

GRACE, HOPE AND LIVING WHOLE
I PETER CHAPTER 1
AUGUST 8-9, 2020

INTRODUCTION

- There are five chapters in I Peter and each of them speak of suffering.
- The word “suffer” occurs eleven times in this one letter alone.
- Chapter 1 covers our trials and Jesus’ suffering.
- I Peter 1:6-7, “In this you greatly rejoice, even though... you have been distressed by various trials, so that proof of your faith...may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ...”

I. THE STORY OF SUFFERING

- When we talk about suffering we open a huge box.
- Suffering is in a weird way very subjective.
- Suffering often turns people to God not away from Him.
- But many of us believe suffering should have no legitimate place in the world.
- Many of us resent God when we suffer. We feel either He isn’t a good God or He doesn’t care.
- Many can’t reconcile suffering with faith.
- This is when we question our Father’s character.
- The Bible is full of stories of suffering that had nothing to do with punishment.
- Pain and suffering often looks different from God’s vantage point.
- It can create courage and strength, hard work and perseverance. Things money cannot buy.

II. THE STORY OF HOPE

- Peter is known as the apostle of hope.
- Hope is the bridge faith needs when our circumstances and our theology don’t meet.
- Hope is grounded in a God that is always in control.
- Vs. 3 – Paul says no matter your circumstances, hope in God, because He has secured your destiny in Christ.
- Literally he says we have a “living hope” a zoe hope.
- Vs. 4-6 - Our hope is an inheritance.
- He says no man can steal your hope if it is in Jesus.
- How do you rejoice in a trial? By looking ahead to a time you will be out of it, your inheritance.
- I Peter 1:13-21 - Focus on the grace that God has set before us.
- You are more than the product of fleshly genetics; you are a product of the King of the universe.

III. HOW IN THE WORLD CAN I BE HOLY?

- What He didn’t say is do holy.
- Note two words in this text – vs. 17 – Father and vs. 18 – forefathers. They both leave an inheritance for us.
- Vs. 15 says – We should be dominated by Him in such a way that we are transformed, by the Spirit’s work in us.
- Vs. 23 – Born of an imperishable seed through the Word of God, with an imperishable inheritance, vs. 4.
- This is not a threat, but it is a promise. “You will become holy because I am holy.”
- Vss. 13-16 - “Fix your hope completely.”

CLOSE

- Vs. 21 - “...so that your faith and hope are in God.”
- Vs. 22 – Fervently love one another from the heart.