



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 5: ...In the Judgment of God

1. Rick began by pointing out that Peter mentions “suffering” 7 times in chapter 4. Share an example of when you or someone you know well has suffered hardship for following Jesus. Follow up: How can we help one another focus on hope in the midst of suffering unjustly?
2. **HOPING FOR WHAT? Living with hope means hoping for judgment.** In what ways does Christianity differ from what secularism or naturalism teach about where life is headed? Follow up: **Read Hebrews 9:27 and Acts 17:31.** With these verses in mind, how is the idea of judgment actually good news (also see **Revelation 6:10**)?
3. **HOPING THRU JUDGMENT... Judgment motivates us to sin less. Read 1 Peter 4:1-6.** What does Peter mean when he says that those who have suffered for Christ are done with sin? Follow up: What are some of the most distinctive ways your life has changed since making the decision to follow Jesus? How have verses like **Titus 2:11-13 & 2 Peter 3:11-14** encouraged you to live a more holy life?
4. **HOPING THRU JUDGMENT... Judgment motivates us to serve more. Read 1 Peter 4:7-11.** What would change about your daily life if you were able to keep “the end” at the forefront of your mind? What would you become more urgent about? Follow up: What is one gift you think each group member has and how have you seen them use it to **serve others**?
5. **HOPING THRU JUDGMENT... Judgment motivates us to suffer well. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.** How has God used suffering in your life as a way of deepening your faith in him? Follow up: How is suffering for Christ both a privilege and a duty?
6. **HOPING IN HIM! We are hopeful because God is faithful! Read 1 Peter 4:19.** How can you begin cultivating habits that will help you to remain faithful when things get difficult? Follow up: How can we help each other remain hopeful in God’s faithfulness?
7. Rick closed by asking two questions: (1) *Where will your sin be judged?* and (2) *Are you ready for the return of Jesus?* How would you respond to those questions and how does reflecting on that provide you hope today?

