

BLESSINGS & TRIALS

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MESSAGE TITLE: BLESSINGS & TRIALS –

TEXT 1 PETER 1:6 *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,*

- **GOD’S LOVE FOR YOU! - HIS ETERNAL INHERITANCE TO YOU**
- **BEING BORN AGAIN TO A LIVING HOPE?**
- **YOUR PRESENT SUFFERING AND TRIALS**

OUTLINE: - BLESSINGS AND TRIALS

INTRODUCTION:

- HOW MANY OF YOU ARE GOING THROUGH A REALLY ROUGH TIME RIGHT NOW?
- ARE HAVING A REALLY SEVERE TRIAL? THAT SEEMS SO HOPELESS?
- HOW MANY OF YOU ARE NOT REALLY FEELING GOD’S LOVE? HAVE THOUGHTS THAT GOD DOESN’T LOVE ME? THAT IF HE LOVED ME, I COULDN’T BE GOING THROUGH WHAT I’M PRESENTLY EXPERIENCING?
- Peter has written his 2 epistles to Christians who were going through much persecution and trials. Under Nero-many tortured and killed.
- **PETER GIVES NEEDED INSIGHTS INTO SUFFERING AND TRIALS!**
- **TRIALS WILL COME TO EACH OF US. AND WHEN THEY DO – AND THEY WILL! WE NEED TO TURN TO THESE SCRIPTURES FOR GUIDANCE.**
- It’s easy to wonder if God really loves us when we’re really going through difficult trials.
- ***1Pe 1:6*** *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,*

SO WHAT IS THERE TO GREATLY REJOICE ABOUT?

v. 3 A LIVING HOPE:

1Pe 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

- **a summary of unbelievable blessings from God. – no matter what we’re going through; these blessings are immovable, steadfast, always ours, any season in life – unknown to the world**
- First one we will look at is **God’s abundant mercy being shown in the fact that we have been begotten us again.** “Born Again”.
- to a **“Living Hope”** What is a living hope?
- Biblical hope vs. worldly hope
- Biblical hope, here means **“absolute assurance”, total certainty; to anticipate with absolute confidence; confident expectation, it’s going to happen and nothing can prevent it from happening.**
- What is a “Living hope?”
- **IT HAS LIFE AND IT GIVES LIFE!**
- Not all hopes are equal! Some are dead or dead end! **Most hope in this world ends up becoming a casualty.** Crashes and burns. Greatly disappointed! Dreams of your youth, as life unfolds! Expectation far exceeds actual! Can give away to being cynical or jaded with life!
- Most end up living in hopelessness
- This promised living hope is **radically different!** Not **affected by life**, or **by death!** **Beyond reach of this fallen world or beyond the reach of life.** A hope that has conquered death!
- What **is the source?** How does a living hope exist? On what does it rest? – **THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD!** His victory over death! Cannot be offered unless death has been defeated. Jesus Christ is the only One who has defeated death! So mankind is being offered this awesome living hope.

v.3 DEATH – COMMON ENEMY OF ALL & THE SOURCE OF THIS LIVING HOPE:

- I need a Savior **that has conquered death** and the Savior is Jesus Christ! – the only One who has done so!
- **Death is the enemy of all** mankind – any religion or belief that does not address conquering death or has conquered death, offers nothing!
- why follow a god that gives no victory over this universal enemy?
- **The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the only thing** that gives us that victory! Never ever trust in anything that doesn't do that!
- **Don't trust in anything** that can't explain the reason for death! **That has not had victory over death!**
- What is the reason for death? Biblical explanation. **Creation-Fall-Redemption**(reconciliation) Genesis Chapters 1 & 2 – Creation; Chapter 3 – Man's Fall; balance of the **Bible speaks of God's plan of Redemption:**
- How do we know that **each of us are connected** to what happened in the Garden of Eden? ***In Adam all die!* (1 Cor. 15:22)** **All** means 100%
- *“even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”* **100%** of those who believe and **are born again!**

v. 3 HOW WE GET THIS LIVING HOPE?

- By being “**begotten again**” or literally “**born again**”! John 3 – Nicodemus Must be born of the Spirit – a Spiritual birth. All have been born physically, but we must have a spiritual rebirth – by the Spirit.
- Genesis says don't eat of the fruit of the tree – they ate and death entered because of sin.
- One sin **separates us** from God, **because of His holiness**
- **Reconciliation made possible by Jesus Christ, His victory**, then **being born again by believing in what HE Has done.** **Putting our faith in Christ!** His victory over death becomes our victory!
- Because of this **we don't have to fear death** or live in fear of it!

v. 4 TO AN INHERITANCE FROM GOD!

1Pe 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

- **INCORRUPTIBLE**
- **UNDEFILED**
- **DOES NOT FADE AWAY**
- **RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU**
- Because of this we don't have to fear death when it comes or live in fearing it!

v. 5 WHAT ASSURANCE DOES THE BELIEVE HAVE FROM THIS POINT FORWARD?

1Pe 1:5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- **WE ARE KEPT** (under military guard) **BY THE POWER OF GOD**

v. 6 GREATLY REJOICING EVEN IN TRIALS

1Pe 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved* (very sorrowful, like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane) *by various trials,

- **Easy to lose perspective!** Makes **trial more difficult!** **Fear; confusion; make wild decisions**
- Existence of suffering is argued by atheists as there is no God.
- The Bible teaches that **suffering comes as a result of fallen man.** But we are **in a fallen world** introduced by **Adam's sin.**
- But the Bible also teaches that **it will not always be bad**, but at **God's timing, the creation of a new heaven and a new earth will demonstrate** indeed the **three great truths that God is all knowing, all powerful and is all loving!**
- We're in the middle of something that isn't finished yet.
- **Important because many Christians lose perspective in the middle of a great trial.** They come to the same conclusions that the atheists come to. God is all knowing and all powerful, **but He doesn't love them!**
- **We're not immune as Christians from trials.** (We can be **grieved** (deeply affected) by various trials).
- The original of the Christian trials was Nero, not God.

- God rains on the just and unjust.
- Many Christians think that as long as their walking the right way they won't ever have trials – not true – when trials come. They can't believe that God loves them.

v. 7 PURPOSES OF OUR TRIALS -- TESTING AND PURIFYING OF OUR FAITH – 3 purposes (Romans 8:28-29) the good is Christ likeness!! That's the thing that makes us the richest!!! Life the way it was intended to be lived!

1Pe 1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Three Purposes of Trials:

- 1 To test or prove the genuineness of our faith, of our commitment to the Lord! Worthwhile – testing produces a faith that can be tested! Great trials can really shake us, but when we faithfully endure a trial is shows us our faith is genuine and is strongly there!
- 2 Second purpose – He uses trials to purify our faith! Fire only makes gold more pure, more valuable – trials only make our faith more pure and thus more valuable!
- 3 Third - These trials prepare us for an abundant entry into heaven!! (at Rapture or when He takes us)

V. 7b - may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

- Jesus says “Well done (praise), good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things (honor), I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord (glory).”

v. 8 WHAT DO WE DO TO GET THROUGH THESE TRIALS? -- LOVING UNSEEN JESUS AND REJOICING WITH INEXPRESSABLE JOY

1Pe 1:8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

- 3 keys to successfully navigating trials”
- 1 Their love for Jesus (single greatest motivation for successfully navigating a trial) our love for Jesus! That characteristic of our enduring great trials. The love of Christ compels me!
- Greatest preparation for trials that we can make is to go deeper into our relationship with the Lord! How trials can deepen our walk and faith!
- If we not prepared by going deep, we lose the peace in catching up when trials hit.
- 2 Believing and having faith to get them through the trial. One day we'll be delivered into glory! Put our trust in Him trustworthy
- 3 Trust God to do with our suffering to do what He did with Jesus' suffering. *Isaiah 53, David Psalm 16; 22, Daniel*
- Make Jesus the example of our suffering and overcoming our trials. Overcoming the greatest injustice, the greatest crime, the greatest atrocity and turn that around for His glory, He can do the same thing for us!

v. 9 SUMMARY/CLOSE - WHAT DO WE DO?

- IF YOU JUST CAME THIS MORNING TO BE SAVED! I'M GETTING BEATEN UP SO CRITICALLY
- **COME TO CHRIST! COME TO THE ROCK THAT HIGHER THAN YOU. THE ONLY STABLE PLACE! GOD LOVES YOU! ONE DAY HE WILL BRING THIS WORLD TO A PERFECT PLACE**
- **LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU KNOW YOU'RE A SINNER!**
- **REPENT! GIVE YOUR LIFE TO HIM**
- **BEGIN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**
- HE BRINGS ALL THIS FOCUS, **THIS PERSPECTIVE** INTO YOUR LIFE.
- **HE LOVES YOU.**
- **HE UNDERSTANDS AND PITIES US LIKE NO ONE ELSE CAN HAVE COMPASSION ON YOU!**
- **HE HAS GRACE AND STRENGTH THAT HE WANTS TO GIVE TO YOU!**
- **COME TO JESUS!**
- **LET'S PRAY!**