

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What makes the “Christian hope” a **lively** hope?
2. What is the Christian hope? How is it tested?
3. How does holiness affect our relationship with God?
4. What must take place in the heart of a Christian before he or she is able to testify for Christ? [\[SoF:8,9\]](#)

SUMMARY:

Christians have been begotten of God to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. [\[SoF:5a\]](#) What a joy unspeakable and full of glory it is to have this hope in one’s heart. As this hope becomes alive within us through regeneration, [\[SoF:8\]](#) it becomes an eternal hope, attaching to itself a heavenly citizenship. Then comes the testings through afflictions and tribulations. God does not always answer quickly. Faith and hope are tried and tested. We are challenged to a holy life, for without holiness, “no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

May this hope become alive in our hearts, and the Lord be sanctified therein. Of such shall He have to witness and testify of Him out of the depths of their heart and life experience, of the reason of that hope that is in them.

NOTES:

[\[SoF:5a\]](#) We believe in Christ’s bodily resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God. [\[SoF:8\]](#) We believe that a saving faith results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, without which there is no salvation. [\[SoF:9\]](#) We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling the believer is empowered to live a Godly life in spiritual unity with Christ. [\[SoF:15\]](#) We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout “all the world to every creature”.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

December 4, 2016

Fourth Quarter

CHRISTIAN HOPE

LESSON TEXT: *1 Peter 1:1-21*

LESSON SETTING: Assumed to be from writings while in Rome to the dispersed Christians.

TIME: Approximately 65 A.D., near the end of Peter’s life.

- I. A LIVING HOPE.** 1 Peter 1:1-5
 - A. Regeneration [\[SoF:8\]](#) - John 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5
 - B. Eternal Hope - Acts 24:15; Colossians 1:5; Hebrews 6:18
 - C. Heavenly Citizenship - Philippians 3:20; Revelation 21:27
- II. A TESTED HOPE.** 1 Peter 1:6-12
 - A. Affliction and Tribulation - 2 Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 12:11; Revelation 7:14
 - B. Divine Delays are Trying to Patience and Courage - Psalm 69:3; James 5:7; 2 Peter 3:9
 - C. Faith Tested - Hebrews 11:33-40
- III. A CHALLENGING HOPE.** 1 Peter 1:13-21
 - A. Holiness a Must - Luke 1:74-75; 2 Peter 3:11; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14
 - B. Fear God - Deuteronomy 10:12; Joshua 24:14; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Matthew 10:28
 - C. Called to Witness [\[SoF:15\]](#) - 1 Peter 3:15
 - D. Hope Purifies - 1 John 3:3

GOLDEN TEXT: *BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHICH ACCORDING TO HIS ABUNDANT MERCY HATH BEGOTTEN US AGAIN UNTO A LIVELY HOPE BY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.*

1 Peter 1:3

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Peter 1:22 through 2:8; 2 Peter 1:15-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Exodus 34:1-35; John 1:1-14

QUARTERLY THEME: The Early Church

TOPIC: THE CHRISTIAN'S SURE FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION:

How blessed we are to have Christ for the foundation of our souls! How merciful God has been to us that He gave Christ as an offering for our sins! We are privileged far above the people of Old Testament times, who had to sacrifice animals for their sins continually. Christ died once for our sins and—praise be given to God—He arose from the grave. Not only to forgive our sins did He die, but He arose to live within our hearts. He is actually within us; how could there possibly be a more sure foundation than His very presence constantly with us? We are very fortunate indeed. No words are adequate to tell of this sure foundation. Sinners, if you only could grasp what it means to have His living presence within you, you would surely forsake your sinful life and accept Him. What unspeakable joy you would possess!

CENTRAL TRUTH: In Christ and His Word, we have a sure foundation.

GOLDEN TEXT: *AS NEWBORN BABES, DESIRE THE SINCERE MILK OF THE WORD, THAT YE MAY GROW THEREBY.* 1 Peter 2:2

Again, comparing the natural birth with the “new birth,” we find the need of food to sustain life and promote growth. Happy are the parents of a child that shows hunger and even cries for food. They are glad when the child can add more solid food to the early diet of milk, because this shows progress and growth.

The Word of God is the complete “balanced diet” for Christians, young and old. In it we find the sincere milk for newborn babes, also the strong meat that “belongeth to them that are of full age.” (Hebrews 5:14) From the time that we experience the new birth until we “finish our course” let us remember that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 5 – 11

- M. God Proclaims His Names. Exodus 34:1-7
- T. God Proclaims His Covenant. Exodus 34:27-35
- W. The Creative Word. John 1:1-8
- T. The Quickening Word. John 1:9-14
- F. *The Power of the Word. 1 Peter 1:22-25
- S. *Christ the Corner Stone. 1 Peter 2:1-8
- S. *A Sure Word of Prophecy. 2 Peter 1:15-21

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