

## The Inauguration of Hope

1 Peter 1:10-16

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy, has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3*

Definitions of “inauguration” from the Cambridge Dictionary

- the act of officially putting someone into an important position, or the ceremony at which this is done
- the beginning of a new period, style, or activity

### **Introduction: A view from the past of the promises for the future.**

*10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.*

*12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.*

### **1. Hope is an active response to God’s grace. V. 13**

***Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.***

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.  
Hebrews 11:1*

Three ways to fully hope in God -

#### **a. Gird up your mind – a bias toward action.**

**Therefore, prepare your minds for action..**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1*

God is a God of action, not best wishes: Ps. 10:13-18; Ps. 35:10; Ps. 140:12;  
Romans 10:14; Luke 18:1-8

**b. Sober up your spirit – a self-controlled approach.**

***...keep sober in spirit...***

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit... Eph. 5:18*

“It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money... Joy in God is in course of being extinguished in us and we seek all our joy in the creature. At this moment God is quite unreal to us, he loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real; the only reality is the devil. Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God... The lust thus aroused envelops the mind and will of man in deepest darkness. The powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us... *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Creation and Fall: Temptation*

**c. Lift up your eyes – a confident expectation.**

***...fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.***

...doubt is not the opposite of faith, nor is it the same as unbelief. Doubt is a state of mind in suspension between faith and unbelief so that it is neither of them wholly and it is each only partly. Os Guinness – Doubt: Faith in Two Minds

- We are saved (position - Past)
- We are being saved (progression - Present)
- We will be saved... (potential - Future)

**2. Holiness is an active response to God’s Character. V. 14, 16  
*As obedient children***

**a. The Lusts of ignorance.**

***...do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.***

- *...not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God... 1 Thess. 4:5*
- *I acted ignorantly and in unbelief...1 Tim. 1:13*
- *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts... Romans 6:12*

**b. The Life of obedience.**

***...but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior...***

### c. The Light of God's Holiness.

...because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

- *For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy. Lev. 11:45. Cf. Lev. 11:44; 19:2;20:26*
- *Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy. Ps. 99:9*
- *...but set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts. 1 Peter 3:15*

### Hope and Holiness come together.

- Hope in the God of Moral Clarity - Isaiah 59; Jeremiah 5 and 21; Amos 2, Zechariah 7; Luke 11; Amos 5:12
- Hope in the God of Justice – Isaiah 30:18; Acts 10:34; Acts 17:31; Micah 6:8
- Hope in the God of Compassion - Exodus 22; Ps. 9 and 12; Lamentations 3:36; James 5; Isaiah 53:3; John 11:33-35; Ps. 103:6; Acts 1:8

### CONCLUSION

- **Hope is an active response to the grace of God** - Who or what am I putting my trust in?
- **Holiness is an active response to the character of God** – On whom or what am I setting my standard for living?

### Discussion Questions

- Can you ever think of a time you lost hope? Why do you think hope is so important? Why does Peter call it a “living hope” in 1:5?
- Read 1 Peter 1:1-12. How do you think the prophets reacted to what the Spirit was showing them?
- List some of the things people who don't know God put their hope in. Which of these might be a temptation for you?
- Which of the three ways of practicing hope do you need most in your life right now? A bias toward action? A serious (sober) approach? A confident expectation?
- Which of the three elements of holiness do you need to address in your life right now? Combatting ignorance? A life of obedience? Appreciating God's holiness?
- Review the Bible verses in the section “Hope and Holiness come together”. Which of these character qualities of God challenges you in your life choices?
- Finish by going back and reading 1:13. Why does Peter tell us to “fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”? Why is that so important?