

Standing strong in a hostile world

TODAY: ***New life, new hope*** {1 Pet. 1:3-5}

Written to persecuted church! Today: D O P for ...

Down thru church history ...

John 15:18-23 *“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own ... If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also ... Whoever hates me hates my Father as well.”*

Jesus: *“If ... take up your cross...”*

Follow = commitment and obedience (He was despised and rejected!)

How would you write to persecuted Christians?

“We feel for you, love you, praying for you...”

Peter: You are God’s elect! ... aliens

A Jewish blessing: *“Blessed be Thou O God”*

“Praise be to ... great mercy ...” new life → new hope!

In His great mercy (compassion ... helpless)

The certainty of our hope

Hope in NT – **not** optimism ... wishing for, even expecting, but no certainty

Hope in NT – a strong and confident expectation / a future certainty

Our hope is certain ...

1. God is the source of our new life

- ***indwelling of Divine life***

*“Praise be to ... has **given** us new birth...”*

*“given us new birth into a **LIVING** hope **through** the **resurrection** ...”*

For Peter – the historical fact ...

Peter lost all hope when Jesus died

We will live again because He lives again!

Greeks culture (glorious age) – **boasted** of their courage, their great thinkers & philosophers / their poetry & art, yet in spite... all the splendor and charm

“The age of no hope” - death was king of terrors

New birth ... **indissoluble link** - future salvation

Rom 5:5 *“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit...”*

Col. 1:27 *“Christ in you, the hope of glory”*

Eph. 1:14 *“seal... Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until...”*

Titus 3:5-7 *“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life”*

2 Cor 1:22 *“He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come”*

Phil 1:6 *“being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”*

- **re-creation of our inner nature** (2Cor 5:17 / 1 John 3:9)
 - inner disposition is transformed
 - Sovgn. work of God (“not of blood” Jn 1:13)
 - = ‘born from above’, ‘born of God’ and ‘born of the Spirit’

2. God is the security of our inheritance

We may envy ... enjoys a secure future due to ... inher.

Inheritance = Salvation as a future expectation

*We are **strangers!!** - temporary residents!*

Our future salvation is guarded by God

*“never **perish, spoil or fade**” + “**kept** in heaven for you”*

- **“perish”** – not deteriorate (as resurr. Body)
- **“spoil”** – pollute / stain / defilement (impurity)
- **“fade”** – decay, lose it’s glory (unaffected by time)

Gk. Word used for fading flower

- IMMORTALITY - untouched by death,
- PURITY - unstained by evil
- BEAUTY - unimpaired by time

“Kept” – To keep a watchful eye (eyes fixed on) so as to protect

3. God is our shield

Our lives (until then) are guarded by God

“shielded” – military word: guarded securely by troops

God stands as the sentinel!

(Peter – Jesus “I have prayed for you”!)

“shielded” – present passive – Guaranteed final victory!

“through faith” – you can believe but not have faith!

“salvation” = the sum of all God has for us ... future

v.5 *“Until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time”*

One day the universe will be born again!

BEGUN NOW!