

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 2ND, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 PETER

## REACHING OUT (1 PETER 1:1-2)

### PETER, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST

Peter identifies himself as someone with a message directly from Christ. Anyone that would read this letter would need to know by whose authority it had been written.

- As we read God's Word, we must remember that these aren't collections of men's opinions; it is **the Word of God to believers and the world.**

### CHOSEN, DISPERSED EXILES

The recipients of this letter were already following Christ, and many had been driven from their homes because of persecution. Peter recognized their suffering and wanted them to know hope in the middle of their trials.

- In our suffering, God knows where we've been displaced and has sent us a message of assurance **if we will just read it.**

### PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE SALVATION

Peter reminds them of the depth of their salvation: God had chosen them before they had ever thought of Him, Christ shed His blood for their sins, and the Holy Spirit would continue to grow the strength required to live in loving obedience to Him.

- **This is the foundation of surviving suffering: we cannot grow or live without Christ.**

## HOPE (1 PETER 1:3-12)

### LIVING HOPE

By God's mercy, we are given a "new birth" through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This "living hope" comes only through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- After our new birth, **our hope and relationship grows and becomes stronger, and more glorious as we follow Christ.**

### ETERNAL HOPE

Salvation brings an inheritance of an imperishable, undefiled, unfading, eternal hope.

- Sometimes, it seems like hope is an eternity away, but the truth is, **hope is here now and will last for eternity because it is from God, seen in Christ, and secured by the Holy Spirit.**

### HOPE IN TRIALS

God will allow trials that are needed to reveal our authentic faith. There are many different trials, but **not all suffering is a trial.**

- Trials may bring grief and brokenness, but they are not meant to destroy us. It's a testing of our faith that **reveals our sincerity, makes us more dependent on Christ, and develops godly character.**

### INEXPRESSIBLE AND GLORIOUS JOY

The joy of our salvation is visible to the world, even when Christ is not. The Old Testament's prophets searched and investigated our salvation, and angels long to catch a glimpse of it.

- We have Christ! **The world may not understand our joy, but if we don't show it, they sure won't see it.**

## HOLY (1 PETER 1:13-21)

### MOTIVATED

We have been saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), and that grace sustains us moment by moment. But it is looking to Christ's return that should motivate us to holy living.

- **If we stop for one of those grace moments and look at our lives, we may find that it is something other than our Savior motivating us to live.**

### OBEDIENT AND HOLY

Just like children inherit their parents' character, we should reflect our Father's character.

- **Our past ignorance led to indulgence, but Christ has called us to holy conduct. This isn't perfection; it's an expression of those "set apart" to show love for our Savior.**

### REVERENCE AND REMEMBRANCE

God has called us to look differently, live differently, and now think differently than the world.

- **How often do we honestly consider the "spotless lamb" that shed His "precious blood" and resurrected so that we can have "faith and hope in God"?**

## COMMUNITY (1 PETER 1:22-25)

### ONE FAMILY

Because we have been born again through the "living and enduring word of God," we have the same Father, and we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

- **Our love for one another should be the same love Christ has for us: sincere and sacrificial.**

## WHERE TO START

- There have always been trials, suffering, and persecution in the church.
- **God knows our suffering and has a message of encouragement and a plan for our relief.**
- **The only way to survive and thrive in our trials is through our relationship with Jesus Christ.**

## WHERE HOPE GROWS

- We have a "living hope" that comes from God.
- **It's an eternal hope that strengthens us even in difficult times.**
- **Time destroys most hopes. The Christian's hope becomes stronger and more glorious with time.**

## LOVING GOD AND PEOPLE

- Because of Christ's sacrifice and His promised return, we can live lives of holiness (obedience).
- **Can the world see the love of God in the way we treat each other?**
- **In all the fog and chaos of our lives, will we remember what Christ has done for us?**