

**Week of October 19, 2020: 1 Peter 1:1-13**

**Discussion Questions Set #1**

**“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God’s elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia...” (1 Peter 1:1)**

As we begin exploring the message of 1 Peter, it's important that we start by simply recognizing some facts about the author, his audience and the context into which he wrote.

1. Peter is a significant figure in the New Testament church and faced his own share of persecution and trials. It is quite possible that Peter wrote this letter from Rome under specific persecution. From what you know about Peter and his life story, what significance might this lend to this letter of hope?
2. Peter calls his audience “scattered exiles” or “dispersed strangers”. This helps us to understand that these Christians were likely those scattered from major urban centres in the Roman Empire due to increasing persecution of Christians under Emperor Nero. Why might understanding the plight of Peter's audience help us understand the message of 1 Peter?
3. Apart from an increase in the persecution of Christians, the world Peter wrote into was quite volatile and uncertain. Considering the first century world of Peter and his audience, what similarities exist between this world in AD 64 and ours in 2020? What common concerns might we share?

**Discussion Questions Set #2**

**“Praise 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, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” (1 Peter 1:3-7)**

This portion of 1 Peter introduces us to the core hope that Peter seeks to embolden within the hearts of those to whom he wrote – a living hope in a permanent, pure and secure inheritance through Jesus Christ.

1. What is the significance to you personally that the inheritance – the salvation of our souls – is described with the following three adjectives:
  - a. Permanent (imperishable)
  - b. Pure (unadulterated or inalterable by sin)
  - c. Secure
2. Peter also describes the hope of the gospel as a living hope. We discussed in sermon how the word “living” communicates to us the idea of an “effective” or “constructive” hope. In other words, it is a hope that results in something – some distinct action or outcome.
  - a. Why is it important that our hope in Christ is “effective” or “constructive”?
  - b. What might happen in the life of a follower of Jesus if hope were not “effective” or “constructive”?
  - c. Thinking of what you know from Scripture or from personal experience, what are some outcomes of the living hope available to the follower of Jesus?

**Discussion Questions Set #3**

**“In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade ... Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming”. (1 Peter 1:3 and 13)**

1. Why is it important to recognize that our living hope is given to us in mercy and grace?
2. Why do you think Peter begins his letter this way, reminding the “scattered exiles” of the divinely given gift of a living hope that they have received?
3. What makes our hope in Christ different than worldly hope (i.e. wishful thinking)?
4. How might recognizing the nature of the hope we have received through faith in Jesus help us face the world around us in 2020? How might understanding this reality assist us in our living?