



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 4: ...In the Proclamation of God

1. **Read 1 Peter 3:13-22.** What resonates with you the most from this passage? Follow up: What reasons for hope has Peter already mentioned in this letter? How do these provide courage and encouragement for you to remain odd for God?
2. **WE PROCLAIM... People who possess hope will have opportunities to profess hope. Read 1 Peter 3:15.** How does hope change your everyday behavior and cause people to ask about it? Follow up: If someone asks you about the hope you have, how would you respond and what would you say? Share some examples of when you’ve done this.
3. **JESUS PROCLAIMED... Jesus was crucified and resurrected to make us right with God. Read 1 Peter 2:24 & 3:18.** How would you summarize these verses to a friend? When did the truth that Christ suffered for your sins first begin to have personal meaning to you? Follow up: How has Christ’s life, death and resurrection impacted the way you live today?
4. **JESUS PROCLAIMED... Jesus has declared his victory over all evil. Read 1 Peter 3:19-20.** What hope does the “*prison ministry of Jesus*” during the time Noah built the ark provide to Peter’s first readers? Follow up: How does that encourage you today?
5. **JESUS PROCLAIMED... Jesus is now reigning as Lord over everyone and everything. Read 1 Peter 3:22.** What does this tell us about the scope of Christ’s power and authority? How does Christ’s place of authority at God’s right hand make you feel about your relationship with Him? Follow up: How does knowing the future fuel hope in the present?
6. **BAPTISM PROCLAIMS... our living hope in the triumph of Jesus! Read 1 Peter 3:21.** How would you explain the power of baptism to someone close to you? Follow up: Rick pointed out that “*In baptism we go public with the gospel by acting it out.*” What does that mean and why is it significant?
7. If you have been baptized, share your story of coming to faith in Jesus. As you close, spend some time praying for those you know who haven’t made that decision yet.

