

HOW TO FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

1 Peter 1:3-9

October 26, 2008 Sunday AM

INTRODUCTION

- A. Last Tuesday a new national poll revealed that...
 - 1. 75% of Americans think things are going badly in our country.
 - 2. 75% are angry about it.
 - 3. 66% are scared about it.
 - 4. 75% are stressed out about it.
 - 5. Prior to 2008 this level of dissatisfaction and fear has only been seen three other times in the past four decades: During Watergate, during the Iranian Hostage Crisis and during the recession of 1992.
- B. Is there a word from the Bible that can help us during these days of quiet desperation?
 - 1. Yes there is and it's the word "hope".
 - 2. We need to be hopeful again about....
 - a. Our country's economy.
 - b. Our own financial future.
 - c. Our nation's security.
 - d. Our own job security.
 - e. Our children's future.
 - f. Our retirement.
- C. Where can we go in the Bible to find a word of hope?
 - 1. The Apostle Peter sounds an optimistic tone in 1 Peter 1:3.
 - a. What's he so optimistic about?
 - b. Doesn't he read the newspaper?
 - c. Doesn't he watch TV?
 - d. Doesn't he know what kind of a world we're living in?
 - 2. What is hope anyway?
 - a. The dictionary says "it's a wish or desire with the expectation of its fulfillment."
 - b. We use the word when we want something good to happen....
 - We hope the weather is good.
 - We hope our team wins.
 - We hope the stock market settles down.
 - c. But there's always an element of uncertainty when we use the word. Its more of a wish than an expectation.
 - 3. The Bible, however, uses the word differently.
 - a. There is always a sense of certainty.
 - b. There is no question about the outcome.
 - c. That's why Christians should be the most hopeful and optimistic people in the world.
 - d. Why? I can see at least two reasons found in Peter's letter.

I. FIRST, WE SHOULD BE HOPEFUL BECAUSE OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

- A. That's what Peter says in verse 3. Why is the future bright?
 - 1. Because God has given us "new birth".
 - 2. What is more hopeful than a newborn?
 - a. A newborn represents a fresh start, a new beginning, a clean slate.
 - b. We tell them they can become anything and the sky is the limit.
- B. That's what God does for us when we are born again.
 - 1. Peter knew from first hand experience the power of a new start because he miserably failed Jesus three times.

2. This is what we all want—to be free from our past mistakes and failures---the divorce, the depression, the addiction, and the hurtful things we've done and said.
3. We can't rewrite history, but we can be released from it.
4. We can move beyond it because new birth makes that possible.
5. Our future is bright!

II. SECOND, WE SHOULD BE HOPEFUL BECAUSE OUR FUTURE IS SECURE.

- A. That's what Peter says in verses 4-5.
 1. Peter speaks about an inheritance.
 2. Don't we all dream about one day receiving a letter telling us that some distant relative we didn't even know we had has died and left us their millions! That would make the future look bright!
 3. Suppose you knew that a certain rich relative's estate would eventually be yours. How would that change the way you feel right now?
- B. This is exactly what Peter is talking about by inheritance---eternal life, our home in heaven.
 1. Its an inheritance that is waiting for us and it can never be taken away no matter how bad the economy gets or how many mistakes we make
 2. Peter was no Pollyanna about life. He knew this world could be a tough place, especially for Christians—v. 6.
 3. However, this temporary suffering cannot compare to the inheritance that awaits us—vv. 7-9.

CONCLUSION

- A. Even if others are dissatisfied with are country and are fearful and stressed about it, we can still be hopeful.
- B. Why?
 1. Because our future is bright.
 2. Because our future is secure.
 3. Because there is an inheritance waiting for us.