



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

The Certainty of Our Hope April 30th, 2017

(1 Peter 1:17-21)

⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

1. If you could guarantee that one thing you hope will happen in your lifetime will actually happen, what would that hope be? Why?
2. Peter calls God a "Father who judges each man's work impartially." How is that statement both a stark reminder of the Law, but also a comforting reminder of the Gospel?

3. In speaking to his audience here, Peter calls it "an empty way of life handed down from your forefathers." If he's speaking to Jews, then he's pinpointing the works righteous, Pharisaical attitude of the Jewish people. If he's speaking to Gentiles, then he's pinpointing the pagan unbelief and idol worship. For both audiences, how is that way of life completely empty?

In what sense is the way of life that is motivated by faith "full" in comparison?

4. Describe what the life of a Christian will look like as they "live (their) lives as strangers here in reverent fear."
5. Peter says that Christ was "chosen before the creation of the world" to act as the Savior of the world. What is the ironic fact in that? What does that tell us about our God, and about the Son of God?
6. Through faith, we receive the forgiveness and eternal life that Jesus won for us with his death on the cross. Peter here says, "Through him (Jesus) you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God." According to this, do we get any of the credit for our salvation? If not us, then who does?
7. Read each of the accounts that were used in our services this weekend. In what sense does Jesus' resurrection bring certain hope in each of these accounts?
 - a. 1 Peter 1:17-21
 - b. Acts 24:10-21
 - c. Luke 24:13-35