



# BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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## SERIES : Studies in 1 Peter - "A Living Hope"

June 10, 2007. Study 2 : "A NEW PERSPECTIVE" 1Ptr1:3-9

### CONTEXT

In the Introduction to last week's Study, we noted that Peter was by nature a practical man - quick to speak and to act. Transformed by the grace and power of God and convinced by the evidence of Jesus' resurrection, this uneducated fisherman became a leader of the Church and the leading missionary among the Jewish people. And so an unshakeable faith and a loving heart was grafted onto a practical personality.

***Remember that the background to Peter's letter was spasmodic persecution of these first followers of Jesus - a persecution that was to become widespread and grow in intensity and in frequency.***

The practical principles that guided & shaped Peter's life also shaped his letter. We were introduced to the first of "Peter's Principles" last week. In his greeting (1:1-2) he addresses his readers under three titles : "Elect, scattered and strangers". Christians have "no fixed address" - temporary residents in the world, just passing through!

Today, we discover his second principle - A New Perspective - "Born again to a Living Hope"

### INTRODUCTION TO STUDY 2

*"You are ..... your life, and nothing else"* (Jean Paul Sartre; from the play "No Exit")

*"Not to be born at all - that is by far the best fortune; the second best is - as soon as one is born, with all speed to return whence one came"* (The Greek philosopher, Sophocles)

In contrast to these pearls of wisdom, ancient and more modern, God would have us live responsible lives in the present based on a living hope for the future - in time and beyond it.

### A. THE BASIS & NATURE OF OUR NEW HOPE (v3-5)

These verses are a doxology - a blessing on God for what he has done :

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!"*

#### 1. THE BASIS OF OUR HOPE

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

God :	takes the INITIATIVE	in his
:	acts from within HIMSELF	great mercy he has <u>given us</u> (GRACE)
:	acts with effective POWER	new birth into a living hope
:	DEMONSTRATES our new reality	through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

#### The Resurrection of Jesus is CENTRAL .....

..... and is both the GROUNDS & the GUARANTEE of our New Hope

God ... made us alive with Christ ... and seated us with him in the heavenly realms. **Eph2:4-6**

.. we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us ... in his presence. **2Cor4:14**

... just as Christ was raised from the dead ... we too may live a new life. **Rom6:4**

... if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins ... If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. **1Cor215:17-19**

## 2. THE NATURE OF OUR HOPE

an inheritance that can never .....

perish : cannot be **EXTINGUISHED** - Freedom from death & decay.

spoil : no **ADVERSE** changes - Freedom from passing pressures.

or fade : cannot lose its **BEAUTY** - Freedom from the ravages of time.

..... and so falls outside the normal categories of human experience and stands beyond the uncertainties of the present.

(Peter echoes Jesus' teaching in Mat6:20-21.)

... store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

kept in heaven for you : **Our inheritance is kept for US**

who ... are shielded through God's power : **WE are kept for our inheritance**

... but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **Php3:14**

Now it is God who ... has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. **2Cor5:5**

Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession.

**Eph1:13-14**

## B. THE RESPONSE OF JOY (v6-9)

In this you greatly rejoice (**v6a**) (you) are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy (**v8b**)

### 1. THIS JOY IS NOT NEGATED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. (**v6**)

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. **2Cor4:16-18**

### 2. THIS JOY IS ENHANCED BY THE REALITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. (**v8**)

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. **Php3:7-8**

## REFLECTIONS

Let Peter's beautiful doxology inspire a spiritual reality check:

Does a "living hope" burn brightly in me?

Am I confident that by God's grace and power, that it is being kept for me and I for it?

Do I understand that because people reject Christ, so some may also reject me and bring some measure of suffering into my life?

Is my life marked by such joy in knowing Jesus and loving him that even profound suffering may not quench it?

Do I eagerly look forward to that day when "faith shall be sight" and I will have in full what I now know in part? (**1Ptr1:5b and 9**)