

Living. Hope. Part 1
“A Past, Present & Future Hope”
1 Peter 1:1-5
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April 11, 2010

Main Idea: In Jesus, we have hope that rewrites our past, present and future.

Key Points:

Greeting (verses 1-2)

1. Author – Peter, the Apostle. One of Jesus’ original 12 disciples.
2. Audience – Jews and Gentiles scattered throughout various churches in what is now known as Turkey.
3. In the opening greeting, Peter imparts hope and reminds his readers of their identity in Christ. They are:
 - a. *“elect...according to the foreknowledge of God”* – They were chosen by God from eternity past for salvation.
 - b. *“exiles”* – Their temporary residence is earth. They are permanent residents of the Kingdom of Heaven. Heaven is their home.
 - c. *“in the sanctification of the Spirit”* – They have been transformed by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.
 - d. *“for the purpose of obedience and for sprinkling with his blood”* – In right relationship with God through Jesus’ shed blood, their goal is obedience to Christ.

Past (verse 3a)

1. Peter begins his letter in a joyful exclamation of thanksgiving. *“Blessed be God”* is a way of saying “Praise be to God! He’s saying, “God, you’re wonderful! Thank you!”
2. Sometimes our past mistakes or sins, or the sins and wrongs others have done to us, can define us. But as Christians, the risen Savior has rewritten our past. The most radical and important moment in our past is when we were born again. As Christians, the defining moments of our past are no longer our sin, our mistakes, wrongs done to us, our parents, our education, our marriage, or our decisions. As Christians the defining reality of our past is that God caused us to be born again! Christians have hope because Jesus has given us a brand new life.

Present (verse 3b)

1. We have been born again “to a living hope”. It is a hope that lives, grows and increases.
2. Hope, as we use the word, is a desire for an outcome that may or may not happen. Theologian D. A. Carson says the biblical word for hope describes a *certain confidence* in God. As Christians, we hope in God with confidence that even though we can’t see the fulfillment of his promises, he *always* keeps his promises.
3. Ben Wikner shared that apart from God, every other hope we have is ultimately a dying hope. Relationships, career, money, sex, success or material wealth will all eventually grow old, wear out, dry up or die.
4. But when our hope is in the resurrected Jesus, we have a living hope. When we hope in a God who has eternal joy waiting for us in heaven, our hope grows stronger with every passing day. Nothing—death, sickness, loss of home, job or loved ones—can touch or shake our living hope.

Future (verses 4-5)

1. As Christians living in this world, we are just like the Israelites—we are God’s chosen people but we are exiles. We are not yet home. But God has promised us an inheritance. He has promised us a home! He has promised us heaven!
2. God has rewritten our future. And it is a future of hope! God is keeping our inheritance for us in heaven. And it can never perish, spoil or fade.
3. We need to think about our inheritance every day. In the new heavens and new earth, our God will dwell with us. We will see him. He will make all things new. The world itself will be made new. And we will have bodies of indestructible life like Jesus. No more diseases. No more weariness and pain. And no more sin. We will know and obey Jesus with joy. And all the beauty of this world will be unimaginably more beautiful and more glorious in Paradise! We will be God’s people in God’s place (heaven) in God’s presence – for all of eternity!

Fellowship Starters:

1. How can Peter’s greeting (1 Peter 1:1-2) impart hope and remind you of your identity in Christ Jesus?
2. Peter started his letter with an outburst of gratitude and praise (1 Peter 1:3a). What do you thank God for the loudest? What leads you to an outburst of praise?
3. How have your past sins or the sins and wrongs others have done to you defined your identity and dampened your hope? How does the defining reality that you have been “born again...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:3a) rewrite your past and give you hope in the present?

4. Have you placed your hope in things that will eventually wear out, grow old or die? How does faith and hope in Christ's life, death and resurrection strengthen and enliven your hope?

5. How often do you think of heaven? How can a reflection on the eternal joy and the inheritance that awaits you in heaven fill you with hope for both your present trials and your future glory?