

Sermon Notes 8/10/25

The Gift of Hope

El don de la esperanza

What is the hope we have in Christ?
¿Cuál es la esperanza que tenemos en Cristo?

1. We have a new _____ in Christ.
Tenemos un nuevo _____ en Cristo.
1 Peter 1:3 (1 Pedro 1:3)
1 Peter 1:23 (1 Pedro 1:23)
John 3:3-5 (Juan 3:3-5)

2. We have an _____ in Christ.
Tenemos una _____ en Cristo.
1 Peter 1:4 (1 Pedro 1:4)
1 Peter 1:6-7 (1 Pedro 1:6-7)
2 Peter 3:13-14 (2 Pedro 3:13-14)

3. We have _____ in Christ.
Tenemos _____ en Cristo.
1 Peter 1:5 (1 Pedro 1:5)
1 Peter 1:8-11 (1 Pedro 1:8-11)
2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (2 Corintios 6:1-2)



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 1: August 10-17

1 Peter 1:1-12

Peter wrote his first letter to encourage Christians who were suffering from persecution. Peter was probably in Rome at the time of this writing. Peter sent greetings from “she who is in Babylon” (5:13). However, because of the persecution that was taking place during the reign of Nero, “Babylon” was used as a code word for Rome. According to tradition, both Peter and Paul were put to death in Rome during this persecution. The book of 1 Peter is relevant for Christians today. While we may never experience the kind of persecution that took place in the first century, we do encounter various trials that test our faith. In the first chapter of this book, we see a message of hope that will strengthen our faith and help us to endure the trials we face in this world.

Read 1 Peter 1:1-12

1. How did Peter describe his readers in verse 1?

Allen Black writes,

The translation “strangers in the world” rightly indicates that Peter is not thinking of his audience as literally aliens whose homeland is outside of Asia Minor, but rather is using the term metaphorically. The writer of Hebrews explains the idea: “They [the Old Testament patriarchs] confessed they were strangers and foreigners on the earth... they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one” (Heb 11:13-16, NRSV). Paul uses the same basic idea in Philippians 3:20: “But our citizenship is in heaven.” The idea that Christians are citizens of heaven and live as foreigners on the earth is an important concept that Peter will build upon. (Black, 29)

2. How did God decide who should be chosen? (1:2)

Jack Cottrell observes,

God does have true foreknowledge of all future events of this world. This is clearly taught in Isaiah 41:21-23; 42:8-9; 44:7-8; 45:20-21; 48:3-7; Acts 2:23; Rom. 8:29. In the last passage, especially, such foreknowledge is directly related to our salvation: “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son.” (Cottrell, 15-16)

3. How are all three persons of the Trinity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) involved in our salvation? (1:2)

Cottrell notes,

Peter is affirming that in our salvation, we are related to all three persons of the Trinity. This is why, in our baptism, we are baptized “into the name of,” i.e., into a saving relationship with, “the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19). Because of this, to be sure, GRACE and PEACE are multiplied to us in the fullest measure! (Cottrell, 20)

4. What did God do for us in verse 3?

5. How did Peter describe our inheritance in verse 4?

6. How would verses 4-5 offer hope to those who were suffering from persecution?

Peter reminds all Christians that we have an inheritance from God waiting for us in our eternal home, where we will be with loved ones and never have to worry about persecution or suffering of any kind.

David Helm comments,

Can you imagine the effect these words had upon Peter’s first readers? The dispersed and small Sunday gatherings of Christians in what is now modern-day northern Turkey and elsewhere were a spiritually tired lot. Through the preaching of the gospel, they had come to know God’s favor. But for some time now, they had found life difficult. They were filled with a sense that perhaps God had forgotten about them... And knowing their discouragement, Peter writes of their future salvation. He fills them afresh with hope. (Helm, 35)

7. What does God want to accomplish in us when we are going through all kinds of trials? (1:6-7)

8. What principle does Peter teach us in verse 8 that Paul also teaches us in 2 Corinthians 5:7?

9. According to verse 9, what is the goal of our faith?

10. According to verse 10, who in the Old Testament was interested in our salvation?

11. What did the Spirit of Christ predict through the Old Testament prophets? (1:11)

12. According to verse 12, who were these prophets serving?

13. How do the angels respond to these prophecies? (1:12)

Charles Swindoll writes,

The same Holy Spirit who had inspired the Scriptures empowered the apostles to preach this good news to the believers of Asia Minor (1:12). So profound is the fulfillment of those expectations that even angels long to listen in on our songs of redemption, to look over the shoulder of a sinner praying for forgiveness, and to linger as believers endure temporary suffering for the sake of eternal glory. If angels marvel at the hope we have in Christ, shouldn't we? (Swindoll, 162)

14. What situations make you feel like a stranger in this world?

15. How can trials strengthen and refine our faith?

16. How have your trials prepared you for Christ's coming?

17. If the prophets and angels long to study and better understand the prophecies about Jesus, how should we respond to God's word?

18. How could God use you to serve others in the near future?

19. How do you need to adjust your attitude about the trials in your life?

20. How will you rejoice in your salvation today?

Sources cited:

Black, Allen, and Mark Black. *1 & 2 Peter*. College Press, 1998.

Cottrell, Jack. *Studies in First Peter*. Christian Restoration Association, 2017.

Helm, David R. *1–2 Peter and Jude*. Crossway, 2015.

Swindoll, Charles. *Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter*. Tyndale, 2014.