

HANDOUT FOR “THE HOPE OF THE CHRISTIAN”

BIBLE STUDY 1 Peter 1:1-12

It does not matter which country or century you are from – the description of the Christians to whom the apostle Peter’s letter is addressed is all-embracing: “God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered ...” These scattered – and soon to be persecuted – believers had no New Testament; so the opening greeting (verse 2) is packed with helpful reminders that their conversion was no accident. Planned by the Father, achieved by the Son in the sprinkling of his blood and applied by the Spirit in sanctifying power – theirs was a Trinitarian faith.

1 Note the key words in this opening burst of praise (verses 3-8) ... hope ... inheritance ... salvation ... faith.

What two great events is this confidence based on – and we must remember that Peter was a first-hand witness!

2 What are the phrases here that point to the believer’s eternal security – regardless of the impending suffering mentioned in verses 6-7?

3 Identify the words of strong expectation for the future. How does Peter refer to the final culminating point of all our work and witness? How far is this mind set your own?

4 Why do joy and testing go so frequently together in the New Testament? Look up James 1:2; 1 Peter 4:12-13. What should we be teaching new believers about the trials they face?

5 Discuss the wonder of loving someone whom you have never seen with your eyes (verse 8). When did this first begin to happen to you?

6 Why is ours such a privileged era in which to live? Verses 10-12 give us the answer.

REFLECTION

A Read 1 Peter 1:1-12. What were the circumstances of the readers of this letter? How can a Christian rejoice (verse 8) in the midst of adversity (verse 6)? What is the nature of the Christian hope, and how is it created?

B Christians love someone they have never seen (1 Peter 1:8). How is such love generated and made a reality? Check your answer with Romans 15:4.

C In what ways do you look forward to the future, and to what extent do you fear it?

D How can the Christian’s view of the future make a serious contribution to society as it attempts to grapple with the problems of tomorrow?

The above is copied with permission and grateful thanks from Creative 4 International.

BIBLE CHECK	Promises: 1 Peter 1:10-12; Isaiah 11:1-9
	Fulfillment: Acts 3:17-21 Romans 8:18-23
	Defeat: Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26
	Living: 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 51-55
	Steadfast: 1 Thessalonians 1:3; Romans 8:24-25
	Purifying: 1 John 3:2-3; Hebrews 10:23-25; Jude 24-25

KEY TRUTH

The Christian’s hope is a confidence in the rule and purposes of God, which find their goal in the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the age.

POSTSCRIPT

Christian history indicates that those who have their eyes on the age to come are the ones who are most effective in this passing age.

The best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is never to forget the presence of Christ.