

1 Peter

Part 2 – A Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-9

Peter launches into his letter with a bold encouragement for his readers doing the work to further support the concept of being comfortably elect yet uncomfortably in exile. There is great comfort in knowing God is altogether in control. His sovereign rule extends even to the regeneration and salvation of his church. Peter attributes the work of salvation to God's mercy and power. God is the prime mover, the cause, the keeper, and the guardian of those who bow the knee to Jesus.



It is right for us to join with the original audience in rejoicing and thanksgiving for this powerful reality. By the death and resurrection of God's Son a new birth was made possible for those who believe. This new birth, pushing us out of death and sin, makes us alive and offers a living hope and an eternal inheritance.

As exiles and sojourners in this world we lean on and find joy in these truths as our faith is tested by fiery trials. Peter makes clear the suffering we face in this life is under the authority of our gracious God. Trials are not futile, meaningless, or a source of hopelessness for the believer. As our culture nurtures its animosity and opposition toward Christianity may our confidence in the living hope that is ours in Jesus lead us to even greater rejoicing in our salvation.

Main Idea: God has caused the regeneration and salvation of his people and provided them with a living hope that does not fail under the strain of suffering.

1. God gives new life

Vs. 3

- John 3:3 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- "Our first birth brought us into sin and sorrow, but our second birth brings us into purity and joy. We were born to die; now are we born never to die." ~Charles Spurgeon
- You don't will your way out of your mother's womb – you are pushed out. In a similar way, you can't will yourself a Christian.

2. Born again to a living hope

Vs. 3

- The Scriptures teach we were created to hope in God but we long for other hopes. More tangible hopes. Hopes that are more connected to pleasure than to the will of God. Hopes connected to the alleviation of pain and suffering.
- The enemy desires to dress up dead hope in party clothes with the goal of making you feel like you are missing out. The proponents of dead hopes are wolves in sheep's clothing, whitewashed tombs, and full of lies.
- We must pay close attention to the location of our hope. It is either a living hope placed in Jesus, secured by his miraculous conception, life, death, miraculous resurrection and ascension; or it is a hope that you have manufactured to meet your current need. A hope that only has the substance you wish into it.

3. Born again to an eternal inheritance

Vv. 4-5

- The word inheritance is now placed in the context of life, not death. Jesus had been resurrected, death was defeated, and now an inheritance would come from a living man, not the deceased. Instead of death there is life.
- Your heavenly inheritance is untouched by death, unstained by evil, and unimpaired by time. This inheritance is ready. It was made ready by the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.
- The day this inheritance is received in full is the glorious day when you will no longer be a foreigner, or exile, but finally coheirs with our Lord Jesus.

4. Trials and suffering

Vv. 6-7

- The trials the Christian faces are an opportunity to trust or be tempted to doubt faith, or even to renounce faith.
- Even our trials and suffering are ordained by God as means for us to grow, so that after a little while, we may be found offering praise and glory and honor to God.
- Only the Christian worldview has a satisfactory answer as to why evil exists in the world and how we can maintain a living hope amidst it.