

Sermon Series: Living with Hope in a Broken World

To be used with: The Basis for Our Hope

Sermon Title: Secure in Hope

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:1-9

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study “*The Basis for Our Hope*,” this sermon explores how hope in God forms a foundation for the Christian life. While many aspects of life may be uncertain, we can take comfort in knowing that we are secured by God.

Introduction: The apostle Peter is writing to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) in an effort to encourage them to remain steadfast in their Christian faith. These believers are experiencing a difficult period of suffering and persecution for their faith, and perhaps some of them may need to be reassured that everything they are going through is worth it.

We may find ourselves weighing the costs and benefits of having placed our faith in Christ as well. When trying times threaten to overwhelm us, we can rest assured that we find stability in God’s love for us. Peter bases his encouragement to his fellow believers on the power of that love.

1. We belong to God. (v. 1-3)

Our identities are often very important to us. We pride ourselves on our family lineages, networks, education, and other characteristics. These all shape our concepts of who we are. More important than *who* we are, however, is *Whose* we are. Our identity as Christians is centered in our relationship to God.

In his greeting, Peter reminds Christians of the relationship that we all have to God. Even though Christians experience difficulty, just like Peter’s initial audience, we are still connected to God. Nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38-39). Each member of the Trinity is intimately involved in our salvation. The gracious gift of salvation gives us new life and hope. We also become part of God’s family (John 1:12).

2. We are kept by God. (v. 4-5)

It is good to have someone you can trust to keep something safe for you. Perhaps you have relied on someone else to take care of things at your home while you were on vacation. Knowing the person was looking out for you likely put your mind at ease. How much greater is it to know that God keeps us in this earthly life and is keeping our eternal reward safely with Him in heaven?

We have an inheritance waiting for us. We did not earn it and we do not deserve it. This inheritance is God’s gift to us, made possible through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. God is not only concerned about our future, however. He takes care of us right now. God is keeping us each day of our lives and is preparing us to receive what He has prepared for us.

3. We are developed by God. (v. 6-9)

Many of us are accustomed to taking pictures on our phones and posting the pictures to various social media pages immediately. Back in the day, however, we took pictures and had to wait for them to be developed. This process of development took a while and we were excited to see how things would turn out.

God uses the experiences of our lives to develop us. This includes the periods of trial—our time in the dark room, so to speak. This is something that we can rejoice about now while anticipating an even greater celebration later! We know that in the end, God will have done a marvelous work in us. This is our hope, even though we cannot currently see how it will all turn out.

Conclusion: We can maintain our hope because we know that God is in control of our lives—beginning, middle, and end. After our earthly lives have ended, God has even more in store for us. Knowing this should encourage us to endure the trials and tribulations we face. God is preserving our reward and preserving us until we reach it.

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