

Our Living Hope – Part 4

1 Peter 1:3-12 - NCBC, March 25, 2018

Main Point: **God's great salvation compels troubled souls to praise Him.**

REVIEW

- Praise God for His past adoption (3)
- Praise God for His future provision (4-5)
- Praise God with joy in your present trials (6-9)
- **Praise God for revealing His salvation to you** (10-12)
 - The prophets carefully investigated...but God's grace was still future.
 - The angels joyfully witnessed... but God's grace is still a mystery.
 - But God's Spirit has revealed the fullness of His grace to you!

Application: **Praise God today for your secure future in Christ!**

Opening Announcements:

- "Refresh" Women's Seminar - April 13th
- Amanda King Send-off / Prayer
- New Members Received

<<Jesus Thank You>>



When we gather to worship Jesus Christ, we come asking God to change us – make us more into His image – Lord come have your way with us!

After all, we will always become what we worship. Awe and gratitude produce worship, and worship produces authentic imitation.¹ You will always become like what or who you worship. What or who you worship always enslaves you, and eventually conforms you to its image.

This is why God's people gather together each Sunday to worship Jesus Christ. We don't worship our culture, or our tradition, or our knowledge, or our self-righteousness... we humbly gather together to receive revelation from God as we open our Bibles. And we desire to respond back to this revelation with a whole-person obedience and submission to God in response for all He is and all that He has done on our behalf.

¹ 2 Corinthians 3:18

So please prepare for the public reading of God's Word by opening your Bible to **First Peter chapter 1**.



If you don't have a Bible with you, simply raise your hand and we'd be delighted to give you one. You are welcome to take this Bible home as our gift to you, or just return it after our service by placing it on the table in the back of the room. I believe **1 Peter chapter 1** is on page 1203 in the giveaway Bibles today.

I want to just take a quick moment to thank all of you who made our Easter Egg Hunt Outreach such a joyful and loving event yesterday. The weather was frightful, but your hearts were warm and welcoming, and *many* families from our community were blessed by your gracious hospitality. Thanks for being such an attractive picture of God's love, church. It's such a joy to watch you all in action!! It does a pastor's heart good!

Now of course next week in Easter Sunday, so please continue to prayerfully reach out to your unchurched loved ones, and invite them to come to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with us next Sunday. We

would love nothing more than to have standing room only in our services as we preach the good news of Jesus Christ whom God has risen from the dead!



Now today we come to *part 4* of our study of *Our Living Hope* from **1 Peter chapter 1**. This is the last of 4 messages focused on this long-run-on Greek sentence that extends from **verse 3** to **verse 12** in **chapter 1**.

1 Peter teaches God's people how to stand firm in the true grace of God.² Peter is writing to give firm hope to troubled souls who are suffering because of their identification with Jesus Christ.

For those who are able, I'd invite you to stand in honor of the reading of God's Word as I read from the **English Standard Translation**, starting in **verse 3**:

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*

² 1 Peter 5:12

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. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

This is the word of God. You may be seated.

Let's Pray.

Before digging into today's text, let's quickly review what we've learned so far from Peter's opening to this letter.

Peter's main point of **verses 3-12** is simply that,

Main Point



**God's great salvation
compels troubled souls
to praise Him.**

God's great salvation compels troubled souls to praise Him.

Peter doesn't minimize the suffering of his audience. He knows they are hurting deeply. But Peter turns their attention away from their various trials, back onto God and His great salvation. Peter knows that troubled souls will again be moved to praise God if they can just remember the supreme greatness of God's salvation.

So in **verse 3**,

**Praise God for His
past adoption (1:3)**

**True Grace
Firm Hope** 

- God fathers our salvation
- Causing us to be born again
- Because of His great mercy
- Through the resurrection of Jesus
- Resulting in our living hope!



Peter calls us to **Praise God for His past adoption.**

Because God has fathered our salvation causing us to be born again all because of His great mercy. God has adopted us into His own family through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This results in a living hope – a secure and confident assurance of eternal life with Christ forever.

Verses 4-5 defined our living hope as our future inheritance,

Praise God for His future provision (1:4-5)

True Grace Firm Hope

- Our living hope in our secure inheritance
- Our living hope in God's power
- Our living hope in our final salvation

REVIEW

therefore teaching us to **Praise God for His future provision**. God has guaranteed Himself as our inheritance by His power which is guarding our faith until our final salvation is made complete.

Therefore in light of God's past and future grace, **verses 6-9** explained the present joy believers possess even while experiencing deep suffering.

Praise God with joy in your present trials (1:6-9)

True Grace Firm Hope

- Because God reigns over your trials (6)
- Because God refines your faith thru trials (7a)
- Because God rewards your faith after trials (7b, 9)
- Because God's reality sustains you thru trials (8)

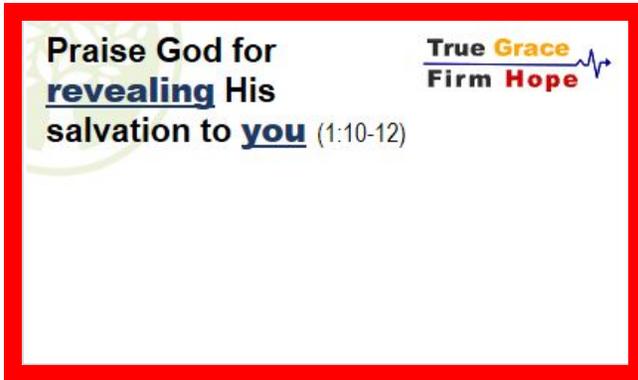
REVIEW

Peter calls us to **Praise God with joy in your present trials** because God reigns over our trials, refines our faith through trials, rewards our faith after trials, and sustains us through trials all with the reality of His presence.

Peter has argued his main point from every chronological perspective so far. If you are troubled – look back and praise God for all that He's done historically to secure your adoption. Look into the future, and praise God for the final salvation and inheritance of God that awaits you. And dear troubled soul – though you can't visibly see or understand all that God is doing right now in the heat of this moment – praise Him for when He has tried you, you will come forth like gold.³ God is up to something good in your past, present, and future – His great salvation compels you to praise Him today!

Peter has revealed the goodness and the greatness of God's salvation so far, but now to make sure we don't lose heart and give in to despair in the middle of our pain, Peter makes this all very personal in **verses 10-12**.

³ Job 23:8-10

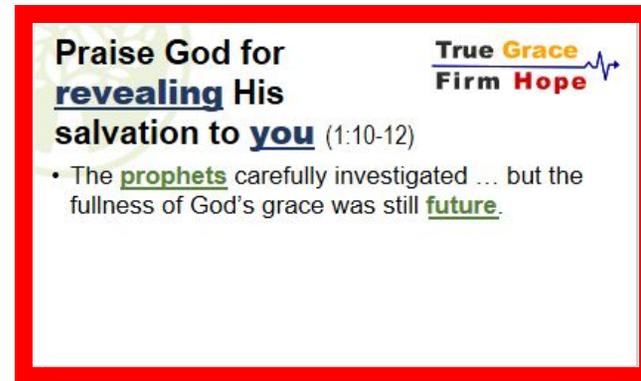


Take a moment and just **Praise God for revealing His salvation to you (10-12)**

Don't let whatever dark cloud of trial and grief you are experiencing today eclipse your wonder and amazement at God's grace towards you personally. You are incredibly blessed to hear and receive the preaching of the crucified and glorified Christ for the forgiveness of your sins!

Verse 10 says,

Concerning this salvation, ...this great salvation that Peter has just been describing. This salvation is "the grace" that was to be yours...concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,



In other words, **The prophets carefully investigated...but the fullness of God's grace was still future to them.**

The Old Testament prophets from Moses to John the Baptist all searched and inquired carefully into this great salvation that God promised through the coming Messiah... but they never saw the fulfillment of God's promises.

For example, consider the prophet Zechariah who announced God's future judgment on Israel's enemies in **Zechariah chapter 9** nearly 500 years before Jesus went to the cross.⁴ As God was revealing His coming Messiah through Zechariah, He says in **chapter 9, verse 9**,

⁴ Zechariah's prophecies were written within a 50-year span between 520 B.C. and 470 B.C.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will [cease all war] and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be ... to the ends of the earth.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Then in **verse 10** God speaks through Zechariah saying how this Messianic King will [cease all war] *and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be ...to the ends of the earth.*

The prophets searched this prophecy and so many others like it diligently! As the years passed, they waited anxiously for the promised Deliverer to arrive and set them free from all their enemies!

So, it's no wonder that when we get to **Luke chapter 19**, when the well-known miracle-worker named Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of a donkey, that the

whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying "Blessed is the King who comes in

the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"⁵

You see the people were eagerly awaiting the promised glories of the Messiah! But God's saving grace was still future to them...

God's saving grace required the suffering of His cross before the peace and glories of His kingdom!

So, in **Luke 19 verse 42** Jesus weeps and laments over the palm-waving crowd's misunderstanding, saying,

Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace. But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Jesus knew that the fickle crowd's admiration would turn to murderous anger in less than one week. In fact, **John 12:16** comments that even,

His disciples did not understand [Jesus' triumphal entry] at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

Here's our point: the triumphant entry of Palm Sunday illustrates Peter's argument in today's text.

⁵ Luke 19:37-38; c.f. Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-19

Praise God for revealing His salvation to you (1:10-12)

True Grace Firm Hope

- The **prophets** carefully investigated ... but the fullness of God's grace was still **future**.

The prophets carefully considered and studied what the Spirit of Christ was revealing to them about the coming Messiah – but the fullness of God's grace in salvation was still future to them.

Praise God for revealing His salvation to you (1:10-12)

True Grace Firm Hope

- The **prophets** carefully investigated ... but the fullness of God's grace was still **future**.

The time of the OT Prophets The time of the Church Believer

The message of God's Spirit to the Old Testament prophets was...according to the end of **verse 11**, *predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories*. And this was all future to the prophets.

But after the cross – the Spirit of Christ revealed to the apostles the mystery of the Church Age⁶ by looking back upon the historical grace that accomplished our salvation through the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ!

So come up for air for a bit. If you're going to please God in your present fiery trial, then you must find reason to praise God while you're still in the storm. And Peter wants you to know that you can praise God today because His Spirit has fully revealed His saving grace to you!!

The prophets died before they understood the fullness of God's grace revealed in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ!⁷ But you – dear Christ-follower today – you live after the cross – you live during the New Covenant age of grace. Rejoice Christian – for you are experiencing what the Old Testament prophets only longed to know!!

How does **verse 12** say it?

It was revealed to them [Old Testament prophets] that they were serving not themselves but you, [Christ-followers] ...

God helped the prophets understand that even while they were proclaiming God's grace to His people...it was a future grace...a grace for a later time. The Old Testament prophets were just servants who set the table

⁶ Ephesians 3:6

⁷ Hebrews 11:13, 39

so to speak... so that all of the believers in the church age might afterward “feed on the food laid on it.”⁸

In other words, Peter wants you to know that the least disciple of Jesus Christ is in a better position to understand the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah than the greatest prophet before Christ came!⁹

*Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*¹⁰

Are you thankful today that God has revealed His grace of salvation to you now by His Spirit in a way that is clearer and fuller than to Moses and Isaiah and Zechariah?

Now buckle your seat-belts, and look at the end of **verse 12**...because actually, you're not just more privileged than the Old Testament prophets...your salvation privileges are more than the heavenly angels!

The end of **Verse 12** says that even heavenly angels “*long to look*” into God’s saving grace of sinners.



Praise God for revealing His salvation to you (1:10-12)

True Grace Firm Hope

- The **prophets** carefully investigated ... but the fullness of God’s grace was still **future**.
- The **angels** joyfully witness ... but God’s grace is still a **mystery**.

The **angels** joyfully witness God’s salvation... but God’s grace is still a **mystery** to them.

Angels announced the coming of the Messiah,¹¹ and were present at the birth of Christ.¹² Angels ministered to Christ after his temptation,¹³ and strengthened Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before the cross.¹⁴ Angels attended his grave after Christ’s resurrection,¹⁵ and witnessed our Lord’s ascension into the heavens in **Acts 1**.¹⁶ Ever since Christ completed his earthly work of salvation, **Hebrews 1:14** describes angels as *ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation*. **1 Corinthians 4:9** teaches that angels were intently watching the ministry of the apostles, and **Luke 15** teaches us that the angels in heaven rejoice over every sinner who repents.¹⁷

⁸ I owe this analogy to D. Edmond Hiebert in his commentary on 1 Peter 1:12.

⁹ Matthew 11:11

¹⁰ Matthew 13:16-17

¹¹ Luke 1:11-20, 26-38; Matthew 1:20-23

¹² Luke 2:8-15

¹³ Matthew 4:11

¹⁴ Luke 22:43

¹⁵ Matthew 28:5-7; Mark 16:4-7; Luke 24:4-7

¹⁶ Acts 1:10

¹⁷ Luke 15:7, 10

These heavenly messengers and witnesses are very curious and intrigued by God's grace which is able to rescue sinners like us...but it's still a mystery that they can't fully comprehend from the outside.

Just as **Ephesians 3:10** says, *the rulers and authorities in heavenly places* are still trying to know the wisdom of God that is made known through the church!

Angels long to look.... They have an eager and intense curiosity about the Gospel message of salvation ... for though they have witnessed it up close, they haven't experienced it personally like you and I have!

Loved ones – Peter is calling us to praise God. For while the Old Testament prophets witnessed God's salvation from afar, and the heavenly angels have witnessed God's grace from up close... only sinners like you and I living after the cross have fully experienced this grand salvation of which Peter speaks!!

So praise God for revealing His salvation to you!!

Praise God for revealing His salvation to you (1:10-12)

True Grace
Firm Hope 

- The **prophets** carefully investigated ... but the fullness of God's grace was still **future**.
- The **angels** joyfully witness ... but God's grace is still a **mystery**.
- But God's **Spirit** has revealed the fullness of His grace to **you!**

According to His great mercy, **God's Spirit has revealed the fullness of His grace to you!**

You're not better than the prophets or the angels. But by God's great mercy, you have received the Spirit of Christ according to the new covenant promise of God!

And look carefully at **verse 12**. How has the Holy Spirit revealed the fullness of God's saving grace to you? How does the Spirit announce His gospel to sinners in this church age after the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

According to **verse 12** the Holy Spirit announces saving grace to you through evangelists!¹⁸ Literally – “those who preached the good new to you.”

This is so thrilling! God's Spirit employs redeemed sinners like you and I as transmitters of His good news to other sinners who are lost and enslaved in their sin! By the power of God's Spirit, disciples share the good news to make disciples who share the good news and make disciples...who share the good news...all by the authority and power of Christ's Spirit who lives in us!

So notice: The same Spirit of Christ that predicted God's salvation to the Old Testament prophets in **verse 11** is the same Holy Spirit that speaks the good news of God's saving grace through preachers and evangelists today!!

That means the message that all true evangelists share today is the message which comes down from heaven. No preacher or evangelist has the authority to determine their own message. The Holy Spirit determines the

¹⁸ C.f. Romans 10:15ff

message of biblical evangelism today, and it's the same message that the prophets predicted.

The end of **verse 11** describes the content of God's gospel message with clarity: the sufferings of Christ, and the subsequent glories of Christ.

Praise God that He has revealed Christ's suffering and Christ's glories to you!

Specifically speaking – God's Spirit revealed the cross of Christ to you. Your eyes were opened by God's Spirit to see that your sins demanded death. The holy righteousness of a perfectly just God allowed no loopholes or alternative paths to your rescue. Justice requires death for sin.

So God's Spirit opened your heart to believe that the sufferings of Christ were substitutionary – on your behalf! The cross was the instrument of death that was used to crucify your Savior in your place! Jesus literally became your substitutionary lamb that the prophets spoke about!

Do you boast in the cross of Christ today?¹⁹ In other words, do you believe that your sins deserve death in God's holy economy? Do you believe that no amount of good or religious works on your behalf could ever pay for your sins?

The good news of God's saving grace starts here. There are no glorifies for those who refuse to lose their life by faith in the substitutionary death of Jesus to atone or pay for their sins.

¹⁹ Galatians 6:14
Page **10a** of 13

I'm speaking this morning of this amazing salvation that Peter has toured for us...and now I'm inviting you to enter into this salvation.

Will you agree with God that you are a sinner? Will you agree that you have failed to love Jesus with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength for every living moment of your life? Can you admit you have fallen short of God's requirement to love others perfectly?

Look to the cross dear friend. The sufferings of Christ are good news for you today! For at the cross, Jesus took on all your past, present, and future sins...so that you might be granted His perfect and sinless life forever!
²⁰

The subsequent glories of resurrection life and eternal joy and blessedness...the consequential glories of Christ's earthly kingdom and world peace...the subsequent glories of all the righteous being vindicated and all the evil being judged forever...all these glories follow after and are connected to the entrance of faith in a bloodied Savior because of my sins.

When you stop and think about it...who are you that God would even care to reveal this great salvation so personally to you? Who am I?

We're certainly not greater than the prophets...nor do we have the power and knowledge of the heavenly angels...but according to God's great mercy...we have

²⁰ 2 Corinthians 5:21

been blessed to have God's saving gospel proclaimed to us.

Main Point



**God's great salvation
compels troubled souls
to praise Him.**

And God's great salvation should cause our troubled souls to praise Him.

So will you,

Application



**Praise God today
for your secure
future in Christ!**

Praise God today for your secure future in Christ?

Have you submitted your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ? Or are you still like the fickle crowds outside of

Jerusalem – singing Hosanna! Hosanna! while you only desire the glories of God's kingdom and still reject His cross?

In the coming verses, Peter is going to transition his exhortation to our practical living. How do troubled souls morally and ethically stand firm in God's grace? But these first **12 verses** are the foundation for all that follow – for God's salvation of our sinful souls is the fountainhead of all godly living.

So this Easter week... praise God for His great and gracious salvation of you in all of its past, future, and present benefits. God's grace is our living hope!

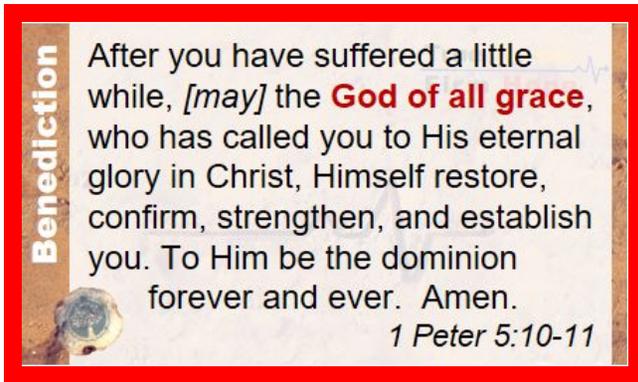
Our Living Hope – Part 4 True Grace
1 Peter 1:3-12 Firm Hope



Let's pray together as we dismiss.

<<All I Have is Christ>>

New Members & Amanda King to back of room for reception line



*And after you have suffered a little while, [may] the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 Peter 5:10-11***

Recommended Resources on Our Living Hope:

- Psalm 119:18, 73
- Isaiah 6:11
- Daniel 7:15-16; 10:14; 12:8
- Matthew 11:11, 27; 13:16-17
- Luke 10:23-24; 24:13-49, esp. vv. 25-27, 44-45
- John 5:46; 14:17, 26; 15:26; 16:13-15
- Acts 1:8; 2:29-36, 39; 17:3
- Romans 8:14; 10:14-15; 15:4
- 1 Corinthians 2:7-16, esp. vv. 7, 10, 12; 4:9
- Ephesians 1:17-18; 3:10
- Hebrews 11:39

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/biblical-illumination.html>
- <https://jewsforjesus.org/answers/top-40-most-helpful-messianic-prophecies/>

- The Kind of Preaching God Blesses, Steven Lawson
- He Who Gives Life, Graham Cole & John Feinberg
- What is the Gospel?, Greg Gilbert

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read 1 Peter 1:10-12. What is your favorite Old Testament prophecy of Jesus, and why?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:12 and Romans 10:14-15. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in preaching and listening to preaching? Should this change how you prepare and engage with Biblical preaching?
3. Read Matthew 13:16-17. If God has indeed caused you to be born again (1 Peter 1:3), what response should this produce in you? How does such thanksgiving and praise purify our interpretation and evaluation of earthly pain and trouble?
4. Share with each other what you are most thankful for about God's great salvation of you.
5. Review Peter's opening to this letter again (vv. 1-12). What seems most significant to how Peter starts this letter to believers in great suffering? How do these verses give you hope? How do these verses cause you to praise God now?
6. Share your salvation testimonies with one another. Give God praise for His saving work in your life! Pray together for your loved ones who still need to have their eyes opened to God's saving grace (2 Timothy 2:24-26).