

A TIME IS COMING: “OF REVEALING AND REJOICING”

THESIS: Let Us Rejoice

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:3-9

OPEN: (Facing difficulty in a positive & proactive way—the story of a mule that got “well”)

In **1 Peter 1:3-9** let’s discover how to be shielded by God’s power and be able to rejoice until Jesus returns in a time that is coming.

1 Peter 1:13-15 “Therefore, Prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”

LET’S REJOICE THAT GOD GIVES US LIVING HOPE BY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

1 Peter 1:3-4 “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—kept in Heaven for you...”

1. **Hope** (Greek: *elpis*) means a favorable and confident expectation—a happy anticipation.
 - a. *Anticipate happily and expect confidently your eternal inheritance because Jesus resurrected.*
 1. **2 Corinthians 4:16; 5:1-2, 4-5** “We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day...Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in Heaven...For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Not it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”
 2. **Romans 8:23-25** “...we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”
 - a. **Firstfruit** (Greek: *aparche*) means to make a beginning. It's an agricultural term indicating the first and superior installment of a crop which foreshadows and pledges an offering of more, eventually the whole.
 1. Jesus is the beginning—the first of the bodily resurrected ones. He is the Supreme One or the "cream of the crop" of the resurrection with the promise of more to come.
 2. When Scripture speaks of Jesus as the “firstfruits from among the dead” (*1 Corinthians 15:20, 23*) it indicates that He died, was buried, and was raised to life like a seed being planted (buried) and then rising to its full and intended existence. It conveys that Christ’s resurrection is the fruit of all He has done.
 - b. How may we be shielded by God’s power as we anticipate happily/expect confidently eternal life?
 1. **1 Peter 1:5** “...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.”
 - a. **Faith** (Greek: *pistis*) means belief, conviction, determination, resolve, tenacity, or trust.
 1. **Ephesians 6:16** “In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

- a. **Historical:** The shield metaphor refers to a large oblong door-like oval of the Romans. It was 4 x 2 ½ feet, not the small round one. Ancient fire-darts (arrows) were formed of cane with combustibles ignited on the head so as to set fire to wood, tents, bodies, etc. (*Commentary On The Whole Bible*, p. 1299). Large shields were protective—not so much small ones.
 - b. We should take up faith in a big way. Someone once said, “When fear and temptation knocks, you send faith to answer the door.” Determining, resolving, trusting in the Lord and His Word is the faith that shields your heart and mind.
- c. Why does God allow problems and troubles to invade our life so that the shield of faith is needed?
1. **1 Peter 1:6-7** “In this you greatly rejoice (salvation ready to be revealed), though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
 - a. **Genuine** (Greek: *dokimion*) means approved after testing or trial.
 1. **Deuteronomy 8:2-7a** “Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you. Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in His ways and revering Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land...”
 2. **Psalms 66:8-13** “Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard; He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. For You, O God, tested us; You refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but You brought us to a place of abundance. I will come to Your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to You—vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.”
 3. **2 Corinthians 1:3-6** “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.”

CONCLUSION: Anticipate happily and expect confidently your eternal inheritance because Jesus resurrected. As we await the goal of our faith—the salvation of our souls with an immortal, glorified body in Heaven—there’s an earthly, everyday application in the meantime:

Philippians 1:21-27a “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn

between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”

Illustration: (Redemption & revelation—bank robber Jon Ponder’s pardon)

CLOSE: Let’s rejoice and reveal to others that God gives us living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.