**Press On – With Hope** (March 8, 2017)

## “**Living Daily in Living Hope**

## ***1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV & (NLT)***

**1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV)**

3Praise 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, 4and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have

had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may

be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though

you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation

of your souls.

**1 Peter 1:3-9 (NLT)**

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the

dead. Now we live with great expectation, 4and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. 7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials,

it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 9

The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

**Helpful Background**

1. The word “hope,” when used in the NT, refers to a confident expectation that God will keep His promises. Biblical hope is a confident expectation of eternal life to come. This hope is not weak, or in any way uncertain. Peter describes this hope as living, which indicates that it should grow and become stronger, the more we learn about Jesus. Hope is not dependent on external circumstances, and eagerly looks forward to what God will do in each day and in each future time.

2. The Greek word, [phrouroumenous] translated “guarded, shielded, or protected” (1:5) was a military term that referred to a strong armed force within a city. It’s an inner area of protection, so that even if the walls of the city were broken through, the whole city would not be captured. Peter uses the term to describe the reality that no matter what the world may do, the inner protection of the Lord will not be broken. Even if a believer is persecuted for the Faith, their soul is secure in God.

3. We need to carefully define a few terms in order to understand the intent of the author. When Peter refers to “trials,” he is speaking of a specific type of suffering. The trials in our lives are the direct result of us living in a fallen world. (One of these trials may be specifically the reaction of an unbelieving world to a faithful Christian.) A consequence is the suffering that results from a poor personal choice or may be caused by the sinful choice of another person. A test is a difficult time/task/circumstance that a believer goes through, in order to grow closer to God.

4. The truth that most Christians throughout history have loved and believed in Christ, without “seeing” Him is an amazing fact. Pete points out that “though you have not seen Him, you love Him,” (1:8) and that “you believe in Him.” The word “love,” is in a present tense, that indicates a regular, ongoing, and continual activity. The word “believe,” means to trust, or to put one’s confidence in, and to depend upon. Even though most believers have not physically seen Christ, they choose to have Faith to love and believe in Him. Jesus spoke of such believers with great favor. (Jn 20:29)

**Review questions**

5. (1:3-4) What has God given us? What are the two results of the “new birth?” What is “hope,” and how is our “inheritance” described?

6. (1:5-6) How are we “shielded,” and until when? In what do we “greatly rejoice” despite trials?

7. (1:7) Why have “all kinds of trials” come? What will “genuine faith” result in, and when will this result be visible?

8. (1:8-9) What’s indicated by “loving Him,” and “believing in Him,” despite not seeing Him? What can we learn from the tense of the word “love?” With what are we “filled,” despite not “seeing” Jesus now? What’s the goal/purpose of our Faith?

**Application (So what?)**

9. Please remember the definition of Biblical hope. How can this hope help you in each day? What difference does it make that Peter calls it a “living hope?” How does it help us to press on?

10. How do you live out the truth about your “living hope” and “inheritance” every day? How do you “greatly rejoice,” despite trials?

11. (1:8) How is there comfort in this verse? How is your faith affirmed and confirmed? How is it possible to trust even though you cannot “see” Jesus?