

1 Peter 1:1-5

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ:

To the temporary residents dispersed in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father and set apart by the Spirit for obedience and for sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

3 Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead **4** and into an inheritance that is imperishable, uncorrupted, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. **5** You are being protected by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Introduction

- Turn in your copy of the Scriptures to 1 Peter 1
 - I'll be using the Holman unless noted
 - READ 1 Peter 1:1-5
 - Please be seated
- Good morning
 - Pastor Kyle Danielson
 - It's a privilege to be one of your missionaries
 - As the Dir. Of Member Care TET I train and pastor missionaries,
 - I'm going to weave some illustrations of what I do in this
- I chose 1 Peter as a reminder of hope. In light of how 2020 has gone/not advocating one thing or another...
- Three things:
 - Temporary residents – this is not your home
 - Chosen and set apart by God – through a new birth
 - To an amazing inheritance – a living hope
- PRAY

Message

- Temporary residents – this is not your home
 - Your final destination is way, way better!
 - How God gripped me with this was:
 - Spring, porch in Ecuador – it's really nice

- I could retire here
- Our missionaries are here because its strategic
- I'm just not in the middle of any conflict, I'm only visiting. It's not my home.
- That's Peter's point.
- Actually, would I be happy in this setting without Jesus?
- Aliens, strangers, sojourners, exiles
 - It has this sense the same as the Israelites in the wilderness
 - (v:17) "*conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile*" [ESV]
 - (chp 2:11) "*Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.*" [NASB]
- How does this affect how we live?
- If you're honest, how "planted," or "settled in" are you right now?
 - Not as engaged in a community
 - Rather, focused on this life and all its benefits?
- Do you think about, or make decisions with which framework in mind?
 - Kingdom decisions? Or making life easier?
 - What's been good about the last 8 months is God has me realizing I'm not as kingdom minded as I should
 - I hadn't been thinking about what consumes my thoughts and concerns, and then how those things shape my hope and satisfaction
 - I'm the pastor guy
 - I own this...
 - The reality was much of the time I'm an American who happens to be a Christian instead of a Christian who happens to be an American.
 - I've been forced to confront myself with what really drives much of my life
 - I teach our missionaries that this is key to surviving on the field
 - BTW
 - Short-term missions does the opposite. This is why our missionaries first term is training for two years

- Short-term missions gives a false sense of accomplishment
 - People groups pretend to like short termers because they bring stuff and are planning to leave soon
 - But once you arrive as a long-term community member, who isn't going to give them stuff that all changes quickly
 - And if your hope is rooted in your circumstances you're in trouble.
 - Deep, deep trouble
 - We had the local leader call our CEO a pedophile because we wouldn't give him what he wanted
 - Short-term missions doesn't give you that
 - If I'm not careful, I'm really living life as if this is as good as it gets
 - That's the problem with things like "Having Your Best Life Now."
 - That isn't possible for the Christian
 - Just a note, the only way you can have your best life now is if you're planning on going to hell
 - Again, if I'm not careful, I'm actually storing up, building bigger barns all for this life.
 - I can work towards comfort, situational ease for 70 – 80 years and miss the goal and reality of 70 – 80 million ages of true joy to come.
 - We are temporary residents
 - **VERY** temporary
 - Peter alludes to this in (v:6) a short time you'll have trials
 - The Apostle Paul knew this
 - (2 Corinthians 4:17) "*For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.*"
 - Sojourning then becomes easier because we know the promise, and we know the process...
 - Do you know and appreciate what brought about this life of sojourning?
- Chosen and set apart by God – through a new birth
 - (v:1-2) Chosen by God

- Foreknowledge – acquaintance before hand
 - Not God looking ahead, but God establishing before
 - Before the foundation of the earth
 - (Ephesians 1:4) “*For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight...*”
 - We’re are changed people!
 - We’re born again
 - We’ve been given a new heart, a new nature,
 - Although we battle the old man – sin
 - We see the world through a new lens
 - We’re like the colorblind people in the YouTube videos who are given these glasses and all of a sudden the beauty of color is revealed to us.
 - Now you can see Jesus this way
 - What was once rule-following has given way to soul-satisfying joy and contentment
 - You **CAN** see Jesus for who He truly is
 - What else is new?
 - We’re secure
 - (v:5) protected by God’s power through faith
 - (and that’s also not of yourselves...) Which is a good thing!
 - (Philippians 1:6) “*I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*”
 - That’s what allows us to understand our inheritance – verse 4...
- To an amazing inheritance – because our inheritance is a living hope
 - Someone not something
 - It’s not the porch in Ecuador
 - It’s way, way better
 - Imperishable, uncorrupted – Jesus
 - And here’s the thing, Jesus has always wanted it to be about Him

- (John 14:3) *“If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also.”*
- This is what I meant with my Ecuador illustration
- It’s actually counterfeit
- And we need to be careful we’re not pursuing a counterfeit joy through our circumstances and things right now
- Being with Jesus is meant to produce joy
 - What kind?
 - (v:8) Inexpressible! Inexpressible and glorious joy!
 - Even though we don’t see Him
 - Honest: that’s not where I spent much of 2020
 - Peter is writing to people who are under the tyranny of Nero’s reign
 - Rome has burned and Christians are the scapegoats
- Peter’s answer: Don’t put your hope in the here and now
 - Not in wealth
 - Not in sex
 - Not in people
 - Not in health
 - Not possessions
 - But in Jesus

Wrap – Up

- How do we press towards wanting Jesus?
 - (v:8) How’s your joy?
 - Your circumstance defying Jesus infused joy?
 - Great? Yes – no?
 - I ask our missionaries. “Who is Jesus for you?”
 - Find out where you are
 - Be honest with where you are – God already knows
- Pursuing promises – do I believe
 - (v:5) protected – God’s gonna do this
 - God will not ask you to pay or earn.
 - Jesus has paid the penalty. You’re not looking to try harder, you’re not looking to earn something, you’re looking for Jesus

- Ephesians 1-3 (oversimplification)
- (v:13) minds ready for action
 - The new birth allows you to see, remember?
 - Are you looking?
 - Assess what hinders
 - What consumes your thoughts?
 - What consumes your time?
 - What characterizes you as a person?
 - 2014 TET – Shelly’s hard truth
 - Critical and judgmental
 - I remember at that moment wrestling with my inner lawyer
 - Through that God brought about amazing change – so I’m a slightly less critical/judgmental person
 - Assess what hinders then...
 - Assess what needs to happen/change
 - Do you talk to God about it?
 - Maybe you’ll need a different reading plan
 - Maybe soak in the gospels
 - Maybe it’s a brother or sister you can be honest with and walk together?
 - Caring accountability
 - But it really needs to be about Jesus
- (John 12:21b) ‘ “*Sir, we want to see Jesus.*” ’
 - Lord, I want to see Jesus.
 - Maybe if I’m honest; I need to want, to want to see Jesus
 - That’s a great place to start moving forward
- Let’s pray