



I Peter

A Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-9 Study Guide

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 three times in three different translations (e.g., NIV, NASV, NKJV). What theme is Peter highlighting? It will help to read 1:10-12 and notice the words “this salvation” in verse 10. To what salvation is Peter referring? If you have the sermon notes from 1 Peter 1:1-2 review them at this time. Why were Peter’s readers called “aliens”? Connect this fact with the doxology that begins in 1:3 (“Blessed be...”). Can you think of a reason why a doxology is an appropriate way to begin a letter to aliens in this world suffering for the sake of Christ (2:20; 3:14; 4:12; 5:9, 10)?
2. According to 1:3, 4, 5, 6 what four features of the Christian’s living hope can you identify? What encouragement does the reminder of God’s mercy give to Christians (v. 3)? Why is mercy connected to being “born again”? Explain why Peter says that our hope is a living hope. Are there two kinds of hope in this world? What about the hope that unbelievers have? What is the relationship between the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and the believer’s hope (1 Cor. 15:17; Eph. 2:5-6)?
3. In what sense is the believer’s salvation “an inheritance” (v. 4)? By the use of a Bible concordance look up this word and note its use in the epistles of the New Testament. According to 1:5 how can we know that we will get to heaven to receive our full inheritance?
4. Peter relates joy to trials in 1:6-9. Normally people do not link pain and suffering to rejoicing because on the surface they do not seem to be compatible. How can trials be the occasion for joy? It is helpful to note the Greek word Peter uses for “greatly rejoice” in 1:6. Even though you may not have any knowledge of New Testament Greek try to find what this Greek word is (You can do this with a Strong’s Concordance or the New American Standard Concordance by using the number system provided in each concordance.). What does it tell us about joy?
5. Peter uses the words “if necessary” in reference to the Christian’s trials (1:6). Why does he attach this condition to trials? Keep in mind that God is sovereign over every circumstance in our lives. Can you identify three reasons why the believer can stand anything in the form of suffering according to 1:6-7?
6. Peter reminds his readers that though they had not seen Jesus they could love Him and believe Him (1:8). How does their experience compare to Peter’s experience with Jesus? What does this tell us about Peter? How does our present joy prepare us for heaven (1:8-9)?