

THE LIVING HOPE

1Pet. 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A minister went from town into backwoods to preach to settlers and had to return home at night when it was very dark. A backwoodsman gave him a pitch-pine torch. The minister who'd never seen anything like it, said, "It'll soon burn out." "It'll light you home," the man said. The preacher said, "It's supposed to rain." "It'll light you home," the man answered. The preacher continued to object, "The wind may blow it out." "It'll light you home," the man insisted. It gave abundant light to his path all the way home.
- B. The hope, given to us by the Lord, our light and salvation, will never fail but continue shining on the path homeward.
- C. We're saved by hope, which serves as an anchor of the soul, to provide stability to our lives. Heb 6:19
- D. Peter, preparing readers for trials they will face, talks about this hope and shows how important it is in our lives as Christians.
- E. Notice now what Peter has to say about this living hope

DISCUSSION:

I. ONLY THE "ELECT" HAVE THIS HOPE vs. 1-2

- A. "Elect" means "chosen." & is according to foreknowledge of God.
 - 1. Some say God chose some to be saved & others to be lost
 - 2. God has elected or chosen someone; but who? Rom 8:29,30; Eph 1:3-7
- B. Election through sanctification of the Spirit. - sanctify means to set apart. How are we sanctified?
 - 1. Sanctified through the truth Jhn 17:17
 - 2. The Spirit does His work of sanctification by means of the truth revealed in God's word Eph 3:3-7
 - 3. We are called by the Gospel 2Thess 2:13-14
 - 4. So, when we respond to call of gospel and believe the truth, we're sanctified by the Spirit and chosen by God for salvation
- C. This election is unto obedience and sprinkling of blood of Christ.
 - 1. God has chosen that those who would be His elect would obey Him so they could receive the sprinkling of blood
 - 2. Obedience essential Heb 5:8-9 & sprinkling of blood is essential Heb 10:19-22 (note figurative nature of statement)
- D. Those with this hope have chosen to hear and obey the gospel, being washed in blood of Jesus thereby sanctified by the Spirit, which is according to God's plan purposed before foundation of world, so these people are God's elect

II. HOW HAVE THE ELECT HAVE OBTAINED THIS HOPE v. 3

- A. It's according to God's abundant mercy
 - 1. If I work I have a right to pay based on my own efforts
 - 2. All sin and are condemned, can't work to earn this hope
 - 3. If we receive it, it'll be because of God's mercy Titus 3:3-5

- 4. Never separate this hope from God's abundant mercy
- B. This hope is the result of having been begotten again
 - 1. One has no hope of sharing wealth unless a part of family
 - 2. We can't be children of God and share His blessings, this wonderful hope, until we're born again Jhn 3:3-5.
 - 3. Once we've been born into God's family, we receive this hope
- C. It's by the resurrection of Jesus Christ 1Cor 15:20-23
 - 1. Our hope pertains to things occurring after death, but without resurrection of Christ, there is no hope of anything like that.
 - 2. Hope established firmly on resurrection of Christ from dead

III. WHAT IS THIS HOPE THE ELECT HAVE OBTAINED v. 3

- A. It is an inheritance - shows important to be part of God's family
 - 1. Person usually leaves inheritance only to his family
 - 2. God has an inheritance for His spiritual children Col 1:9-11
- B. Described as "incorruptible, undefiled, and fades not away"
 - 1. Inheritance we receive here --money, house, property, etc., subject to corruption and decay, and will ultimately pass away when the Lord returns Matt 6:19-20
 - 2. Inheritance God gives can't be corrupted, defiled, or fade away
- C. This inheritance is reserved in heaven Col 1:3-5
 - 1. Christian's hope has nothing to do with earth because it will be destroyed 2Pet 3:10-13 (new heavens and new earth - a completely new order - a spiritual not physical realm).
 - 2. Our hope is for an inheritance that is reserved in heaven

IV. WHY DOES GOD GIVE THIS HOPE TO THE ELECT v. 4

- A. God wants mankind to be saved
 - 1. "Saved" means to be rescued and preserved from danger
 - 2. We need to be rescued from punishment for sins we've committed Jhn 3:16; 1Tim 2:4; 2Pet 3:9
- B. Because of God's love for us and His desire that we be saved, He sent His Son, Jesus, to be an atonement for sin that we might have salvation from guilt of sin Matt 1:21; Mk 16:16
- C. God's plan also includes offer of eternal salvation from ultimate consequences of sin - everlasting destruction 2Thess 1:7-9.
- D. God has provided, through His word, the means by which we can be saved and be kept through faith by His power unto this eternal salvation which will be revealed in the last time.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Hope some people have is in reality a dead hope either because it's not real or because they don't have a right to expect it.
- B. However, the faithful Christian has a living hope.
- C. If you're not a Christian, but would like to have this hope, then you need to be born again -- remember Jhn 3:3,5