



This is not my Home

January 3rd 2021

This morning we will begin a new series from the first epistle or letter of the Apostle Peter entitled “Living Hope”.

As we enter a new year, there are so many people who are worried about the future. Reality is that there is reason to be concerned about the state of the world today, and what tomorrow holds.

But should we as believers let these things dominate our hearts? Should we live as if there was no hope?

As God’s people we ought to be able to look past today’s bad news—as well as any threats on the horizon—and take comfort in the fact that our hope is not bound to the circumstances of this world.

To quote the Apostle Peter...

1 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...

In short, we need to remember that this world is not our home. (it is not our final destination)

This letter was written during a trying time for many believers living in what is now the northern part of Turkey.

Peter's goal was twofold.

One, to encourage the believers to persevere in the face of trials, depending on God's grace to sustain them and reward them in the end.

Two, to instruct them to continue to do the right thing with the right attitude even when others were doing the wrong thing, just as Jesus had modeled.

Let's look now at today's passage which forms sort of summary of the entire letter in just a few verses.

This passage will teach us that:

Even though earth is not our home, God has made us part of His family and as such we should persevere in persecution and trials, trusting that God will renew us on a daily basis and will reward us in heaven.

1 Peter 1:1-10 (ESV) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

In his opening words Peter makes clear that those who have placed their faith in Christ live with hope or expectation of better things to come. As we will see he wants them to understand that although we live in this natural world and, we should do all we can to live to the fullest for God's glory, this world, as we know it, is not our home or final destination.

1. This is not our home

1 Peter 1:1 (ESV) To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion

(KJV) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout

(CEV) To God's people who are scattered like foreigners

(GNB) To God's chosen people who live as refugees

(GW) To God's chosen people who are temporary residents in the world

Christians who have placed their hope in heaven can never truly be at home on earth.

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world". - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Historically, this perspective has been especially meaningful to Christ followers who have faced trials and hardship, especially when their difficulties do not improve by their faith but seem to only get worse because of their faith.

We may not always think so but, as Christ followers, we may seem strange to other people simply because we do not embrace the values and principles of the spirit of this world.

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT) Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

The truth is that this it is not our home.

John 14:1-3 (NLT) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

Earth is not our home, because...

2. God has made us part of His family

1 Peter 1:3 (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

(CEV) God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on.

The “living hope” is based on the living resurrected Christ.

1 Peter 1:21 (NLT) Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

Ephesians 2:19 (ESV) So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.

Philippians 3:20 (AMP) But [we are different, because] our citizenship is in heaven. And from there we eagerly await [the coming of] the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Even though this is not our home, because God has made us part of His family, we should persevere in persecution and trial, trusting that God will renew us on a daily basis and will reward us in heaven.

3. Faith and Perseverance

1 Peter 1:6-7 (ESV) In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

A living hope results in a present joy. When we understand that this is not our home and that Christ paid the price to secure a place for us in heaven then we will find the courage, strength and joy, to press through all trials and persecution.

As Christians we are responsible to respond to trials in faith. Faith concerning Christ and what he has done and provided produces joy that inexplicable.

Peter stresses that a Christian’s joy is independent of his circumstances.

He encourages the believers to see the trials themselves are seen as occasions for joy. Though trials may cause temporary grief, they cannot diminish that deep, abiding joy which is rooted in one’s living hope in Christ Jesus.

The various trials which, in this passage, is referring to hardship they were facing because of persecution, have two results:

- They refine or purify one’s faith much as gold is refined by fire when its dross is removed.

- They prove the reality of one's faith.

Pressure deepens and strengthens a Christian's faith and lets its reality be displayed.

In addition to *comparing* faith to gold, Peter contrasted purified faith with purified gold.

Faith is more precious, of greater worth, than gold.

Even refined gold, though it lasts a long time, eventually perishes. It will be valueless in the marketplace of eternity. But faith "purchases" an inheritance that can never perish.

Even though this is not our home, because God has made us part of His family, we should persevere in persecution and trials, trusting that God will renew us on a daily basis and will reward us in heaven.

1 Peter 1:8 (NLT) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

God accomplished salvation through the work of His Son Jesus Christ. The focus of our faith is not on some abstract knowledge but on the person of Jesus Christ.

As believers we can rejoice because we are receiving what was promised, namely salvation.

For those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, salvation is:

- Past, "He has given us new birth" (Verse 3)
- Present, "through faith are shielded by God's power" (verse 5),
- Future, it is their "inheritance," v. 4, which will "be revealed in the last time," (Verse 5)

All of this in spite of persecution which deepens and demonstrates one's faith, is certainly cause for "inexpressible and glorious joy"!

Even though earth is not our home, God has made us part of His family and as such we should persevere in persecution and trials, trusting that God will renew us on a daily basis and will reward us in heaven.