



BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 2

### 1 Peter 1:3-13: A Traveler's Guide for Christian Pilgrims

*Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

– 1 Peter 1:13 ESV

- **Impermanent pilgrims in an imperfect place**
  - Peter is writing to aliens and strangers in the **here-and-now**
  - But who are citizens of a better place in the **hereafter**
  - They're on temporary assignment
  - They're "pilgrims"

*Dearly beloved, I beseech you as **strangers and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul... – 1 Peter 2:11 KJV*

**pilgrim** – a traveler or wanderer, especially in a foreign place – Dictionary.com

- **Our "living" hope**

*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... – 1 Peter 1:3 ESV*

- It is a hope that is alive and active
- Biblical hope is NOT wishful thinking

*Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen. – Hebrews 11:1 ESV*

*Faith **shows** the reality of what we hope for; it is the **evidence** of things we cannot see.*  
– Hebrews 11:1 NLT

- Our belief in what God has promised shows up in the way we live our lives
  - **Confidence** produces **conviction**
  - **Conviction** results in **compliance**
  - **Compliance** produces **conflict**
  - **Conflict** results in **suffering**
  - **Suffering** produces **sanctification**

*For you know that when your **faith** is tested, your **endurance** has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your **endurance** is fully developed, **you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*** – James 1:3-4 NLT

- **Our “future” hope**

- It is being kept and guarded in heaven

*...a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept in heaven** for you...* – 1 Peter 1:4 ESV

- What and where is our home?
  - Is Peter suggesting that “heaven” is our home?
  - Is it our final destination?
  - Is the song right?

*My treasures are laid up  
Somewhere beyond the blue.*

*“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”* – Matthew 6:19-21 NLT

- Don’t “stock up” security here on earth
- Invest your hope in the future

- Our future reward
  - What is or true treasure?

*“God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! **For a great reward awaits you in heaven.**”* – Matthew 5:11-12 NLT

- What is that reward?

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” – Revelation 21:1-4 ESV*

- Cause for rejoicing

*...a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **In this you rejoice**, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials... – 1 Peter 1:5-6 ESV*

- Trials versus treasure
  - The **here-and-now** comes with tests, trials, and grief
  - But our hope is in the **hereafter**
  - Trials **now** – treasure **later**

*We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And **this hope will not lead to disappointment**. – Romans 5:3-5 ESV*

- Our “invisible” hope

*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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. – 1 Peter 1:8-9 ESV*

- Unseen, yet tangible
  - They had never seen Jesus with their own eyes, but they loved Him
  - He had never appeared to them, but they believed in Him
  - They needed to treat their future salvation the same way
- The ultimate outcome
  - The salvation of your souls  
**soul** – *psychē* (psoo-khay')

“that in which there is life”  
“the breath of life”

– blueletterbible.org

“Ultimately we will obtain the full salvation of our souls (i.e., glorification, though not necessarily exemption from physical suffering and death now).” – Thomas L. Constable, *Study Notes on 1 Peter*

- Concerning this future salvation

*Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.* – 1 Peter 1:10-11 ESV

- The prophets shared the good, the bad, and the ugly
- The Spirit-inspired prophets predicted the two-fold nature of Jesus’ mission
- He was both **the Lamb** and **the Lion**
- But **the cross** had to come before **the crown**
- **Humiliation** had to proceed **glorification**

#### **Humiliation**

*Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, **he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave** and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, **he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death** on a cross.* – Philippians 2:6-8 NLT

#### **Glorification**

*Therefore, **God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* – Philippians 2:9-11 NLT

- **Therefore...**

*Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* – 1 Peter 1:13 ESV

- With all this in mind
  - Since God...
    - ...has elected you - vs 1
    - ...caused you to be born again - vs 3
    - ...is preserving your inheritance - vs 4
    - ...is guarding you - vs 5
    - ...is testing and perfecting you - vs 6-7
    - ...and sent His Son to suffer for you - vs 11

*Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. – 1 Peter 1:13 NLT*

- **Discussion questions**

Read Philippians 3:10-11. Is this strange mindset unique to Paul or should it be the outlook of every believer?

Peter is encouraging his readers to rejoice in the midst of suffering, but based on what?

What are some ways God has used suffering to produce sanctification in your life?





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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 3 HOMEWORK

### **WEEK 3 – 1 Peter 1:14-25: Living and Loving Like Christ**

The objective of this lesson is to establish Peter’s theme of holiness and Christlikeness as the non-negotiable goal for all believers. Peter makes a strong differentiation between their old lives their new lives in Christ. Their behavior was to reflect their status as God’s elect and was to be motivated by the promise of their future inheritance as citizens in His coming Kingdom. Christ was to be their model for living and suffering well.

Peter’s emphasis on this future reality was meant to encourage and motivate the recipients of his letter. He wanted them to understand that their salvation was far from over. While their current experience was marked by suffering and persecution, it would also include their ongoing sanctification and, ultimately, their future glorification. That is why he challenged them to live with the end in mind. Peter knew that by fixing their hope on the final phase of God’s redemptive plan, they would find the strength to endure the trials of this life. God had set them apart as His own and had something truly remarkable in store for them

- Read 1 Peter 1:14-35. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
  
- Set aside some time to read pages 17-24 of Ken’s Devotional™ on 1 Peter.
  
- Go back and look more closely at verse 14. What do you think Peter means when he says, “do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance”?

Look at Ephesians 4:17-20 and compare what Paul says to that you read in 1 Peter 1:14. How does it help you answer the previous question?

- When you read verse 16, what is the first thought that comes into your mind? Do you see this verse as achievable or completely impossible?

When Peter states “you also be holy in all your conduct,” what do you think he is saying?

According to verses 17-19, what should be the motivation behind our behavior and why is that point so important to pulling off what Peter is suggesting?

According to verse 21, in what are we to place our hope?

- Read verses 22-25. Why do you think Peter places so much emphasis on the imperishable and eternal over the perishable or temporal?

Why would that be important for us to remember?

- In verses 24-25, Peter is actually quoting from Isaiah 40, an Old Testament passage. Read the entire chapter and consider why you think Peter chose to use this section to summarize his message about the temporal and the eternal. What does it teach us about God?