

Living Hope in 1 Peter 1:1-9

1 Peter 1:1–9 (NIV2011)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 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, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Luther on 1 Peter: *Accordingly, this Epistle of St. Peter is also one of the noblest books in the New Testament; it is the genuine and pure Gospel. For St. Peter does the same thing that St. Paul and all the evangelists do; he teaches the true faith and tells us that Christ was given to us to take away our sin and to save us, as we shall hear.*¹

Letters in the 1st Century

How they begin:

- Who the Letter is from. (Peter v1)
- Who the Letter is to. (Christians scattered throughout modern-day Turkey v1 with v2 expanding on chosen/elect)
- Greetings.(end of v2)
- Thanksgiving.(v3-9 and some would say v3-12)

Given the diverse recipients, the person carrying the letter would most likely make many stops, reading it in each of them

¹ Luther, M. (1999). [*Luther's works, vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](#) (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald, & H. T. Lehmann, Eds.; Vol. 30, p. 4). Concordia Publishing House.

“Living” Hope (v3-5)

Hope in Scripture should be seen as expectation, something you are sure of – as compared to modern language use where it is often just a synonym for “wish”.

Peter argues that our Hope is a living one, a living expectation, that is tied to a living Saviour through the Resurrection of our Lord.

Our certainty that our risen Lord Jesus has fulfilled and will deliver fully the salvation promised, sums up our Christian Hope. This inheritance is kept for us in heaven – can’t be damaged in any way by things in this world or by the devil.

Rejoicing during Suffering (v6-7)

Rejoice / Celebrate because suffering is “short” when compared to what Jesus has achieved for us.

Suffering can be a path that increases our trust in God, our trust in Jesus.

We need to learn to celebrate better. Think of Paul and Silas in Philippian Jail (Acts 16:16-40). Remember though the fruit of the Spirit includes Gentleness (Galatians 6:22-23). Don’t force celebration.

It’s all about Jesus (v8-9)

Seeing is NOT believing, rather because we believe we see beyond things of this world. Our Joy (our celebration).

It’s not about what we do, the important thing is in whom we place our trust (in whom we believe) – Jesus!!!

Because Jesus died for us, because He rose from the dead, we have a living, dynamic hope. We are not only confident in what Jesus has done, but we are confident in what Jesus is doing and will do. Our Hope for life eternal with our Lord and Saviour is a well justified expectation.

Conclusion

Our Living Hope is not a belief that our life will be pleasant, rather we have the expectation that through all the ups and downs, through tears of joy and tears of grief, that as our Lord Jesus rose from the dead, so too will we rise because of him. By placing our trust in Jesus, who along with the Father and Holy Spirit, is our God and who will never leave us, we are assured of life everlasting with Him. We are assured that one day there will be no more sin, no more suffering – that there will be a New Heaven and a New Earth. This Living Hope makes our current lives worth living. Praise be to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.