

# A HOLY HOPE

From 1 Peter 1:10-21

10.06.19

## INTRODUCTION

1. Illustration/opening: 5 years at Trinity. The greatest gift Trinity has given us: stability. 1 Peter 1 – the first message I ever preached at Trinity. I'm so thankful that we can be Exiles together.
2. Transition: Last week we learned that, as Christians, we have an imperishable inheritance. And this inheritance helps us do the impossible: rejoice in the midst of our present sufferings. It is through loving, believing and rejoicing in Christ that, though we do not yet have salvation in the fullest sense, we have nonetheless obtained salvation from the punishment of sin.

This week, we'll see that this salvation that's ours in Christ didn't come out of nowhere, however. Rather, it was a manifestation of a pre-existing thread of grace that can be traced back through the OT. This thread of grace existed in the past, is present in our salvation, and will come again at Christ's return. Hoping in this future grace grounds our obedience in the present. Or to sum Peter's message up another way:

3. **Proposition: Because the foretold grace of Christ has been disclosed for our benefit, fix your hope completely on the grace yet to be revealed in order to walk in holiness as God's obedient children.**

Underlying this core message of 1 Peter 1:10-21 are two fundamental truths:

1. What we received yesterday determines our hope for tomorrow
2. Our hope for tomorrow determines the kind of person we are today

## WHAT WE RECEIVED YESTERDAY DETERMINES OUR HOPE FOR TOMORROW (vv. 10-13)

Illustrations: Sports, relationships, jobs.

Biblical hope: one's life-orienting longing for that which one does not yet have.

Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1).

Hope vs. wish: what's at stake.

Generally speaking, the better things go in a certain area of our life, the more likely we are to hope in those things for the future. The converse is also true: the poorer things go in a certain area of our life, the less likely we are to hope in those things for our future. This same dynamic is true in our faith and exists at the heart of 1 Peter 1:10-13.

### 1. What did we receive? [Read 10-12]

- a. OT prophets prophesied about the messiah
- b. OT prophets didn't know exactly who this messiah was or when he'd show up
- c. OT prophets did know that their prophecies were given for OUR benefit: as a grace of God, and in service to us!
- d. OT prophetic mysteries have now been gloriously disclosed and announced through the preaching of the gospel... and even the angels do not know it as well as we do!

A: grace from God through the ministry of the prophets, the incarnation of Christ, and the proclamation of the gospel

## 2. What should our hope for tomorrow be?

Since we are recipients of this glorious grace, we to fix our hope COMPLETELY in that same grace yet to come.

Notice, the call is not to hope but to fix our hope. I don't actually think that peoples' problem is that they don't have hope. The problem is that their hope is centered on the wrong thing.

Note also that the Christian's hope is *completely* fixed. [Ill. Distracted driving 40k deaths, 3k from distracted driving, NHTSA]

But what grace do we have to look forward to? [Read v. 13]

A: the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

## 3. How do we fix our hearts on that hope?

While most translations preserve the imperative force behind the two other verbs in v. 13, many do not highlight how these verbs relate to one another.

Both "preparing your minds" and "keeping sober" are participles and subordinate to the main verb, "fix." This is significant because Peter is not saying, "do these three things in light of the grace we've received." He's saying, "The main

thing we should be doing is 'fixing' our hope and we do this BY preparing our minds and keeping spiritually sober."

- Preparing your minds for action (lit: "girding the loins of your mind") – done as a way to prepare for war or work because ancient clothing styles weren't great at either. When this phrase is applied to the mind, we get an unusual, but effective word picture: fixing our hope on the return of Christ is not something that can be done casually, passively. It's hard work; it requires a war-time mindset.
- Keeping sober (lit. "not drunk") – but here applies to spiritual sobriety.

"There is a way of living that becomes dull to the reality of God, that is anesthetized by the attractions of this world. When people are lulled into such drowsiness, they lose sight of Christ's future revelation of himself and concentrate only on fulfilling their earthly desires" (Schriener, 79).

A: by preparing our minds for action and by keeping spiritually sober.

OUR HOPE FOR TOMORROW DETERMINES THE KIND OF PERSON WE ARE TODAY (vv. 14-21)

What is our hope? A: the grace that will be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

How does this change us today? It empowers us to live as God's obedient children.

- Be like God: holy

- a. Be not conformed to the former lusts which were yours in ignorance: not giving into sinful desires that no longer define you, but still war against you (c.f. Gal. 5:17)
  - b. Conduct yourselves with fear (c.f. Phil. 2:12-13)
- Because we are loved by God: chosen
    - a. Ransomed from the futile ways of your forefathers – Greek/gentile cultic practices but applies more broadly to cultural ‘norms’ that stand in opposition to God’s Kingdom
    - b. Ransomed with Jesus’ precious blood. Our imperishable inheritance was purchased with the imperishable blood of Christ! Can you fathom the glory of God? Can you fathom the love of God that displays this glory of God for our benefit?

What we received yesterday determines our hope for tomorrow; our hope for tomorrow determines what kind of person we are today.

What have you received from God? Have you tasted and seen for yourself the grace of God through the gospel, once foretold, and now disclosed in the person and work of Christ?

Where is your hope for tomorrow? Is it in the perishable things of this world or in the imperishable grace of God yet to be revealed at the return of Christ?

What kind of person are you today? Does your life reflect the hope you profess to believe or are you settling for lesser hopes? Are the loins of your mind ready for action or have you been lulled into the intoxicating trance of worldliness?

Remember the grace of the gospel! Hope solely and fully in the future grace of Christ! And live as obedient, blood-bought sons and daughters of God!

**Because the foretold grace of Christ has been disclosed for our benefit, fix your hope completely on the grace yet to be revealed in order to walk in holiness as God’s obedient children.**

#### CONCLUSION/Communion

Every month at Trinity, we celebrate the value and significance of Christ’s sacrifice by participating in communion. Communion is one of two commands Jesus gave the institution of the local church to perform in order to formally identify those who participate in it with His body. 1 Cor. 11:

**23** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

**24** and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

**25** In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”

**26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**27** Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

**28** But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

**29** For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

