

# Our Hope as Believers

## Slide 1 – Title and text

1 Peter 1:1-6 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

## Slide 2 – Put in a list the highlighted ones

### A little history on Peter

- In Luke 5 He accepts the call to become **“fisher of men”**, probably in his late 20's or early 30's
- In Luke, chapters 18-20 we see his denial of Jesus and his restoration
  - In Acts 10 God, He shows him that he is to preach Christ to the Gentiles
  - However, later in Galatians 2 he was called a hypocrite by Paul. He had been eating with the Gentiles and ignoring traditional Jewish food choices.
  - He decided to stop associating with the Gentiles when some strict Jewish Christians arrived and Paul rebuked him in front of all
- In Acts and Galatians God leads him from being prejudice to showing him God's grace is for all people, not just the Jews
- The name Peter (Greek) and Cephas (Aramaic) both meaning **“rock”**
- Christ told Peter to **feed His sheep** (John 21:17)

- According to tradition, he was Martyred by Emperor Nero, in his 60's, by being crucified upside down

**Slide 3 – Highlighted ones**

**I. Introduction:**

- ✓ Peter is talking to “**BELIEVER’S**” that have been scattered throughout the province of Asia Minor because of Christian persecution
- ✓ He calls them “**strangers and pilgrims**” because they were dwelling in a land not their own
  - They had literally left their homes fleeing for their life because the persecution was so severe
  - They could not casually pack their belongings and leave, they had to flee in a hurry
  - Fifteen times Peter refers to suffering in this letter
- ✓ **They were experiencing fear, concern, restlessness, insecurity**, and the list goes on
- ✓ Perhaps some of us today have a story like the one told about a boxer who was being badly beaten in a boxing match. When the bell rang to end the first round he came staggering to his corner, battered and bruised. He said to his trainer, “**he’s killing me out there.**” The trainer said, Son, he hasn’t laid a glove on you, now get back out there. At the end of the second round, the boxer’s right eye was swollen shut and he barely had enough strength to get back to his corner. He said to his trainer, “**throw in the towel, this guy is killing me.** The Trainer said, Son, you’re doing great! He hasn’t laid a glove on you. Now get back out there and keep fighting. The BOXER said, “**well keep an eye on that referee because somebody out there is beating the daylights out of me.**”
- ✓ Life is like a boxing match. We sometimes we get bruised and battered and want to throw in the towel and give up.
- ✓ Then we remember the words of Jesus **“”in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”** John 16:33 (NIV)

- ✓ We remember, in fact, we know, that God is **“FAITHFUL”**. He will with every temptation make a way of escape. **1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV),**  
**"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind . And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."**

#### Slide 4 – Highlighted ones

- ✓ Look at the Apostle Paul:
  - 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 Paul gives us a picture
  - **“We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed;** - squeezed in
  - perplexed, but not in despair; - I am confused, why is this happening to me? But in the nick of time God gives us **“HOPE”**
  - **persecuted, but not abandoned;** - Christ has promised to never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5)
  - **struck down, but not destroyed.”** – We may be down but we are not out. God has not vacated His throne. He is in control!
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 11 gives a summary of Paul’s life**
  - Received 39 stripes from the Jews, beaten with rods 3 times
  - Stoned once, shipwrecked 3 times
  - Spend a night and a day in the deep
  - In journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils fo robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in the city, in the wilderness
  - Lost sleep often, hungry and thirsty, fasted often, cold and naked
  - Toward the end of his life, he is on house arrest in Rome. Can you imagine the guard’s anguish as Paul maybe asked them constantly, “Are you guys ready to accept Christ today as your Savior?”
  - **Paul looked past his problems and forward to the day he reigns with Christ through all eternity**

#### Slide 5 – Highlight ones

## II. The Source of our Hope V3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

- ✓ We have the promise of eternal life through Christ
- ✓ The grave could not hold Him down
- ✓ He is not a God that shows no interest in our needs.

### 1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

- ✓ His arm is not to short, eye is not to dim, ear not to heavy (Isaiah 59:1)  
He wants to help us in our times of need because He cares!
- ✓ In verse 3 Peter shows us that he has experienced the great mercy of Christ, so he loses himself in “**PRAISES HIM**”
- ✓ When is the last time we just lost ourselves in Praise to Him, in church, at home, riding in the car?
  - Praise means “**price or value**” in someone or something
  - This is why we confess His goodness, stretch out our hands to Him and offer thanksgiving. He is worth it, He is of great value
  - You see, we once were lost but now we are found, saved, redeemed, forgiven, and on our way to heaven
  - It is an abundant mercy – It means much, plenteous
  - His mercy is active and full of compassion
- ✓ It is not just a future hope but a living hope, an inheritance that is incorruptible, it cannot fade away, our place in heaven is reserved.  
Jesus said, “**I go to prepare a place for you**”. (John 14:3)

Slide 6 \_ Highlighted one

## III. How our Hope is Kept

- ✓ V. 5 “**who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.**”
- ✓ “Shielded by God’s power”

- By “**FAITH**” – we put our trust in Him though at times it seems nothing is going right
  - We are “**Kept**” – To be guarded, protected, a garrison
  - Psalm 34:7 “**For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.**”
  - This shows us the continual activity of God in our daily living
  - Our faith in Him shows our activity
- ✓ V. 6 “**In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.**”
- **We greatly “Rejoice” means “to Jump for joy”**
  - By thinking of our inheritance, we go from focusing on our trials to jumping for joy. Either picturing it in our mind or literally jumping, or maybe doing both
  - These Jewish Christians were not to jump because of their trials, leaving their homes, but because God had not forsaken them, and He has not forsaken us today.
  - Peter knows their trials are real but he wants them to see beyond them

Slide 7 – **Highlighted ones**

- ✓ What we need to focus on:
  - **Christ will keep us safe**
  - He sits at the Father's right hand ever interceding for us
  - Christ is able to see our needs and provide them as well
  - Because He conquered death, the grave, and hell He is exactly who He said He was, **“the Son of the Living God”**
- ✓ What is our inheritance?
  - **It is “Incorruptible”**

- When we arrive, we have no problems, no tears, an unpolluted dwelling with Christ
- It will not fade away, it is reserved for us
- It is kept by the power of God
- **Romans 12:12 (NLT) states: "Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying."**

It has been said

**"there are no hopeless situations, there are only people who have grown hopeless about them"**