

## 1 Peter 1:1-5 – Living Hope

### A. Introduction

- Peter is writing to encourage Christians to stand firm. They are not yet being martyred, but are facing derision, hatred and “*social death*”.
- **1:3-12** is a single sentence that reminds them that their salvation is a future hope (1:3-5) a current blessing (1:6-9) and the longed for expectation of the prophets (1:10-12).
- To encourage them he tells them to remember two things:

### B. 1:1-2 - Remember who you are

- He is Peter an apostle (1:1). They knew his history of failure and restoration (John 18:15-27; 21:15-24). His name is a reminder of grace and the fact that failure is not final. He describes them in three ways.
- **They are strangers in the world:** They can never be fully at home in this world (4:3-4). Like Abraham they are pilgrims here (Genesis 23:4; Hebrews 11:8-10). Their true home is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- **They are scattered through their society:** God has scattered them among five Roman provinces, so that they can witness for Him (3:15-16).
- **They are precious to God:** God set His love on them in eternity. They were saved by the triune God. The *Father* knew them and loved them – foreknowledge is not just knowing facts about someone – it is loving that person (Romans 8:29-30). The *Spirit* set them apart for God. They have been called to live a life of obedience to the *Son* – when they fail they are cleansed by His blood. God wants us to know that we are loved and precious to Him no matter what we face (Ephesians 3:14-19).

### C. 1:3-5 - Remember where you are going

- Peter’s great theme is hope (1:3,13,21). This not wishful thinking, but solid, secure and unconditional certainty.
- **The foundation of our hope (3):** This hope is based on three things:
  - ✓ *A great mercy* – we do not look to our merits or ability to persevere – our hope is based on God’s unmerited mercy (Psalm 103:7-18).
  - ✓ *A great miracle* – This mercy leads to the gift of new life (1:22-23).
  - ✓ *A great fact* – our hope is based on a solid and sober fact of history – the resurrection of Jesus. He is the firstfruits of faith (1 Cor 15:23).  
“*Jesus has forced open a door that had been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because he has done so.*” – CS Lewis
- **The contents of our hope (4):** It is an inheritance – something we have not deserved or earned. It has been given to us on the merits of another. In the Old Testament the tribes got the land as their inheritance, except for the tribe of Levi. God was their inheritance – better than any physical land (Deuteronomy 18:2). We can look forward to perfect life in the new heavens and earth – but the central hope is to spend eternity glorifying and enjoying God (Revelation:21:1-4, 22-23; 22:1-5). He alone is untouched by time and decay (imperishable) and sin (unspoilt). The joy of knowing God will never fade or disappoint.
- **The security of our hope (4-5):** This hope is reserved for us in heaven (4) – it is safe. But so are we – whatever we face God will keep us and protect us and bring us safely home (1:5; Romans 8:31-39; Philippians 1:6)