



Succeeding On the Trail

1 Peter 1:1-15

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I. HOME: Never forget where home is (*verses 1-3*)

- a. Peter starts by recognizing that his audience is in EXILE:
 - i. Old Testament: Exiled (evicted) as punishment for their sin.¹
 - ii. New Testament: Exiled not because they are displaced from their homeland (this was common), but because they suffer for their faith.²
 - iii. Peter refers to Christians as “strangers” (*parepidēmois*):
 1. God’s people are pilgrims, sojourners, and exiles on Earth.³
 2. Our faith is “off-putting and strange.”⁴
- b. This is a challenge for us – for ME!
 - i. We want to be loved and accepted by everyone.
 - ii. This is a value that our culture tries to embrace but struggles to do.
 - iii. Our culture tries to embrace diversity without embracing disagreement.
 - iv. We cannot please both people AND God. (Galatians 1:10, Matthew 6:24)
 - v. As followers of Christ, we will not find our ultimate “rest” here on earth – this is not our home.
 - vi. Jesus said, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that they hated me first” (John 15:18-20).
 - vii. We are called to be content (Philippians 4:12-13), to live at peace (Romans 12:18) and to love our neighbor (Mark 12:31), but the invitation is to follow Christ to our eternal home – HEAVEN. (John 14:3)
- c. This is part of the “cost” of following Christ (Luke 14:33).
- d. When we recognize “this is not home,” things make more sense.

II. What we need on the trail: HOPE and HOLINESS (*verse 3-15*)

a. HOPE: dependable and guaranteed

- i. HOPE is not wishful thinking.
- ii. What we place our HOPE in determines if we will succeed.
- iii. Our HOPE is two-fold:
 1. Strong Provision: (*qâvâhl*) to collect, bind together (i.e. a rope).
 - a. The right rope allows you to climb over obstacles.

¹ Schreiner, T. R. (2003). *1, 2 Peter, Jude* (Vol. 37, p. 50). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

- a. ***The ROPE that you choose is important!***
 2. Motivation: HOPE (*elpis*) – joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.
 - a. Our circumstances can cause us to be paralyzed and keep us from moving forward.
 - b. HOPE empowers us to move forward.
 - c. Scripture relates being without hope to being in the world without God (Ephesians 2:12).
 - iv. Our problem with HOPE is that we misplace it in our own efforts, or the efforts of others. We think that we can reason it out, think it out, buy it out...Human history has proven that our HOPE is not in ourselves.
- b. Holiness: Be careful what you pack**
- i. “Holiness” ἀγιάζω (*hagiazō*). vb. is mostly translated as “to consecrate”, “to dedicate,” or “to sanctify.”⁵
 - ii. Our bodies are a temple for God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).
 - iii. God’s presence in our life transforms us and “makes us holy.”
 - iv. #1 cause of giving up on the trail – OVERPACKING!
 - v. Holiness is about removing our old nature and taking on the nature of Christ (Ephesians 4:17-24).

Reflection Questions:

- Where is my home? Am I a “stranger” on earth or more at home here?
- Am I holding on the right “Hope” – God or myself/others?
- Is my life set apart for God? Do I struggle with the thought of holiness?
- What Is God speaking to me today? How will I obey?

WAYS TO RESPOND

 <p>COMMUNION</p> <p>Visit stations to partake of the bread and cup.</p>	 <p>PRAY</p> <p>Pray with your neighbor or one of our prayer teams.</p>	 <p>JOURNAL</p> <p>Write out a prayer or journal a reflection.</p>	 <p>PRAYER WALLS</p> <p>Write prayer requests on the prayer walls.</p>
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⁵ (2014). Holiness. D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.