



A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF **1 PETER**

BIBLE TEXT | 1 PETER 1:1-5

1 Peter 1:1-5

1 To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Born Again to a Living Hope

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

DEVOTIONAL FOR 1 PETER 1:1-5

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July 19, 64 A.D. was the day that Nero, the Emperor of Rome set the city ablaze with fire. Though many considered Nero a madman, he escaped a revolt from his countrymen by deceptively blaming his treachery on followers of Jesus Christ. Christians were already misunderstood and withstood harsh opposition, but in the coming months they would be treated more inhumanely. Many Christians would be stoned, hung, burned to death, and unjustly imprisoned. The persecution spread throughout the region and began affecting all people associated as "people of The Way".

Peter writes this letter to dispersed believers that were afraid, confused, tormented, and running from more severe treatment. In the midst of a challenging and shaky world scene, Peter reminded Christians that they had received the gift of mercy and grace, by God's new and living way, salvation, (Hebrews 10:20) which is found in Christ alone. What Nero intended for evil, God was using for good by taking the gospel throughout the known world as people fled persecution.

This reminder was to infuse hope in the midst of hatred, and to spur on peace in spite of persecution. In order to accomplish this, Peter had to remind believers to endure enmity by setting their minds on eternal things. (Col 3:2)

As heirs of the promise, followers of Christ had an inheritance that was upheld through the Power of Christ because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This knowledge was to remind them that nothing could separate them from the love of God (Romans 8:37-39) and imperishable and unfading hope that was kept in heaven for the saints. Matter of fact, if believers ever doubted God's compassion in the midst of the bloodshed and hostility, they were simply to gaze above the stars and reflect on their citizenship in heaven, (Philippians 3:20) kept and secured in Jesus Christ. (John 10:28-29)

As we ponder on this passage, we too can have hope in the midst of our present realities. As members of Christ and heirs of His promise we can be thankful for the Holy Spirit that comforts (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) and guides us in perilous times. We can trust that God is with us and using all things; even our afflictions, for our good. Look forward in anticipation; don't be afraid, we are not overcome with fear because God is our source of joy, and the fulfillment of our future glory. Press on friends and fix your eyes on the author and perfecter of our faith, the Lord Jesus. (Hebrews 12:2)

Questions:

1. How did God reveal His mercy to sinners in verse 3?
2. According to verse. 4, why is the hope of our inheritance so incredible?
3. What does Peter mean to be "guarded through faith for salvation" in verse 5? Why is this important to followers of Christ? (Read: James 1:12)