



HOPE

A SERIES IN 1 PETER

Session One – SALVATION OF THE SOUL

The Context

The Apostle Peter wrote to believing Jews of the diaspora. These Jews did not live in Israel, but in various other areas of the Roman Empire, and specifically, Asia, Bithynia, Cappadocia, Galatia and Pontus.

The Purpose

Peter's audience faced trials (1 Peter 4:12-13) and quite likely persecution. In view of this, Peter writes to them about their living hope (1:3) of an inheritance to be revealed to them when Jesus returns. Peter calls this living hope "the salvation of the soul" and explains in the most practical terms the outworking of this living hope in our day-to-day lives.

The Prologue

The passage covered in this first lesson is the prologue to the entire epistle. Peter sets forth the theological framework for which most of the rest of the epistle builds upon through various applications.

Studying 1 Peter 1:1-9

a. The Greeting (1:1-2)

- Author: The Apostle Peter
- Audience: Jewish believers of the **diaspora**

b. We Have A Living Hope (1:3-5)

- God is to be **praised**
- He gave us a new birth (1:3)
 - because of His **mercy**
 - with a view to a living hope
 - the content of that hope is our inheritance
 - the provision of this hope is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, victorious over sin and death
- The inheritance is reserved in heaven (1:4)
 - Peter does not quantify what it is
 - but describes its **eternal** value
- We are kept for a future salvation when our inheritance is revealed (1:5)

c. The Salvation Of Our Souls (1:6-9)

- Because of our living hope we can rejoice in the midst of trials (1:6)
- Our responses to trials validate our faith
- The proof of our faith is more valuable than all earthly **treasures** (1:7)
- Our faith in Jesus fuels our joy (1:8)
- We are presently receiving the **outcome** of our faith responses to life (1:9)
 - appropriating our inheritance
 - looking to the salvation of our souls