

1 Peter 1:1-2
“Hope In A Hostile World”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (1 Peter 1:1-2) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this series: **“Hope In A Hostile World”**

~ INTRO ~

THE MAIN THEME IN 1ST PETER...

- **Is Hope!**
 - (1 Peter 1:3) NKJV
 - (1 Peter 1:13) NKJV
- *Hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.* (Heb 6:19) NLT

OK... HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:

- Read (1 Peter 1:1-2) NLT

IN THE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY (by Walvoord & Zuck)...

- They introduce 1st Peter like this:
 - *“This epistle [is] a unique source of encouragement for all believers who live in conflict with their culture.”*
 - *“This epistle could be understood as a handbook, written for ambassadors to a hostile foreign land.”*

CHURCH AS WE DISCOVER...

- The context of 1st Peter...
 - We're going to realize the tremendous value this book has for 2021.
- Once again... the Church is being positioned...
 - For what appears to be a season of persecution!

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BIBLE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS...

- Are on a collision course with the **forced** standards in our society.
 - Christians stand in stark contrast... **to the cultural-religion...**
 - Found in the mainstream of our society.
 - And there's no hiding anymore!

Liberal-Christianity...

- Is a religious attempt to *marry faith with reason...*
 - **By accommodating mainstream immorality.**
- It's corrupt doctrines...
 - That support the cultural demands of the modern age:
 - 1) Reconstruction of the family (gender dysphoria)
 - 2) Abortion for all (no sanctity or dignity on human life)
 - 3) The sexual revolution (LGBTQ agenda)

ALL OF THE HOT MORAL ISSUES...

- That the church is to stand against...
 - Are being embraced by an enemy masquerading...
 - Under the name of the church!

CHRISTIAN...

- The Country you live in... no longer allows you...
 - To express dissent over immoral practices...
 - **Without punitive action against you.**

NOW...

- Peter is very pointed with his words: **(1 Peter 5:12) NLT**

"... My purpose in writing, is to encourage you and assure you, that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace." (NLT)

PETER...

- Is exhorting the Church NOT to give up HOPE...
 - No matter how bad the conditions get!

LISTEN... AS THE CHURCH...

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- We're TO face persecution – head on!
- At the same time... we're to allow the grace of Jesus Christ...
 - To shine thru!

HOW DO WE DO THIS???

- Four ways:

1) Remember your citizenship

- (1 Peter 2:11) NLT

2) Focus your thoughts

- (Phil. 4:8) NLT

3) Put into practice what you've learned

- (Phil. 4:9) NLT

4) Place your hope in Jesus

- (1 John 5:4-5) NLT

OK...

THE BIG IDEA TODAY – “A TRANSFORMING MESSAGE” (vv.1-2)

1st Peter...

- Was written around (A.D. 64) by Peter...
 - (the fisherman turned Apostle).

BUT DON'T FORGET...

- The transformation in Peter's life... was the work of God!

*Just like God is doing in you!!!

- Peter boasted he would go to death for Jesus...
 - And then denied Him (3x's)!

HE JUMPED REAL HIGH...

- But he walked very crooked!

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IN (Luke 22:31-32) NKJV

- Jesus told Peter... Satan’s gaming for you.
 - He wants to “sift you.”

AND... LOOKING AHEAD...

- Jesus told Peter (once he returned) to: “strengthen your brothers”
 - 1st Peter is one way this command was fulfilled.

NOW CHECK THIS OUT!

- Peter wrote this letter just before... (OR right at the beginning)...
 - Of the radical policies that brought persecution on the Church.

GOD WAS RESPONDING IN REAL TIME!

THE OCCASION FOR THE LETTER...

- Was under Nero (Rome’s 5th Emperor)...
 - A guy who began ruling at 16-years old.
- History tells us Nero ruled for 14-years (A.D. 54 – A.D. 68)...
 - Until he committed suicide at age 30.

NERO’S...

- Early years of leadership were built around...
 - Mildness & idealism, which came primarily from his advisors.
- He was a teenage focused on the enchantment of Roman culture.

HOWEVER... TACITUS (1st Century Historian)

- Reports around the time of the “*Great fire of Rome*” (July A.D. 64)...
 - Nero was suspected of starting the fire in Rome.

BUT HE DEFLECTED THE BLAME...

- Onto the Christian’s and he began brutally...
 - Torturing and killing them from that point forward.
 - Which lasted about 4-years, until he took his own life.

WHAT CAN WE UNDERSTAND THIS MORNING?

- Three things:

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- 1) God allows persecution to sift our faith – where am I corrupt?
- 2) God allows persecution to deepen our faith – where am I weak?
- 3) God allows persecution to bring out our faith – where have I stopped living by faith?

STORY

- New friend Fed-Ex worker this week (Logan)
 - His dad died...
 - I believe the Lord lays before us divine opportunities to...
 - To love on others and point them to Jesus.

~ IN CLOSING ~

HERE’S THE ACTION I CHALLENGE YOU WITH (FOR THIS WEEK)...

- I want to give you something to expand the message...
 - And ministry of Jesus Christ.

(cell phone) TEXT **3-PEOPLE** THIS WEEK.

- Tell them you’re praying for them...
 - And then invite them to church next Sunday.

~ LET’S PRAY ~

Holy Spirit power for the work of ministry (*Acts 1:8*) *to be a witness for Jesus*

~ COMMUNION ~

(Isa 53) or (1 Cor 11)