

**Thanksgiving Series 1**  
**For the Week of November 12, 2023**

**Reflection**

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

**Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15-24**

3. Looking at verses 15-22, what are the things that Paul challenges Christians to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How are believers to “give thanks in all circumstances<sup>1</sup>”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How are these challenges of Paul “the will of God in Christ Jesus for you<sup>2</sup>”?

**1 Peter 1:3-9**

**To be a Christian in Peter's time meant facing uncertain and unpleasant experiences from the surrounding world. A person might well hesitate to join a Christian group for fear of the consequences or quietly opt out because the demands were too great. One of Peter's aims in his letter, then, was to encourage his readers by giving them grounds for solid hope in the ultimate future so that they might face the immediate future with equanimity, courage and even joy. Right at the beginning of the letter he sets this mood in what is, so far as its form is concerned, an expression of thanks to God.**

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Th 5:18.

<sup>2</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Th 5:18.

**Observation** (vs. 3-5)

6. What is Peter saying in these verses?

**Interpretation**

7. How do believers have a "living hope"?

8. What is the inheritance of believers mentioned in verse 4 (see also Col 1:5; 2 Tim 4:8)?

**Application**

9. How does this living hope bring about a heart of thanksgiving in you?

**Observation** (vs. 6-7)

10. What are these verses saying?

**Interpretation**

11. How can there be joy in spite of suffering?

12. How can suffering be a means of refining (see also Isaiah 48:10)?

**Application**

13. How does the "revelation of Jesus Christ<sup>3</sup>" bring you hope in times of suffering?

**Observation** (vs. 8-9)

14. What is Peter trying to convey to his readers?

**Interpretation**

15. How do believers love Christ even though unseen (see also John 20:29 and Heb 11:27)?

16. How is there inexpressible joy in knowing Christ Himself?

17. Read Philippians 4:4-7. How do the verses in Philippians correlate with these in 1 Peter?

**Application**

18. The following hymn was inspired by these verses. Take a moment to read (or sing) and reflect on this hymn.

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<sup>3</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Pe 1:7.

# Joy Unspeakable

Words and Music by  
Barney E. Warren

## VERSE

♩ = 100

B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  F7

1. I have found His grace is all com - plete; He sup - pli - eth ev - 'ry need. While I  
2. I have found the pleas - ure I once craved; It is joy and peace with - in. What a  
3. I have found that hope so bright and clear, liv - ing in the realm of grace. Oh, the  
4. I have found the joy no tongue can tell; How its waves of glo - ry roll! It is

## CHORUS

B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  F/C C7 F F7 B $\flat$

5 sit and learn at Je - sus' feet, I am free, yes, free in - deed. It is joy un - speak - a - ble and  
won - drous bless - ing! I am saved from the aw - ful gulf of sin.  
Sav - iour's pres - ence is so near, I can see His smil - ing face.  
like a great o'er - flow - ing well, spring - ing up with - in my soul.

F7 B $\flat$

10 full of glo - ry, full of glo - ry, full of glo - ry. It is joy un - speak - a - ble and full of glo - ry. Oh, the

E $\flat$  Cm F7 B $\flat$

15 half has nev - er yet been told.

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