

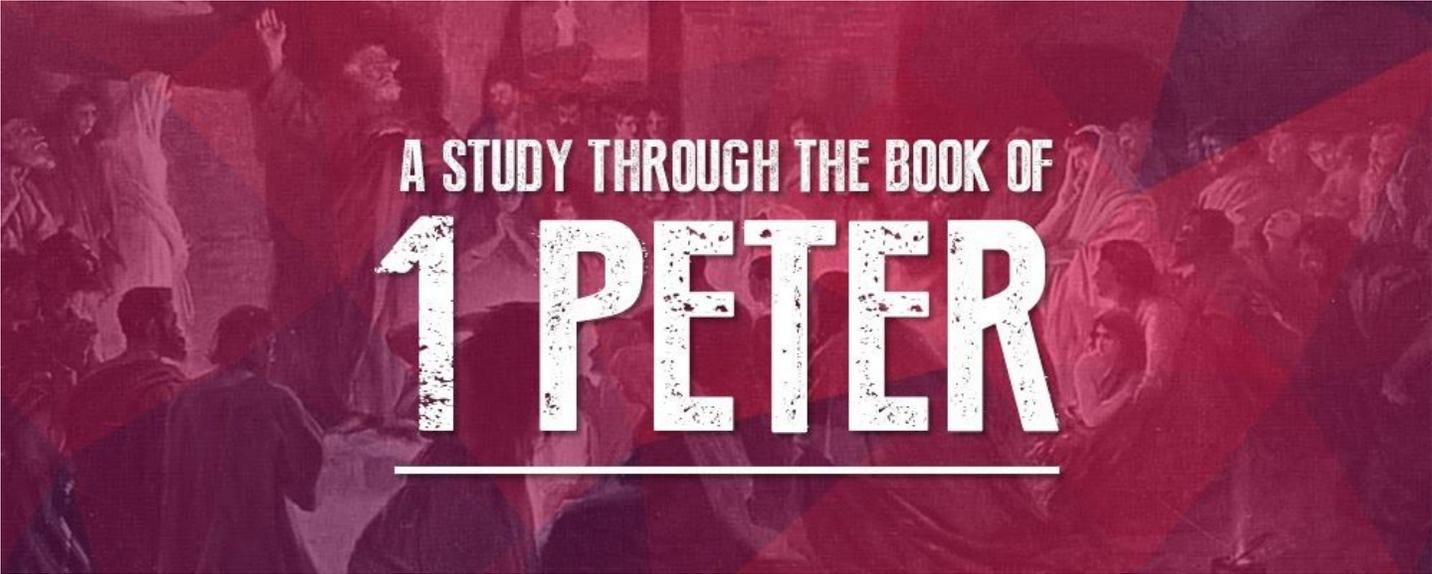
A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

BIBLE TEXT | 1 PETER 1:6-12

1 Peter 1:6-12

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.



A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

DEVOTIONAL FOR 1 PETER 1:6-12

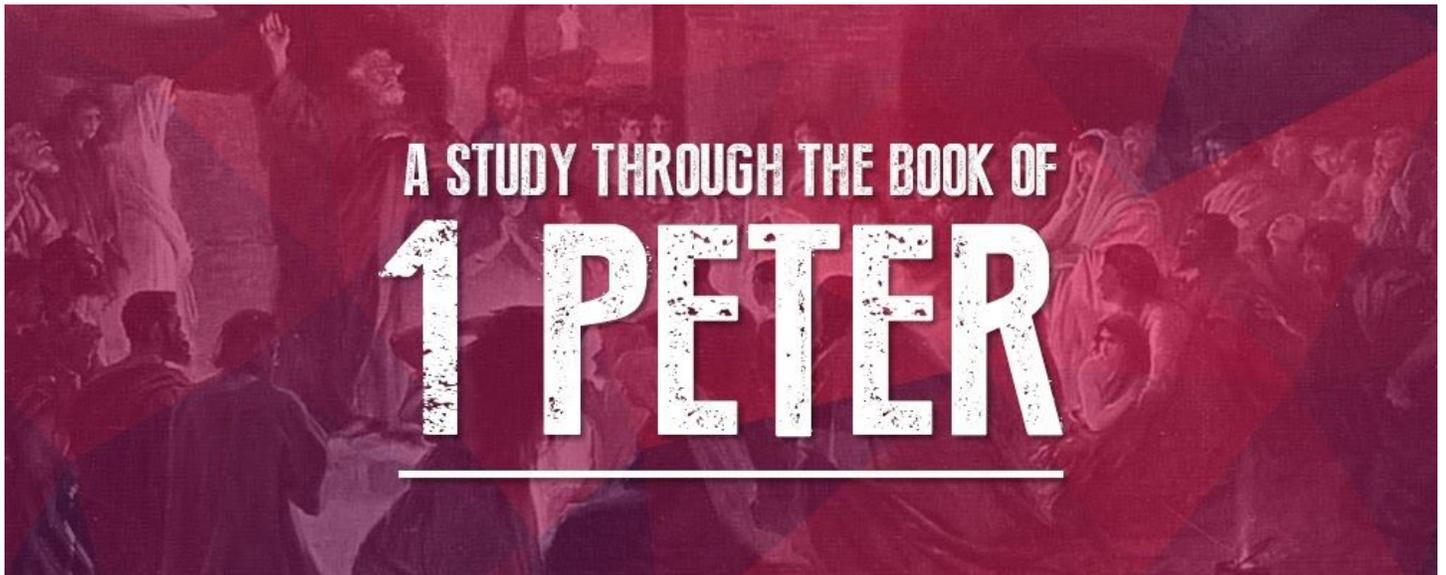
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I once saw an illustration by a pastor who took a large rope and stretched it across the stage. He asked us to imagine that the rope had no end. He said this rope represented the timeline of eternity. On this white rope, he pointed to a tiny piece of red tape. He said this tape was our life on this earth. He began to challenge us and asked us what we were living for - this tiny piece of red tape (our life on this earth) or the entire white rope (the remainder of our eternity). (If you are visual like me, you can check out this [video](#) by Francis Chan.) Of course, the correct answer seemed obvious at the time but has proven to be much more challenging to live out in this broken world. However, this illustration has stuck with me for many years. And as I was reading 1 Peter 1:6-12, I imagined this timeline once again.

We have just been reminded of the hope of our salvation earlier in 1 Peter 1 - an inheritance in Christ, protected by the power of God, that will be fully revealed when we meet Jesus face to face (verses 3-5). And so, in light of this hope and looking towards the "white", or eternal, part of the timeline, Peter encourages us in how we live and view trials today. As believers, we get to rejoice in the hope that we have, even in our suffering - whether it be sickness, death, heartache, loss of job, persecution for our faith or anything else. Why? Because this is not the end of the story. It is not the end of our timeline. That is what both Peter (vs. 6) and Paul (2 Corinthians 4:17-18) mean when they use the words "for a little while" and "light and momentary" in discussing trials and affliction. In comparison with the eternal bliss that lies ahead, our present difficulties are indeed temporary and brief.

Another reason we can rejoice in our trials is because none of it is wasted or pointless. God is using every bit of it for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28-29). He is perfecting our faith and purifying us (as gold is refined in the fire) in order to prepare us for eternity (James 1:3-4; verse 7). God uses all of our suffering to make us more like Christ (Philippians 1:6) and to bring honor to Him. Trials help us to realize the inadequacy of everything else in our lives and points us to the only One who saves and who is in control.

We have a choice in how we will respond to trials in our lives. Will we choose to look beyond this momentary life to the eternal life that Christ bought for us at a great price (Philippians 2:5-11, 1 Peter 1:18-19)? Or will we be consumed with the here and now? Will we allow people to see an inexpressible joy and hope, in the midst of our circumstances, (verse 8) that ultimately points to Christ (1 Peter 3:15)?



Questions:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. How does this passage support 1 Peter 1:6-9? What do you learn about trials and suffering?
2. According to James 1:2-12 and Romans 5:1-5, what do trials and suffering produce and why would we rejoice in it?
3. Why do you think it is difficult for us to have an eternal perspective? If possible, use Scripture to support your answer.