

Living Hope in a Troubled World

I. Living Hope in a World of Wishful Thinking

A. Mis-identifying Hope

-We commonly define "hope" as wishful thinking where the aim is self-gratification, and the means is self-reliance "...one day, if only..."

B. Misplaced Hope

- Material Possessions ...that eventually perish
- Personal Perfection ...that always spoil
- Functioning Relationshipsthat inevitably fade

WE PLACE OUR HOPE IN THINGS THAT PERISH, SPOIL, AND FADE;
THEN WONDER WHY OUR LIVES SEEM ROTTEN, FALLING APART, AND CLOUDED.
BUT JESUS BRINGS THE OPPOSITE... A LIVING HOPE FOR HERE, NOW, AND FOREVER.

*"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." -1 Corinthians 1:18*

II. Living Hope for the Here and Now (vs 1-2)

A. Personally Identifying

1. Chosen and Elect
BUT
2. Scattered and Dispersed

B. Systematically Theological

1. The first 2 verses of 1 Peter press the central theme to the entire letter
AND
2. The first 2 verses of 1 Peter explain the core message of the Christian Faith
 - a. According to the foreknowledge of God
 - b. In the sanctification of the Spirit
 - to make holy; the lifelong process of being shaped into the image of Christ
 - c. For our:
 1. Obedience to Christ
 2. Sprinkling with His Blood

C. Essentially Relevant

1. Answering the question: How as Sojourners of the Diaspora do we live in a manner that is obedient to and glorifying of our Lord?

2. Grace and Peace Multiplying

We are made holy by the Spirit at work, transforming us from the inside out, called to live out that holy life through obedience to Christ, in response to the finished work of Christ, bringing Glory to God and His Kingdom here on earth.

3. The World Defines:

- Hope as "wishful thinking"
- Grace as "self-poise"
- Peace as "the absence of conflict"

GOD GIVES US A HOPE THAT'S STRONGER THAN WISHFUL THINKING,
GRACE GREATER THAN POISE,
AND PEACE THAT SURPASSES OUR UNDERSTANDING.

III. Living Hope Forever (vs 3-5)

"According to his great mercy He has..."

A. Given us a **NEW LIFE**

- *"born again"*

B. Given us a **NEW LIFE** with a **NEW IDENTITY**

- *"into a living hope"*: the earnest anticipation of a heavenly exaltation
 - We carry the hope of a destination, and faith to get us there.
 - "Faith is the confidence of things hoped for"*- Hebrews 11:1
 - Through the resurrection of Christ

C. Given us a **NEW LIFE** with a **NEW IDENTITY** in a **NEW FAMILY**

1. Our Inheritance:

- a. Is never earned or bought but rather marked by our new identity provided by our new birth into our new family as Sons and Daughters
- b. Is kept in the real place called heaven
 - Never Perishes
 - Never Spoils
 - Never Fades

WE LIVE IN A HOPE THAT SHAPES OUR ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE BY FAITH;
AND WE LIVE OUT THAT SAME HOPE WITH AN EARTHLY PURPOSE THROUGH OBEDIENCE.

IV. So What Does that Mean for Us...

- How does living hope re-shape our worlds, our thoughts, our actions and our words?
- How does it align our jobs, relationships, decisions, and priorities?
- How does it inform our hardships, struggles, trials, disasters, and fears?

WELCOME TO 1 PETER