

A Living Hope
I Peter 1:3
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Bible Study - September 6, 2022

Our Gracious Heavenly Father, Who loves us, and has proven His love for us time and time again, has provided for us salvation through His Son Jesus, because He is merciful and desires to have a relationship with us.

Think about this – The God of the universe, Who created the heavens and the earth, wants to have a relationship with people such as you and me. Wow!!!

He did not wait for us to get better or to improve or prove ourselves. He sent His Son to die for us while we were still in our sinful condition.

Romans 5:8 – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

God loves us just the way we are, but He loves us too much to leave us the way we are.

Romans 12:1-2 – “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable will of God.”

Whenever you see a “therefore” in the scripture, go back and look at what and why it is “there for.”

The “therefore” in this verse is referring to the previous verse, Romans 11:36, “For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

Our Gracious Heavenly Father, is the source, the sustainer, and the supplier, and rightful end of everything that exists.

I Corinthians 8:6 – “yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”

We need God’s mercy –

In the previous verses in Romans 12:1-2, Paul mentions “the mercies of God.” These mercies of God are divine, priceless, and gracious, and He wants to give

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them to us. The mercies of God that He wants to give to us are His love, grace, righteousness, and the gift of faith.

We need God’s mercy because without His mercy we are in a pitiful, desperate, and wretched state.

No matter how long we have been a Christian or how dedicated, devoted, and determined we are, we all come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23 – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

We need God’s mercy –

It is because of God’s mercy that we can “be born again to a living hope” and that living hope is eternal life.

This “living hope” that we can experience comes from Our Gracious Heavenly Father.

Romans 15:13 – “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the source of eternal hope, life, and salvation, and He is the object of hope for every believer. Our hope as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ comes through the Scripture, which was written and is applied to every believing heart by the Holy Spirit.

We need God’s mercy –

This “living hope” is also a gift of grace –

II Thessalonians 2:16-17 – “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”

This is one of many blessings Paul has given in his letters. Paul prays that God would encourage the Thessalonians and establish them in the truth. For it is God Who graciously chose them as His own people, loved them, and gave them everlasting salvation, that they could have hope.

We too, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ can thank God that He has chosen us, loved us, and gave us everlasting salvation, all through His Son Jesus Christ.

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John 15:16 – “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

None of us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ should not “get beside” ourselves because of the wonderful privileges and opportunities that the Lord has given us. It has nothing to do with our abilities or acumen but it is the sovereign choice of Our God.

We need God’s mercy –

This “living Hope” is also defined by The Word of God –

Romans 15:4 – “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

The Word of God not only informs believers how to endure, but it also encourages believers in the process. The Word of God also provides clear and certain promises from God, without these promises, believers would have no basis for hope.

This “living hope” is a reasonable reality –

1 Peter 3:15 – “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, meekness and fear;”

Peter is admonishing the readers to sanctify (set apart) in your hearts Christ as Lord. Live in submissive communion with the Lord Jesus, loving and obeying Him. Believers must understand what they believe as well as know why they believe it. Share with boldness, confidence, without fear, humbly communicating, thoughtfully, reasonably, and biblically, about “the hope that is in you.”

We need God’s mercy –

This “living hope” is secured by the resurrection of Jesus Christ –

John 11:25-26 – “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

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Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the resurrection for those who believe and are physically dead. He is the life for those who believe and have not yet died. In order to have eternal life, a person must place his or her trust (faith) in Jesus, Who is the Christ, The Son of God, Who came into the world to bring eternal life to those who receive (place their trust in) Him.

No resurrection or eternal life exists outside of The Son of God. Time is no barrier to the One Who has the power of resurrection and life for He can give life at any time.

We need God's mercy –

This “living hope” is confirmed in the Christian by The Holy Spirit –

Romans 15:13 – “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of The Holy Spirit.”

The object of hope for every believer is God, He is the source of eternal hope, life, and salvation. Through the Scripture the believer receives hope. Believers should apply the Scripture to their life situations, circumstances, and concerns on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit will control, guide, and give directions, as the believer submits to be filled with The Holy Spirit.

An additional aspect of this “living hope” is that it defends the Christian against the attacks of Satan –

Ephesians 6:10-11 – “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

We as believers cannot do this on our own or in our strength. We are being made strong on a daily basis through the power of The Holy Spirit. Satan's power over Christians has already been broken and the great war is won through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. However, here on earth, battles of temptation go on daily. Christians can be victorious in these matters by submitting to the power of The Holy Spirit and relying on The Word of God.

We need God's mercy –

This “living hope” is confirmed through trials –

Trials are a part of the lives of believers just as blessings are. Trials will come but we can be victorious in them.

Anyone, and I do mean anyone, who tells you that trials, troubles, and temptations do not happen in the lives of Christians, are lying to you.

Listen to what Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Tribulation is literally “pressure,” and figuratively means “affliction” or “distress.” “Be of good cheer” means “be confident and courageous.” When we place our trust in God, He can give us peace in the midst of pressure, affliction, or distress. He may not take us out of the fire but He will be with us in the fire. This “living hope” that we have is confirmed through trials.

Romans 5:3-4 – “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Paul is reminding the readers that these tribulations are the troubles that will come to believers because of their relationship with Christ. When these troubles come, we can benefit from them because as a result rich spiritual benefits are produced. We can persevere in spite of these troubles because of the “living hope” that we possess.

Another tremendous benefit that we have as a result of this “living hope” is that it produces joy –

Psalm 146:5 – “Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help. Whose hope is in the LORD his God.”

Not only the God of Jacob but the God of Abraham and Isaac; not only the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but the God my father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, He is my God too. And as a result of this we share in the Abrahamic Covenant because through Abraham “... all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3)

Thank God for this “living hope” that we have and the joy it produces because our “hope is in the LORD his (our) God.”

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Praise The LORD for this “living hope” which is fulfilled in the return of Christ –

Titus 2:13-14 – “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

The appearance of the grace of God is to produce two results in the lives of those who have accepted Christ into their lives –

- (1) To live godly lives in this present world and resist the temptations and “trappings” of this world –
- (2) To look for the return of Christ –

This “living hope” that we have was purchased by Christ on the cross through His death, burial, and resurrection. Christ paid the price to release us from the bondage of sin and He also wants to free us from the power of sin so that we can produce good works that glorify Him.

Our Gracious Heavenly Father has provided salvation for those who will receive His Son, Jesus, as Savior. When a person does receive Christ into their life, he/she is born again spiritually and is placed (baptized, spiritually) into the family of God, thus receiving a new nature.

The “living hope” is eternal life and it is provided as a result of Jesus Christ dying and being buried, and resurrected.

You can experience this “living hope” today my friend –

Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins, believe that He died, was buried, and rose from the grave for you, ask Him to come into your life, He will, ask Him.

He loves you and desires that you experience this “living hope” that He alone can provide.

You and I both, need the mercy of God –

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