

1 Peter 1:3-12  
“*Hope In A Hostile World*”

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (1 Peter 1:3-12) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- Our current **series** is titled: “*Hope In A Hostile World*”

~ INTRO ~

LAST WEEK...

- We discovered the cultural-backdrop in Rome...
  - And the conditions Peter wrote about.

HISTORY SHOWS...

- The hostility of Nero's Government toward Christians was real...
  - AND... it presented danger across Rome!

AND WE LEARNED...

- That the main theme in (1<sup>st</sup> Peter) is **Hope...**
  - In the face of persecution.
    - (That hostile and unfair treatment).

NOW... TODAY WE ADD TO THIS...

- With a simple understanding of the MAN writing – **Peter**.

(Matt. 16:18) NLT

*“Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means rock), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”*

Thayer's Greek Lexicon says...

- Peter was given this name “*metaphorically [by Jesus] of a soul hard and*
  - *Unyielding, and so resembling a rock.*
  - The IVP Bible Background Commentary says...
    - *Peter fortified the souls of others against the pressures...*
      - *Of the storms of suffering (1993).*

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Eugene Peterson said...

- Peter was a natural leader, commanding the respect of his peers...
  - By sheer force of personality (1994).

TODAY...

- We might say Peter was a bully – before Jesus changed him.

**OK... HERE’S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:**

- Read (1 Peter 1:3-5) NLT

**IDEA #1 – “HELP TO HOLD ON”** (vv.3-5)

WE HAVE A “*great expectation*” (v.3b) (NLT)...

- Because of the *Resurrection of Jesus Christ!* (NKJV)

THE HOPE...

- Laid out in this book...
  - **Lifts** the believer into a heavenly view...
    - And an unconquerable victory IN CHRIST!

(v.4) SAYS IT’S... “*beyond the reach of change and decay*” (NLT).

- What God has promised us will NOT deteriorate!!!
  - NKJV calls it a “*living hope!*”
- And Peter is helping the Church NOT to give up...
  - As the surrounding cultural hostility grows against them.

**FIVE INCREASES OF PERSECUTION:**

1. **Ridicule** = Dismissive of your convictions & intolerant of your faith.
2. **Slander** = False statements that tarnish or ruin your reputation.
3. **Confiscation of property** = Tangible loss of goods or services.  
(think about the Colorado Bakery owner)
4. **Fines / Jail** = Punitive sanctions from Government.  
(California churches and COVID-19 is a massive example of this one)

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5. **Death** = A premature loss of life due to evil aggression.  
(Consider the increasing violent riotous behavior)

**POINT BEING...**

- Peter was strengthening the Church to stand against these pressures!

OK... FLIP FORWARD TO (1 Peter 5:12) NKJV

- Peter gives the lens to view every line of this book thru.

HE USES THE WORDS:

- *Exhorting* (para-ka-leo)
  - It's the same root word that describes the Holy Spirit (para-clete).
    - Peter draws into focus the ministry of the Holy Spirit here.

THE HOLY SPIRIT...

- Comes along side of us...
  - AND enables us to endure the situation at hand.

LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXTREME EXAMPLE: (Acts 7:51-59) NLT

PETER...

- Provides a playbook for how Christian's approach & endure...
  - Increasing persecution:
    - a) *It's a living hope* (1:3) NKJV
    - b) *Stand firm in this grace* (5:12) NLT

NOW... HE USES...

- *Testifying* = It has the substance Jesus used...
  - When He spoke about witnessing.
    - (It's the idea of a **martyr**.)

**POINT BEING...**

- Peter is *testifying* from personal experience...
  - About the keeping power of God in adverse situations (v.5)

**IDEA #2 – “NAVIGATING THE MOMENT”**

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READ (vv.6-7)

**THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT POINT!**

- Three things we can understand here:

1. God’s point in testing us... is to strengthen our commitment to Him.

- God allows problems for purifying His people.
- God allows problems to stretch us.
- God allows problems to develop our perseverance.

2. Satan’s point in testing us... is to bring apostasy.

He wants us to give up on God AND he whispers:

- God doesn’t hear your prayers.
- God is angry at you.
- God can’t help you.

\*Of course these are all lies!

3. Personal suffering because of sin... The Bible tells us that sometimes we suffer by our own doing. (Heb. 12:5-6) NKJV

- *Chastening* = Correcting mistakes / curbing bad passions.
- *Discouraged* = Don’t give up
- *Scourges* = Training by affliction / triumph thru failure.

**IDEA #3 – “A CLEAR PERSPECTIVE”** (vv.8-12)

PETER’S PRIMARY FOCUS...

- *Is Hope in a Hostile World!*

THIS HOPE...

- Rests on the grace given to believers in Jesus Christ!

➤ AND the test at hand is persecution...

- From both Nero’s Government & the surrounding society!

SO...

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**HERE’S WHAT WE TAKE AWAY THIS MORNING?**

- Three simple things:

1) Christianity stands in a “*counter-culture*” position.

Church you’re swimming against the mainstream of society!

- So allow Peters words to encourage your heart & direct your steps.

2) Don't forget... God allows persecution to bring out your faith.  
▪ Let your faith shine!

3) Be intentional and go forward with the Gospel...  
▪ Attack the kingdom of Satan with the light of Christ!

(John 1:5) NLT

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”*

**~ IN CLOSING ~**

HERE’S YOUR CALL TO **ACTION** THIS WEEK:

- It’s your personal part of the Great Commission.

I. Download the WC app to your phone.

- **Then share** it with someone you know...  
○ And ask them to watch one of the services.

II. FOLLOW UP...

- And let them you’re praying for them.

III. COME OUT TO PRAYER THIS WEEK...

- And have the group pray for the person God set before you.  
○ (Thursday at 6:30pm)

**~ LET’S PRAY ~**

Holy Spirit power for the work of ministry...

- (Acts 1:8) *to be a witness for Jesus*