



Words of Hope From Peter

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (4-26-09)

INTRODUCTION: Christ came to this earth, not as a king or with great wealth, but as a humble child. He appears in the New Testament coming as the son of young woman and a poor carpenter. He was born in a stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem. They wrapped him up in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. He was born under the most humble circumstances but He is greater than any earthly king! Even though he came into this world as a sign of triumph, he entered a world without hope. With his lowly birth He brought the greatest hope to a world of sinners. This is a hope that will never be surpassed. And this is a hope that we can build upon. Peter experienced this first hand. I want to share with you the words of Peter about the hope of everlasting life.

DISCUSSION:

- I. The Hope of a Christian is a Living Hope
I Peter 1:3 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."
- II. The Hope of a Christian is a Focused Hope
I Peter 1:13 says, "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- III. The Hope of a Christian is a Secured Hope
I Peter 1:20-21 says, "He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."
- IV. The Hope of a Christian is a Challenging Hope
I Peter 3:15-16 says, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."

CONCLUSION: There is a great difference between being hopeful and hopeless. This great gap between being hopeful and hopeless has been bridged! Jesus died so that you might be able to be full of hope. He paid a huge price for you to have this hope. Accept His loving sacrifice. Rejoice in the hope of salvation. Peter found this hope and he challenges you to find it as well. And if you have lost sight of this hope in your walk here on earth, do what Peter did. Reach out and take Jesus' hand before it's too late. Don't sink! Come to accept this hope now!

WORD OF THE DAY = "Hope"