



LESSON ONE:

The Hope of a Christian

Sunday AM Sermon by Ray Reynolds (7/24/11)
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Text: I Peter 1:1-12

Introduction: We will begin a study of the book of I Peter this morning. We begin by asking, "Who wrote this book? Why was it written? When was it written? Who was the audience? What is the theme?" This great book addresses several key issues, provides an explanation for the "fiery trial" (**I Peter 4:12**), and lifts up the community of believers. I believe the epistle corresponds in theme to the Old Testament Book of Job. Peter views the suffering of Christians through the agonies of Jesus, and recognizes the divine purpose of Christian suffering in light of the atonement of Christ. I believe he wanted Christians to establish an unstoppable faith. So that shall be our theme for the next several weeks. Let's study together

Discussion:

I. The Acknowledgment of Hope (1:1-2)

- A. Christians do not suffer alone.
- B. Christians are chosen for suffering.
- C. Christians are doing the Spirit's work.

II. The Activeness of Hope (1:3-9)

- A. Christians have a living hope.
- B. Christians have a blessed hope.
- C. Christians have a joyful hope.
- D. Christians have a saving hope.

III. The Admonition of Hope (1:10-12)

- A. Christians should consider the prophets.
- B. Christians should consider the Spirit of Christ.
- C. Christians should consider the Holy Spirit.
- D. Christians should consider the angels.

Conclusion: Every Christian should have an unstoppable faith. You can run us over. You can hurt us. You can even kill us. But, you will NOT stop us! We are Jesus strong! We are filled with the Spirit of God! We have a hope that will keep us motivated to move forward. How's your faith? Have you committed your life to Christ?

WORD OF THE DAY = "HOPE"