Through The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead (v3)

- A. **Through His resurrection** we may be resurrected to life eternal.
 1. As at baptism, when we come up out of the waters of baptism, we arise anew – resurrected to a new self to live a new life walking in fellowship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 2. The same is in the final resurrection, when Jesus returns, we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye changed from mortal to immortality. "*But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory."* **1 Corinthians 15:54**
- B. **Through His resurrection** we may rest assured that our Great God will keep His promise.
 1. **The whole of Christianity is based upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**
 2. Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, He has promised the resurrection of all at His return. "*and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him*" – **Revelation 1:7**
- C. **Through His resurrection** we have a **Living Hope**.
 1. The word "*hope*" when used in the Bible is more than just "*wishful thinking*." Thayer (**1**) defines the word as "**expectation of good**," and Vine (**2**) describes it as "**favorable and confident expectation**." Expectation and anticipation are quite different from merely wishing something to happen.
 2. There is only one place to find this hope, which the world so very much needs and that is **in Christ** – our Living Savior.

3. As we walk from the grave of a loved one, death seems to be so powerful and so final. Where is this hope? Where is this confidence?
4. The hope which we have can be summed up in the words of the angel, "**He is not here, for He has risen**" (*Matthew 28:6*). It is in the resurrection of Christ where we find our hope.

II. To Obtain An Inheritance Which Is Imperishable And undefiled (v4)

A. An inheritance that is according to God's Will.

1. In His plan even before the beginning of the world.
2. In His plan today for us because "*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*" **2 Peter 3:9**

B. An inheritance that will not perish as the inheritance's on earth.

1. An inheritance that **WILL NOT** vanish away.
 - a. Meaning that the inheritance will **ENDURE** or **LAST** forever.
 - b. Without end.
2. A treasure that is to be desired, longed for with eagerness.

C. An inheritance that is undefiled.

1. An inheritance that is pure
2. An inheritance that is untainted by the world
3. An inheritance that is not corrupted by dishonesty or fraud.

III. Being Protected By The Power Of God Through Our Faith (v5)

A. By the Hope of the gospel

1. That someday our hope and faith that is based on the gospel of Jesus Christ will be realized.
2. A hope that keeps us going from day to day "*For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,*" **2 Corinthians 5:2**
3. A hope that is based upon the truths of God's Word "*in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago*" **Titus 1:2**
4. A hope that is based upon the evidences from God's Word as proof of what our hope is based upon.

B. To finally obtain salvation

1. Within each and every one of us is the desire to feel safe and secure.
 - a. In the arms of our mother or father when we were a child.
 - b. Knowing that someone is watching over us.
 - c. Knowing that someone **REALLY** cares about our safety.
2. Within each and every one of us is the desire to feel loved.
 - a. That someone really cares about me and loves me.
 - b. That someone would do something for me, personally, because of their great love.

- 1) That God sent His Son to die on the cross for you and me
“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8
- 2) His love for you and I is shown by His compassion, His tenderness, His empathy when we are hurting.
- 3) His love is expressed in His Holy Word as shown by the words that were penned by the apostle Peter in his first letter to the Christians, 1 Peter.

Conclusion:

1. Peter has told us, through God’s word, that we today have a **living hope**, and that hope is in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ because:
 - a. He has risen from the dead, no longer to die *“death where is your sting”*.
 - b. Of His great inheritance that He has prepared for us eternally in heaven.
 - c. And, because we are protected by Him through our faith in Him.
2. Yes today we can be encouraged, the same as the Christians in the first century church because we serve a risen Savior.
 - a. Someday we can be with Him forever putting on the immortal body, never to die again and the things of the past will soon be forgotten, the aches and pains, the trials and tribulations of this world will be gone forever.
 - b. Yes, this is very encouraging words for us today – **do not lose heart**, Jesus overcame and so can we *“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*