

I'm looking forward to being with YOU in Sunday School. Is there a friend you can bring? Have you told a friend about our website and videos in an effort to interest them?

Here are DISCUSSION QUESTIONS for this week.

Living With Hope

September 2, 2012

Allen Power

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Peter 1:1-12

- Opening Question: What are some BAD WAYS people cope with stress in their lives?

1 Peter 1:1–12 (NIV)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Praise to God for a Living Hope

3 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, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 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. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 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. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

- We know from the name of the book, and the first words of verse one, it was written by Peter an "apostle" (one sent with authority).
- To WHOM was this letter written?

- Verses 1 & 2 - What are the terms he uses to describe TO WHOM this letter was written? (Various translations...but the same meaning.)
- In what ways do you think these believers were STRANGERS or EXILES? How are WE as CHRISTIANS like these people?
- So we know WHO wrote this letter; and TO WHOM it was written; let's get to WHAT Peter was writing about.
- Verse 3 Peter begins with PRAISE to God! Specifically, God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
- Verse 3: What are the specific REASONS he gives in verse 3 that they had (and we have) to PRAISE God?
- Why did Peter call it a LIVING hope in verse 3?
- What credibility did Peter have to call it a LIVING HOPE? (Think 'resurrection')
- Verse 4: What are we promised in verse 4? "an inheritance"
- How does Peter DESCRIBE our inheritance?
- What do those words mean?
- Verse 5: What PROMISE do we have in verse 5?
- YOU are "by God's power...being guarded through faith for salvation..." What do we call "being guarded through faith for salvation"? ETERNAL SECURITY
- In verse 6, what does Peter acknowledge was going on in the lives of these "SCATTERED BELIEVERS"?
- Verse 7: According to Peter, what's the OUTCOME of our various TRIALS?
- Question: How does a BELIEVER IN CHRIST change our FOCUS to get through trials? (Hint: Verses 8 & 9)
- Verse 8: How would you define or describe the biblical concept of joy?