

## OUR LIVING HOPE

### 1 Peter 1:3-8

INTRODUCTION: At the very beginning of his epistle the Apostle Peter bursts into his mighty doxology. 1 Peter 1:3-5.

#### I. MOVING DOXOLOGIES

Peter was not unique in the idea of opening his epistle with a doxology. Every New Testament writer, the moment they mention our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ burst forth into the same type of praise and joy at the thought of what our Lord has done for His Father's glory and the blessings it brings on those who will place their faith in Him. The apostle Paul did so in Ephesians 1:3-14

#### II. CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE MARKED BY PRAISE AND JOY!

From the apostles to the first century followers of Christ right down to the present, whenever men have followed our Lord closely they have been filled with a sense of joy, love, and praise! Peter wrote to the Christian Hebrews scattered in the persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1:1-9. What we see in these persecuted Christians is not bitterness, anger, or malice but praise, joy, and love. The apostle Paul was facing death but said: Philippians 4:4. Fanny Crosby is a perfect example of that type of joy and doxology. Though blinded at a very young age she wrote "Blessed Assurance." Now a question to you: "Is this joy, love, and rejoicing the story of your walk with Christ? Romans 15:13. Yes, we will all have our share of trouble on this earth: 1 Peter 1:6-8. Peter said that about ordinary believers just like us who were filled with joy: 1 Peter 1:9. Our Lord Jesus warned us of trouble but also to rejoice in our times of testing: John 16:33.

#### III. A LIVING HOPE!

Peter reminds us that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is central to the Christian faith and joy! 1 Peter 1:3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is absolutely essential to the Christian faith: 1 Corinthians 15:12-23. For the Christian the worst things are never the last things. Because of the resurrection of our Lord we have a living hope: Romans 8:35-39. Do you have the assurance that no matter what happens in your personal life that you will be "more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord?"

#### IV. WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CROSS?

At the cross of Jesus Christ the apostle Peter told us all what happened: 1 Peter 1:24. The apostle Paul said: 2 Corinthians 5:21. On the cross the Son of God, who was both man and God paid the penalty for our sins: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Because our Lord Jesus rose from the dead we have a living hope! 1 Peter 1:3-5. So let me ask: "Do you have your reservation in for heaven? 1 John 5:9-13; Philippians 3:20-21. That is our living hope! 1 Corinthians 15:51-58. Because our Lord Jesus Christ lives eternally so shall we live eternally with Him!