

Fusion Sunday

Living Hope (1 Peter 1:1-11)

Peter called the believers, elect exiles – This isn't home, your citizenship is in heaven and so the way people are treating you is to be expected. (1 Pet 4:12)

Romans 8:18 – The sufferings of the present time are not worth *comparing* with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

So, keep your hopes up!

I. Keep remembering the gospel good news (V3-5)

- a. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!" (V3a)
- b. "By His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (V3b)
 - By His great mercy
 - Notice that none of this is about what we've done – all of this is what God has done for the believer by His mercy
 - He has caused us
 - Romans 5:6-8 – While we were *powerless*, Christ died for the ungodly. God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were *sinners* Christ died for us!
 - To be born again
 - 2 Cor 5:17 - You're a new creation!
 - 1 Cor 6:9-11 – You've been washed, you've been sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God!
 - You're still in process, but your identity is sealed as a child of God
 - Into a living hope
 - This living hope comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
 - The object of our hope is Jesus Christ Himself and the eternal life that we have through Him.

Applications

- Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you in Jesus Christ (V13)
 - Remember the gospel daily
 - Be creative - Prayers, music, art, conversations
- #### II. Keep remembering what God has promised you (V4-5)
- a. To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading (V4a)
 - Inheritance

- Namely, our inheritance is Jesus Christ Himself and all the things He's promised for us (Eph 1:3-14, Matt 6:19-20)
- Imperishable, undefiled, and unfading
- b. Kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (V4b-5)
- Kept in heaven by God for you
- Your inheritance is being kept, but you also are being guarded by God's power through faith (Rom 8:31-39, John 10:27-30, Philip 1:6)

Applications

- Remember that this isn't home – Focus on storing up heavenly treasures (Matt 6:19-21)
 - Long for your heavenly home and get your hopes up – Your inheritance will not disappoint
- III. Keep remembering how God uses trials and rejoice (V6-9)**
- a. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you have been grieved by various trials (V6)
 - Rejoice
 - Now, for a little while if necessary, you've been grieved by various trials
 - b. We know how good uses trials – so that the tested genuineness of your faith may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ (V7)
 - Trials test the genuineness of your faith
 - They do 2 things: Expose areas where you don't trust God and cause you to humbly depend on God in faith
 - That's a good thing because there's nothing better than knowing your faith is real and you're really a child of God.
 - c. Rejoice because of the salvation we have and the future to come (V8-9)
 - Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with a joy that is inexpressible!
 - There's a sense in which we already have salvation and we have eternal life now and there's a sense in which are waiting to receive the fullness of our salvation – When Christ will come and take us home (Rev 21:1-5)

Applications

- If you're in a trial, you know what God has promised. Remember that.

Conclusion

V6-9 – Rejoice, even though you have trials. And in the midst of trials rejoice because you know what the testing of your faith produces.

Remember this isn't home. Focus on storing up heavenly treasures (Matt 6:19-21)

V13 – Therefore, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you in Jesus Christ. Get your hopes up!

1 Peter 3:15 – Be ready to share the hope that you have!