

THE BASIS FOR OUR HOPE

June 7, 2020

“And thou shall teach them diligently ... Deu.6:7

Unit 1: Living with Hope in a Broken World

Focus Scriptures: I Peter 1:1-9

Life question: What can I really count on in life?

The point: Only hope in Christ is sure and certain.

I. OUR HOPE IS BASED ON THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS (I Peter 1:1-3)

Peter wrote this letter during the reign of the crazy emperor Nero, who blamed the burning of a large part of Rome on the Christians as a means to arrest, torture, and execute hundreds of Christians because of the growing influence Christians were having on Roman society. As a matter of fact, Nero had Peter and Paul executed—Paul was beheaded and Peter was crucified up-side-down. It is from this background of events we find our hope—hope of the resurrection.

Philippians 3:10-11

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Peter and Paul lived with the possibility of death at any time for their witness of Jesus Christ. Regardless of their perspective of this possibility, their hope was based on the death and resurrection of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:11

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the

Our hope is also based in a belief in the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

When we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, God transferred our citizenship from the world to heaven.

John 17:14

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Philippians 3:20

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Because we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and because Jesus is not of this world, we too are not of this world, but part of heaven.

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Peter's perspective of how we should live in this present society can be expressed in terms relative to the Hall of Faith, those who lived before us:

➤ *We are resident aliens*

➤ *We are tourists*

Hebrews 11:13

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

To consider ourselves strangers and pilgrims is to regard the pursuits of this world as foreign, belonging to someone else.

As believers, we should be polite to those intrigued by possessions, achievements, and sinful pleasure, but say, “No thanks, I’m just passing through.” We should not be so attached to this world that we are unprepared for Christ’s Second Advent.

Matthew 25:1-13

- 1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*
- 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*
- 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:*
- 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*
- 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*
- 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.*
- 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*
- 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*
- 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*
- 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*
- 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.*
- 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.*
- 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

It is all about preparation. We were dead in our sins, **BUT GOD** . . . We were rebels against Him, **BUT GOD** . . . We were enslaved by Satan and our sinful nature, **BUT GOD**. The two most enduring, and welcoming words in the Bible are **BUT GOD**. God could have left us spiritually dead, in rebellion against Him and in bondage to our sins, as well as our possessions; but He did not.

Romans 5:8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

As believers having a “new birth,” we enjoy a living hope because we put all of our trust in the living God.

Job 13:15

15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Questions: How do people try to find hope today? What makes them think that these options are better than having hope in Jesus?

Because of our “new birth,” this living hope we are proclaiming this day, is secured by the work Christ achieved on the cross at Calvary—not because of some good deed we have performed; but what Jesus did, and is doing, at this very moment.

Philippians 1:6

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Because of Jesus’ work on the cross, as believers we experience God’s grace and peace. Grace describes God’s character—a gracious heart of love. Although God is all powerful, He also cares for us.

1 Peter 5:7

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Peace between believers and God settles our biggest problem—sin. When God saved us, He removed the rebellious spirit and indifference toward Him. Peace with God gives meaning to our fellowship with Him and our relationships with other believers, all prepaid by Jesus’ work on the cross, helping us to keep our minds stayed on Him.

Isaiah 26:3

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

II. OUR HOPE IS SECURE FOR ETERNITY (I Peter 1:4-5)

We have continuous protection by the power of God working through the faith of those protected.

John 17:15

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Jesus Himself has prayed for our protection while we travel as pilgrims through a sinful and perverted world. But when we allow the evil we are presently experiencing in this world to influence us to fail to live and acknowledge the hope we have in Jesus, His promises become a fading memory. Now if we are children of God, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ—then we must live an acceptable life before God that demonstrates our security in eternity that we might be glorified with Christ and other believers.

Romans 8:17

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Question: What are some things on earth that make you long for eternity?

As believers, we inherit Christ's blessing, an inheritance that come freely that cannot be obtained by our own efforts, an inheritance that is imperishable. Our hope is tied to the resurrection of Christ, and our salvation is guaranteed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Peter is telling us today in spite of persecutions, Covid-19, and even violent death, as believers, we are still being protected.

II Thessalonians 3:3

3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Many times believers only see God through what He provides, missing many of the things He has prevented. God is now preventing us from experiencing hell by guaranteeing us life in eternity achieved through His Son Jesus, to have a home after death—the hope of the resurrection.

John 14:1-3

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Christ has already prepared our home in eternity, guaranteed. When we remember Who God is and what He has done for us through His Son Jesus, it is then we can focus on our reservations in heaven. Therefore we stand firm on the hope we have in Christ Jesus, regardless of life's circumstances, understanding that we must suffer in order to enter the Kingdom of God.

Acts 14:22

22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Questions: What painful or frustrating circumstances are you facing? How can you stay hopeful in spite of those circumstances?

III. OUR HOPE IS DISPLAYED THROUGH GENUINE FAITH (I Peter 1:6-9)

The “new birth” is a guarantee that we will suffer as believers in Christ. When Peter wrote of trials, he was not referring to natural disasters or God’s punishments; instead, he meant the response of an unbelieving world to people of faith in Jesus Christ. The suffering of these trials is just the norm for all who believe in Jesus.

I Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Many believers question the need to suffer, asking questions like: “Why does an all-powerful, good God permit suffering?” or “If someone has to suffer, why me?” No one in their right mind would ever subscribe to rejoicing for having suffered trials and tribulations in the flesh, but for the sake of spiritual growth, it has a different meaning.

Romans 5:1-5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability and power to rejoice in sufferings of trials and tribulations to accomplish a level of spiritual maturity that can rejoice in suffering. The end result of tribulations for the spiritually mature believer is hope. This hope is achieved through a genuine faith and trust in God by the power of the Holy Spirit, Who has been given to us by God through His Son Jesus. These trials come to make us stronger; to keep us rooted and grounded in God’s Word.

Questions: When has a trial made your faith stronger? How did it help you face the next trial that came your way?

While God may have different purposes in the trials that face His people, one overriding result of all trials is clear: Suffering refines people’s faith, which Peter says is “more precious than gold.” Christian faith does not focus on some abstract idea or some fallible person. Faith focuses on one person—Jesus Christ—who we have not seen, but yet believe.

John 20:29

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

We are blessed by having a genuine faith in Jesus although we have not seen Him. We are blessed when we have faith in His return—Second Advent—for which He will take us home to be with our Father.

Revelation 22:3-5

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

But while we await Christ’s return, as believers, we need to embrace three active responses to faith:

Romans 12:12

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;