



Living Hope

Faith does not keep life from being hard. In fact, sometimes faith makes life harder. Christians need a conviction that the present will surrender to a glorious future. Not “hope so”, but living hope, the kind that Jesus’ resurrection brings. Welcome to 1 Peter!

Week 1: ...In the Salvation of God

1. Rick began by pointing out that *“It is awkward to feel out of place, especially when you are in your own place.”* When have you felt out of place? What emotions did that spark in you? Follow up: **Read 1 Peter 1:1, 17, and 2:11.** What relationship do followers of Jesus have to the world in which we live? How should we live because of this?
2. **EXILES ASSURED... You need a living hope to be odd for God.** Following Jesus includes accepting the pushback that goes with it. **Read 1 Peter 4:4.** What are some examples of how you have felt like an outsider because of your faith? Follow up: How does feeling strange and out of place drive us to our mission?
3. **Read 1 Peter 1:3-12.** What resonates with you the most from this passage? How would you define the “living hope” Peter mentions?
4. **SALVATION SECURED... My salvation was decided in the past.** *One reason we are willing to be strange for God is that we are no longer estranged from God* (see 1 Peter 1:2). Why is this important to remember? How has that impacted the way you live?
5. **SALVATION SECURED... My salvation brings joy in the present.** *We should not think it strange that there will be challenges to living the “strange life”* (see 1 Peter 1:5-6). In what ways does our salvation bring joy despite suffering? Share some examples. Follow up: How can you encourage someone else who may be suffering?
6. **SALVATION SECURED... My salvation is kept for the future.** *God has made sure that what His Son paid for is safe, and that it can never perish, spoil, or fade* (see 1 Peter 1:4). How has knowing that your inheritance will never decay changed your outlook on something recently? When do you find this to be challenging to remember?
7. **HOPE ENSURED... If the tomb is empty our hope tanks should stay full.** Respond to this question Rick asked near the end: *How does one cope without a living hope?* Follow up: How has the resurrection of Jesus changed everything for you? What is one thing you can do differently this week because you have a living hope?

