

message

new hope

EXILES SERIES | 1 PETER 1:13-2:3 | NOVEMBER 7/8, 2015 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming." (1 Peter 1:13)

Hope and grace (1 Peter 1:13)

Grace now

Grace to come

Hope and holiness (1 Peter 1:14-21)

Holiness that reflects God's character

Holiness that reflects God's gift

Hope and love (1 Peter 1:22-25)

Love overflowing from holiness

Love going deep with others

Hope and growth (1 Peter 2:1-3)

Growing by stopping

Growing by delighting

study guide

1. When was a time that something you were hoping for came true? How did hope sustain you in the waiting period?
2. This weekend we continue our series, "Exiles," on the New Testament letter known as 1 Peter. Take a moment to begin your study in prayer, asking God to speak to you and transform you through His truth. Then, whether you are alone or with others, read 1 Peter 1:13-2:3 aloud.
3. Peter begins his letter with an extended prayer celebrating the hope that we have with God in Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:1-12). In this next section of the letter, he explains how we live fixed upon that hope. 1 Peter 1:13 begins with an imperative statement. What do you think Peter means when he writes: "set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming"?
4. In 1:14-15, Peter build upon the new identity given to believers in Jesus by their "new birth into a living hope" (1:3). What does Peter call the believers toward in these verses? Why does he say we should live that way?
5. 'Holiness' or being 'holy' has fallen out of fashion these days. Why do you think that is? What might it look like for us to live meaningfully holy lives today in our everyday settings?
6. Peter builds on the theme of holiness in 1:17-21. What is Peter's main exhortation to the believers here? What does he say are the main reasons believers should do that?
7. Moving from the focus on holiness and appropriate fear of the Lord, Peter begins to talk about the way we live with one another as Christians. How would you restate Peter's main request of the believers in 1:22?
8. In what ways do you think holy living and loving others relates to our hope in Jesus Christ? Why do you think these topics be related in Peter's mind for 'exiles' (1:1) and 'foreigners' (1:17)?
9. Drawing upon imagery found in Psalm 34:8, Peter encourages the believers in 2:1-3 to grow up with God by having the right sort of spiritual nourishment in their lives. Why do you think they must rid themselves of certain things (2:1) and also crave certain other things (2:2)? What do you think the 'pure spiritual milk' Peter is referring to means in our everyday lives?
10. What is one specific thing you sense God is speaking to you about your life through this study? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray about what you share together. If you are studying on your own, write it down, pray about it, and share this with someone during the next few days.

[Next week: *We continue our "Exiles" series with a discussion of "New Community." Prepare ahead of time by reading 1 Peter 2:4-10.]*