

## How can we embrace our living hope in the face of suffering?

### Dear Christ Church...

*...be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV)

According to Peter, **we need to:**

- \_\_\_\_\_.

Prayer is one of the ways we work through and beyond our fear. Those fears can often be defined as:

**F**alse **E**vents **A**ppearing **R**eal

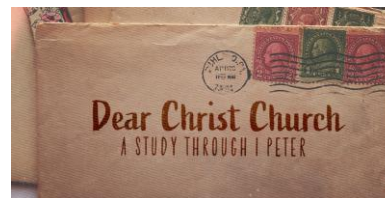
- \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus didn't serve others to take his mind off the suffering he was going to experience. Instead, it elevated his purpose above any fears he felt.

- \_\_\_\_\_.

The early church was under pressure to conform to the culture but held steady the hope of salvation to those who were left bankrupt by that same culture.

**Remember that you are not alone.**



sermon notes

Our Living Hope Is...  
August 11, 2019  
Pastor Tony Arnold  
CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

### Dear Christ Church...

*...My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace.*

1 Peter 5:12 (NLT)

### Understanding the Original Context

- The letter of 1 Peter is from the apostle Peter (1:1) and was written around 67 A.D. "with the help of Silas" (5:12).
- The recipients of the letter lived in various Roman provinces in what is now modern day Turkey (1:1).
- The language of "exiles" (1:1) and "Babylon" (5:13) reflect both troubled times in the past and in the present.
- Being sprinkled with Christ's blood (1:2) evokes Old Testament examples of the faithful being cleansed from sin, set apart for service, and pledging to walk daily in God's will.

### Main Themes of 1 Peter

- Suffering, conflict and persecution are realities in our world.
- The living hope of Jesus produces joy in our suffering, delivers us from danger and enables us to rely completely on God.
- God calls us to holy living as witnesses of God's grace.
- The life of faith is characterized by mutual submission.

### How can an ancient letter speak to our church today?

*[The prophets] were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.*

1 Peter 1:12 (NLT)

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God always carries forward and is meant for the generation of the living on this earth.
- As the generation of the living right now, we are called to pass on the gospel to others as it was passed on to us.

### **Dear Christ Church...**

*...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. 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, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV)

According to Peter, **our living hope is...**

- Rooted in the reality of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ (1:3).
- Secure in the \_\_\_\_\_ and active in the \_\_\_\_\_ (1:3-5).
- Solid ground in a \_\_\_\_\_ (1:6-7).
- Based on our \_\_\_\_\_ in an \_\_\_\_\_ God (1:8-9).

*Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."*

John 20:29 (NLT)

**Remember that there is no resurrection without the cross.**

### **Dear Christ Church...**

*...do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name.*

1 Peter 4:12-16 (NRSV)

### **Ways we suffer:**

- Doing the wrong thing.
- Living in a fallen world.
- Following Jesus as Lord.

According to Peter, **suffering in Christ...**

- Greatly reduces the power of \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives (4:1-2).
- \_\_\_\_\_ us to become like Jesus (1:6-7).
- Can bring about a \_\_\_\_\_ that softens hearts and saves those who don't know Jesus (3:15-17).
- Is \_\_\_\_\_ (4:12-13).

*"Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me."*

John 15:20-21 (NIV)

**Remember that the cross didn't end with the grave.**

*"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*

John 16:33 (NLT)