

Study Guide

This week we're beginning a new sermon series in the book of 1 Peter. Our text this weekend is 1 Peter 1:1-12. Our sermon title is "Eyes on the Prize."

Getting into the text:

- 1) What was one point from the sermon this weekend that was especially meaningful to you? Why that point? Is there a way in which you can practically apply the principle to your everyday life?
- 2) How did this sermon/text help you to better understand the Gospel and what it means to keep the Gospel central to your life?
- 3) *Read 1 Peter 1:1-12.* Peter addresses this letter to the "elect exiles." As you think about the church in general and your own life in particular, would you say that you live in this culture more as a Christian exile or a devoted national?
- 4) Verse 3 begins with a sentence that we may be tempted to move quickly beyond: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!" We should not, however, move quickly beyond that sentence. Our salvation ought to lead to a life of praise to God. Is this outpouring of praise evident and characteristic in your own life? Why, do you suppose, that praise dies down as life goes on? What might it look like for you to continue to fan it into flame?

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- 5) How does the resurrection of Jesus lead us to a 'living hope?' How does that kind of hope redefine our view of this world/culture and our place in it?
- 6) Verse 5 assures us that God himself is guarding us through faith. How does that guarding give perspective to whatever trial we may be facing? Have you ever experienced a trial that deepened your faith and solidified it?
- 7) What might this text be calling us to think, believe, desire, and do?