

# **FIRST PETER**

## **(PART 13)**

### **"A LIVING HOPE"**

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**February 24, 2002**

A fact of living is that we are continually part of a society that loves sin. As a result, there is every kind of suffering and injustice all around us. Our lives are also impacted by these things on a daily basis. We suffer and are treated in unfair ways. We are persecuted in our society if we have moral and ethical values that come from the Word of God. When we do live a life that is pleasing to God many, even those who call themselves friends, are cold to us.

So simply put, the person who knows Christ personally and desires to please Him, faces many trials and tribulations here on earth. It is not an easy road!

What can we do? How are we supposed to live in these conditions? Here is how -- understand and count on your "living hope."

# OBTAINING THIS HOPE

## I PETER 1:13

### OUR HOPE

- Hope = A present expectation (anticipation) of a future promise of God.
- This hope is alive; it is not just a promise on a piece of paper.
- This hope is given to us so that we may have a proper perspective on life and suffering.

### GOD'S PART IN OUR "HOPE"

- God was merciful.
  - Mercy = Compassion or pity which withholds a judgment or penalty deserved.
- God planned and purposely brought about our "new birth."
  - He caused it to happen.
  - He is to be continually spoken highly of because of this.
- Jesus Christ had to be raised from the dead for us to receive this hope.

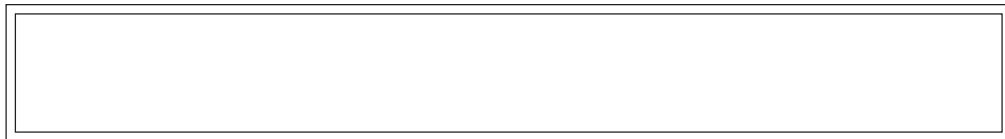
## THE BELIEVER'S PART IN OUR "HOPE"

- We did nothing!
- We gave nothing!

## UNDERSTANDING THIS HOPE

### I PETER 1:4

- We are given an incredible inheritance.
- This inheritance has three major parts...
  - It will not decay or get stained by evil.
  - It supercedes time and will last forever.
  - It is already reserved and protected for us.



## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

- The only reasonable approach to life in these troubled times is living in light of our heavenly hope.
- We act and think differently because of our living hope; without this perspective, we will be lost in doubt and despair.

## **PERSONAL RESPONSE**

1. When was the last time you talked to someone else about your future in heaven? What were the circumstances?
2. Why is it so important for us as believers to understand how we became a part of this family? How does this alter our attitude?
3. Ask two other people this...“Do you believe I am excited about my future?” How do you think they will respond?

## **MEMORY VERSES**

- LEVEL 1 = I Peter 1:3-4  
LEVEL 2 = I Peter 1:3-9  
LEVEL 3 = I Peter 1:3-9, 13-25