

# A LIVELY HOPE

## 1 PETER 1:3-9

Text: 1 Peter 1:3

### **1 Peter 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Introduction:

The people that Peter is addressing were in great need of comfort. They were strangers scattered far from home.

They had suffered great trials and needed plenty of consolation.

This was Peter's fulfillment of the Lord's request of him to "Strengthen Thy Brethern."

It's interesting that there are four choice things in this text. Though we will not elaborate on of them I still think that they are worth mentioning.

- We see the source of all comfort and rest (vs. 3) – “Abundant Mercy”

### **1 Peter 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- We see the source of hope (vs. 3) – “The Resurrection of Jesus Christ”

### **1 Peter 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- We see that as Christians have a promising future (vs. 4) – “An inheritance incorruptible ... that fadeth not away”

### **1 Peter 1:4**

<sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

- We see the security of this promising future (vs. 4) – “Reserved in Heaven for you”

All of these blessings are possible because salvation or as Paul states it “a lively hope.”

The psalmist declared in Psalms 40:2-3:

### **Psalms 40:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings. <sup>3</sup> And he hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

I want us to consider today “Our Lively Hope, Our Longed For Home, and Our Life’s Happiness.”

Notice:

## **1. OUR LIVELY HOPE (VS. 3)**

### **1 Peter 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Notice:

### **A. The Reason for Our Lively Hope**

### **Psalms 145:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD *is* gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. <sup>9</sup> The LORD *is* good to all: and his tender mercies *are* over all his works.

If it were not for His great mercy each of us would yet be dead in our sins!

### **Ephesians 2:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, <sup>5</sup> Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Matthew Henry once said of God's mercy:

"His mercy is everlasting; it is a fountain that can never be drawn dry. The saints, who are now the sanctified vessels of mercy, will be, to eternity, the glorified monuments of mercy."

That mercy which was bestowed to us through Christ Jesus at Calvary is a "lively (living) hope".

### **Hebrews 6:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath: <sup>18</sup> That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: <sup>19</sup> Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; <sup>20</sup> Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Notice not only the reason for our "Lively Hope" but also:

#### **B. The Reality of a Lively Hope**

A "lively hope" is hope which refuses to give up and die. Peter's hope was not illusion or fantasy. It was

based on his confidence in God's character and on his belief in Christ's resurrection.

Our meaning of hope is quite different from the Bible's meaning. When we say "hope" usually we mean "want", as in "I hope it is sunny tomorrow." But in God's Word "hope" means "confident expectation."

Our hope is based on God's promises and the work of His dear Son! That hope; resting in the fact of Christ's resurrection!

**1 Peter 3:18**

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Edward Mote, the Baptist preacher and Hymn writer, who grew up as an ungodly youth on the streets of London, after his conversion wrote:

"My Hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and Righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' Name.  
On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand."

Hope makes all the difference.

The Christian's hope is a confident expectation. Our hope is "stored" in heaven, where Christ returned to be with the Father.

That hope will be fulfilled in the future.

We look forward to a hope that is awaiting us; yet we also have that hope with us, enabling us to live our Christian lives with unhindered faith and love.

Our confidence gives us stronger faith in God and deeper love for others.

Notice not only our "Lively Hope" but also:

## **2. OUR LONGED FOR HOME**

### **1 Peter 1:4-5**

<sup>4</sup>To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Notice:

#### **A. Our Anticipation of Heaven**

As a Child of God, this world is not our home!

The hymn writer, Albert Brumley wrote:

## This World Is Not My Home

1. This world is not my home I'm just passing through  
my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue  
the angels beckon me from Heaven's open door and I  
can't feel at home in this world anymore

O Lord you know I have no friend like you if Heaven's  
not my home then Lord what will I do?

The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door and I  
can't feel at home in this world anymore.

2. They're all expecting me and that's one thing I know  
my savior pardoned me and now I onward go I know  
He'll take me through though I am weak and poor and I  
can't feel at home in this world anymore.

O Lord you know I have no friend like you if Heaven's  
not my home then Lord what will I do?

The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door and I  
can't feel at home in this world anymore.

3. Just up in Glory Land we'll live eternally the Saints on  
every hand are shouting victory their song of sweetest  
praise drifts back from Heaven's shore and I can't feel  
at home in this world anymore

O Lord you know I have no friend like you if Heaven's not my home then Lord what will I do?

The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door and I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

Notice:

**Hebrews 13:14**

<sup>14</sup>For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

That's why its stated this way:

**1 Peter 1:4-5**

<sup>4</sup>To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Three adjectives are used to describe our inheritance.

- First, "incorruptible" which means "not subject to decay or spoiling."
- Second, "undefiled" which means "pure or unstained by filth."
- And lastly, "that fadeth not" meaning "unwithering."

Cut flowers are doomed to wither and die, but flowers growing in fertile soil will not wither or fade.



Notice not only our Anticipation of Heaven but also:

## B. Our Assurance of Heaven

### **1 Peter 1:5**

<sup>5</sup> Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The word kept means “to guard”.

It is a military term for the protection of a city by means of a military garrison. In the picture here, the power of God corresponds to an army base with the sole function of protecting believers.

### **Romans 8:35-39**

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Peter declared that faith commits a person to God's keeping power. Not human ability but God's presence, like a watchman at the door of the stronghold, guards the security of those who trust in Him.

What will Heaven be like?

In our present state we come short, not only in the enjoyment, but in the knowledge of that Glory.

When its revealed it will surpasses all that we have seen and known.

Present guarantees are sweet and precious, but there is something to come, something behind the curtain, that will outshine all.

Notice not only our “Lively Hope” and our “Longed for Home” but also:

### **3. OUR LIFE’S HAPPINESS**

#### **1 Peter 1:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: <sup>7</sup>That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: <sup>8</sup>Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: <sup>9</sup>Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

Notice:

#### A. Our Present Joy

Peter says—“Wherein ye greatly rejoice...” This speaks of a present joy. They were rejoicing at that moment.

They were rejoicing with a joy that remained, unhindered and unchanged, no matter what was going on around them.

We, as Christians, may rejoice in our future Heavenly home. But never let us forget why we are in this world: to serve and glorify God!

### **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

### **Matthew 5:16**

<sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

We may face hardships, heartaches, and heartbreaks but we can still rejoice in our Lord!

Notice not only “Our Present Joy” but also:

## **B. Our Painful Journey**

### **1 Peter 1:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: <sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: <sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: <sup>9</sup> Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

Peter continues: “thought now for a season, if need be ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.

Remember in glorifying God we will suffer many things.

**2 Timothy 3:12**

<sup>12</sup> Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

**John 16:33**

<sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Note the words “the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire...”

Gold is purified the hotter it is heated.

Our faith grows the more we are tried and we become more like Jesus Christ!

Someone has said, "As trees must be pruned, gold refined, grain sifted, and pearls polished, so the Lord tests and tries His children that they may develop their true potential and reflect their Maker's glory."

Quote:

A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.

Note what James declares:

**James 1:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; <sup>3</sup> Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

How can we joy in trials? We don't joy in the trial itself, but in the Lord who sustains us through the trials!

**Isaiah 43:2**

<sup>2</sup> When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

**Hebrews 13:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. <sup>6</sup> So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

All of our trials endured by faith are that Christ may be praised, honored, and glorified!

Notice not only “Our Present Joy” and Our Painful Journey but also:

## C. Our Pleasure in the Lord Jesus

### **1 Peter 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

In 1 Peter 2:7 we read:

### **1 Peter 2:7**

<sup>7</sup> Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

One of the great fruits of salvation is that the Lord becomes precious to the believer.

He is our pleasure.

### **Psalms 107:9**

<sup>9</sup> For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

There are two characteristics, which should be evident in believers, found in vs. 8: "love" and "joy"

This is what the Lord brings to our lives.

### **John 10:10**

<sup>10</sup> The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

In Galatians 5 the first two fruits of the spirit are

**Galatians 5:22**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Close:

Those here today whom have by faith trusted Christ as their Saviour have a "Lively Hope."

"Are you saved?" If you are saved, "Are you serving God and seeking His will for you?" We should be ever-ready for He may come at any time!