

Life is messy – Has, Is, or Will Be

We have this in common: Life is messy

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle" (Ian Maclaren)

Hard week, month year, – Hope is anything but static.

Peter experienced the dynamic power of living and breathing hope when encountering his living and breathing Savior!

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter's name is mentioned in the gospels more than anyone except Jesus. No one speaks in the gospels as much as Peter did, and Jesus spoke more to Peter than to anyone else. Jesus rebuked Peter more than any other disciple. Peter was the only disciple who dared to rebuke Jesus. Peter confessed Jesus more boldly and accurately than any other disciple. Peter denied Jesus more forcefully and publicly than any other disciple. Jesus praised Peter more than any other disciple. Jesus addressed Peter as Satan alone among the disciples.

1. LIVING HOPE (v.3)

Not a vacuum. Going to NZ pregnant – There's always Hope. *"Have you seen Dave? He has lost Hope"* Not lost; object is Jesus Christ. Great Mercy. Mercy can only exist in the context of failure.

"It is from the mercy of our God that all our hopes begin." (Spurgeon)

2. IMPERISHABLE INHERITANCE (v.4)

So great that Peter can only really describe what it is not. Not earned (work), not won (luck), but received (relationship).

Romans 8:16-17

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ..."

3. FORWARD-LOOKING FAITH (v.5-6)

Guarded in God's power, not ours.

Hope definition: "The eager expectation of good things to come."

Hope is a Faith Issue even in The Shire

"It's like in the great stories, Mr. Frodo, the ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger, they were. And sometimes you didn't want to know the end... because how could the end be happy? How could the world go back to the way it was when so much bad had happened? But in the end, it's only a passing thing... this shadow. Even darkness must pass."

(Samwise J.R.R. Tolkien – Two Towers)

4. REJOICING RESILIENCE (v. 6-7)

Rejoice, we're saved! Temporary & Purposeful.

Romans 8:18

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Rejoice in God's keeping power.

Jeremiah Lamentations 3:21-24

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

In the middle of the saddest book of the Bible, we find a message of HOPE. Why? Because the light shines brightest in the dark.

Genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold.

Impurities and dross rise to the surface and are removed. Ready when the artisan sees their reflection in the surface of the gold.

Louis Zamperini, 47 days.

At the time, a record for survival while lost at sea.

Special Forces

Rule of 3s (30 days without food, 3 days without water, 3 hours of exposure before hypothermia sets in, 3 minutes without air, but can't last 3 seconds without hope).

5. SURE SALVATION (v. 8-9)

Unseen still love, Unseeing still believe. God tests; He knows; We don't

Dad

"How can you believe in God? How can I not? What has happened to me (losing everything) happens to everyone; it just hasn't happened to you yet." Evidence is joy inexpressible, filled with glory, and secure! Recall our author Peter's backstory. Radical. "Sometimes we ask for help, and God gives us hope; not because it's different, but because it's the same." (Bob Goff)

Ironside

Frontier back-burning - Grandfather's China Plate - The only things that survived the fire were those that had been through a fire.

Let's Imagine Together:

The Day Jesus Died - It can't get more hopeless than this.

Pray Hope for one another.

Romans 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."