

What Now? | Hope

1 Peter 1:1-12

Shane Freeman

January 3, 2021

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

—Matthew 6:19-20

I. We’ve got to wrestle to live in the present in light of eternity.

II. Finding Hope in Times of Struggle (1 Peter 1:1-9)

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 15But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 16Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

—1 Peter 4:14-16

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia

—1 Peter 1:1

*a. This world is not our home. (1:1-2)
according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:*

—1 Peter 1:2

*b. The same God who saves us will also keep us. (1:3-5)
he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*

—1 Peter 1:3b

an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading

—1 Peter 1:4

kept in heaven for you, 5who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

—1 Peter 1:5

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

—1 Peter 1:6-7

*c. Suffering is never wasted but it's always temporary.
(1:6-9)*

...to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

—1 Peter 1:7b

III. Helpful Prayers To Pray

1. God, help me remember that You are with me. (Mt. 28:18-20)
2. God, help me live today in light of eternity! (1 Peter 1:1)
3. God, help me stay in awe of your grace. (1 Peter 1:10-12)

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now

been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

—1 Peter 1:10-12

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned...

—2 Peter 2:4a

Study Questions

1. As a new year begins, reflect back on this past year. Identify some high points, as well as low points. As you now look ahead, what are some things you are hoping for in this new year? Explain. Also, discuss why a new year typically offers hope for people. In your own opinion, what are some of the potential dangers of putting too much hope in what a new year might hold.
2. In 1 Peter 1:1, Peter reminds us that as followers of Jesus we are exiles; therefore, this world isn't our home. What thoughts and/or emotions does this word exile conjure up? Explain. In the context of Peter's letter about facing persecution, how might thinking of yourself as an exile encourage you? Be specific. Does such truth instill hope or hopelessness? Explain.
3. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. These verses offer so many rich truths about our salvation. Spend a few minutes identifying each specific truth. Which truth(s) most encourage you? Which ones do you find hardest to embrace when life is hard? Explain. Finally, how might your attitude through trials differ as a result of knowing and embracing these amazing promises of God?
4. If we're going to endure another year of living for Jesus with boldness and grace, we need help. Spend a few minutes thinking about these simple, helpful prayers. And then, under each prayer, write out your own prayer. Ask God for help in your own words. When you've done that...close out your time with some quiet, focused prayer.

God, help me remember that You are with me!

God, help me live today in light of eternity!

God, help me stay in awe of your grace towards me!