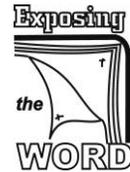


# “REMINDERS OF Truth” ©2009

## The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



### II- Remember Our Hope is a Living Hope: 1Pe 1:2-12

Hope, with it we do not as humans find life in many cases worth living. Hope, it is said, springs eternal. Hope is said to be the one thing that we cannot live without.

#### I- Grace and Peace by the Blood:

The second verse of 1 Peter is part of his introduction and salutation.

*1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

This word foreknowledge is only found two times in the New Testament in the original language. Both times it was used by Peter. Talking about God's foreknowing about the death of Christ Peter states in *Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.*

The greeting Paul customarily gave was grace and peace. Peter gives this greeting as well but then states that it was his desire that it be multiplied to them. Let us not miss the point however of where this grace and peace come from. While Peter, or you and I for that matter, may wish multiplied grace and peace upon someone we cannot grant it. Notice it tells us here that it comes from the blood being applied. This sprinkling of blood causes my mind to go to the time when the blood was sprinkled on the Priest. *Lev 8:30 And Moses took of the anointing oil, and of the blood which was upon the altar, and sprinkled it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon his sons' garments with him; and sanctified Aaron, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him.*

You will find the sprinkling of blood on the altar and other things throughout the Old Testament. Then in the New Testament *Heb 12:24* says *“And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”*

So we must remember that our grace and peace come from the application of the blood of the Lamb, slain for our sins, placed upon our lives.

#### II- Living Hope by the Resurrection:

Kenneth Wuest in *Wuest's Word Studies* says concerning *1Pe 1:3-12*, *“God the Father is the central figure in verses 3-5, God the Son, in verses 6-9, and God the Holy Spirit, in verses 10-12.”* (p19)

It can be said the God the Father planned our salvation, God the Son purchased it and God the Spirit secures it by His presence.

*1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

It is by the mercy, yea the abundant mercy of God that we have a hope of any kind. The word for blessed means, according to *Vincent's Word Studies*, *“Well-spoken-of; praised; honored”*.

Notice the reason we should be praising God as we remember our hope is that it not just a hope that will endure until death, not a hope that will carry us through this life but one that is a hope that is living. The reason for the hope is that it is based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Remember the old song we sing, *“because He lives.”* Well beloved we must constantly be in remembrance of the fact that we have a risen, living, and ascended Savior who is soon coming again. Because we have a hope that is based on the risen Lord it is a hope that does not just exist but in fact it thrives. Remember what Jesus said in *Rev 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

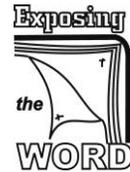
#### III- Our Inheritance as Saints:

Sainthood is something that we often hear misinterpreted and applied. Some think that you have to die to be a saint. Beloved I feel the Bible teaches that when someone is in Christ they are a saint. No we do not always act saintly nor do we always feel saintly but being a saint is based on the fact that God is

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sanctifying us to be like Christ. Let's look at a couple of verses before we move on into verse four.

**Rom 8:17** *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

**Tit 3:7** *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

So our inheritance is tied to Jesus as we become fellow heirs and joint heirs with Christ. Now let's look at our inheritance as Saints.

**1Pe 1:4** *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.*

Remember the words of Christ when He said, *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.” Mat 6:19-20*

Peter is talking here about an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled and that does not fade away. The ESV translates this verse **1Pe 1:4** *to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.* Now how can anything be in this state? Certainly not anything that sin touches is left secure and pure. Well beloved it is because our true treasures are not here but in heaven.

And not only is our treasures kept but Peter reminds us that we are kept by God as well. **1Pe 1:5** *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

We are kept by the power of God **Eph 2:7** *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.* Some say this is simply saying that God will display us as His trophies of grace. The trying of our works is also clarified in **1Co 3:13-15** *Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any*

*man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

We are reminded here as part of our living hope is the promise of our inheritance. We get to keep all we send ahead and nothing we try so hard to keep here.

### IV- Suffering Short Time; Glory Eternal:

Now I remind you that Peter is address the saints that are suffering for the faith. I have heard all my ministry about when we prepare to deliver the Word of God any week that we should preach to those who are suffering. This is because that in the course of life we are either in the midst of something, coming out of something, or we are headed toward a time of trial. I am simply trying to say that this is a very explicable word for us today. God's Word is timeless.

**1Pe 1:6** *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.*

This looks forward in our salvation past the times of suffering and hurts. I looked forward to the appearing of Christ for His own. Our ultimate rejoicing will come when He comes.

**1Pe 1:8** *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.* It is a matter of faith. Not blind faith but faith that sees the unseen and knows He is real.

### V- Our Hope Was Planned From Eternity:

We humans often have to re-calculate, re-program and re-plan a lot of things. You may have heard it back up and punt. God is not in any way reminiscent of this in anyway. There is nothing that escaped the glaze of God from before the foundation of the world. It escaped the prophet of old and the angel but God knew of our hope from eternity past.

**1Pe 1:10** *Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:*

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The prophets many times did not fully understand the implications of their words. *The People's New Testament (1891)* by B. W. Johnson says the following:

***Of which salvation the prophets have enquired.***

*This passage implies that the prophets used words and symbols, at the dictation of the Spirit, of which they did not comprehend the full meaning. They spoke of Christ and salvation, and then diligently inquired what the Spirit of Christ in them did signify by these words.*

***1Pe 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.***

Men like Daniel that prophesied about the coming of Messiah and Isaiah that taught us so much about His suffering as well as the Psalmists that spoke of Him did not understand. They sought to know what their words meant but it was not spiritually revealed to them. This is called the “...mystery, which was kept secret since the world began” in *Rom 16:25*.

***Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:***

These prophets spoke of the suffering of Christ before He was incarnate in the flesh. Beloved our

living hope is not something that God came up with as plan “B” after plan “A” failed. It is the plan, the only plan He had for the redemption of mankind from before He spoke all things into existence.

***1Pe 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.***

The mystery of our hope and salvation in Christ was not apparent to even the angels who were used many times by God to be the conveyer of messages even to the prophets.

As we leave this section of Reminders of Truth let us notice one more thing. The truths of the gospel and the message of Jesus as Savior was revealed from Heaven by the Holy Spirit. The mortal man cannot understand the thing of God with a mind of flesh only. Notice what *1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

So beloved let us allow the God the Holy Spirit to teach us these truths that we have a Living Hope because we have a living Savior.