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SPIRITUAL HOPE

Book of 1 Peter

GOD'S GRACE AND SALVATION

1 Peter 1:1 – 2:10

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Introduction:

Man's glory simply does not last, but God's glory is eternal, and He has deigned to share that glory with us! In this first section of his letter, Peter shared four wonderful discoveries that he had made about the glory of God.

IT'S GLORY ALL THE WAY! (1 Peter 1:2-12)

1. Christians Are Born for Glory (1:2-4)

- The glory of God means the sum total of all that God is and does. He reveals His glory in creation, in His dealings with the people of Israel, and especially in His plan of salvation for lost sinners.
- Without this salvation our glory fades (1 Peter 1:25 & Isa. 40:6)
 - a. A Christian's birth described (1:2-3)
 - It began when we were chosen by the Father (Eph. 1:3-4)
 - Peter did not deny man's part in God's plan to save sinners. In 1 Peter 1:23 he emphasized the fact that the gospel was preached to these people, and that they had heard it and believed. (See also 1 Peter 1:12)
 - b. A Christian's hope described (1:3-4)
 - Living (1:23)
 - An inheritance (v. 4)
 - Incorruptible
 - undefiled

2. Christians Are Kept for Glory (1:5)

- The word translated "kept" is a military word that means "guarded, shielded." The tense of the verb reveals that we are constantly being guarded by God.

3. Christians Are Being Prepared for Glory (1:6-7)

- Peter uses the word trials rather than tribulations or persecutions, because he was dealing with the general problems that Christians face as they are surrounded by unbelievers.
 - a. Trials meet needs.
 - b. Trials are varied (variegated / multi-colored)
 - c. Trials are not easy.
 - d. Trials are controlled by God.
- 4. Christians Can Enjoy the Glory Now (1:8-12)**
- Peter gave four directions for enjoying the glory now, even in the midst of trials.
 - a. Love Christ (v. 8)
 - b. Trust Christ (v. 8)
 - c. Rejoice in Christ (v. 8)
 - d. Receive from Christ (vv. 9-12)

STAYING CLEAN IN A POLLUTED WORLD (1 Peter 1:13-21)

The root meaning of the word translated “holy” is “different”, not “odd.”

Peter presented to his readers five spiritual incentives to encourage them (and us) to maintain a different lifestyle, a holy walk in a polluted world.

- 1. The Glory of God (1:13)**
- 2. The Holiness of God (1:14-15)**
- 3. The Word of God (1:16)**
- 4. The Judgment of God (1:17)**
- 5. The Love of God (1:18-21)**

CHRISTIAN TOGETHERNESS (1 Peter 1:22-2:10)

Peter emphasized spiritual unity by presenting four vivid pictures of the church.

- 1. We Are Children in the Same Family (1:22-2:3)**
 - a. We have experienced the same birth (1:23-25)
 - b. We express the same love (v. 22)
 - c. We enjoy the same nourishment (2:1-3)
- 2. We Are Stones in the Same Building (2:4-8)**
- 3. We Are Priests in the Same Temple (2:5, 9)**
- 4. We Are Citizens of the Same Nation (2:9-10)**

St. Augustine originally said it perfectly: *“In essentials, unity. In nonessentials, liberty. In all things, charity.”*