

## **Living Hope**

### Week 2 – Living in Hope

**Transition:** Last week we started a new series through 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. We saw that Peter praised God for the believer's new birth to a living hope, which rests on the resurrection of Jesus. We also saw that this new birth leads to an eternal inheritance and is a source of true joy amid the various trials a believer will encounter in this life.

**Context:** In this week's text Peter emphasizes our response to our great salvation with three commands: set your hope on the future grace you have in Christ, be holy in all your conduct, and live your life before Christ with reverence and awe.

#### **Opening Questions:**

- What are you hopeful for in 2025 and why?
- Describe an experience when you were in awe of something. What was your response: A) Take a picture, B) Tell someone to come look, C) Just sit still and take it all in, D) Other...(explain what it is) Why did you respond the way that you did?

**Scripture/Storying:** 1 Peter 1:13-21

#### **Discipleship Questions:**

- Why would a group of Christians in the first century, who are suffering, need to hear the command to set their hope on the future grace they have in Jesus? Why do you need this same reminder? What is the future grace (favor) believers will experience when Jesus returns?
- How does "preparing your mind for action" and "being sober-minded" help you to set your hope fully on the future grace you have in Christ? What things distract you from the hope that is yours in Christ? Explain the difference it would make in your life to begin each day setting your mind on the hope that you have in Jesus.
- How did the idea that "God wants me to be happy" replace the fact that "God wants me to be holy" in the minds of many who would label themselves as believers? Why is holiness more beneficial to you than happiness?
- What pressures make it easy for you to slip in your pursuit of holiness? Why do they make it easy to slip? What disciplines have you implemented to overcome those pressures and aid you in your pursuit of holiness?
- "Fear" in this text refers to reverence and awe. Why would these Christians who are experiencing persecution need to be reminded to express reverence and awe toward God? What diverts you away from expressing reverence and awe toward God? Explain what would help you to overcome these distractions.
- The word "ransom" means to liberate. Explain how knowing that you were liberated from sin and death by Christ contributes to your reverence and awe of God. In what ways do you find it easiest to express reverence and awe to Christ for all that he has done for you? (expressive worship, quiet contemplation, being out in nature, intellectual engagement with Scripture, other...) Why?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

#### **Prayer time: Knoxville Internationals Network (KIN)**

Pray over the entire staff as they begin the year with an abundance of meetings, new network partners, and new ELL programs. - Pray for the Lord to bring internationals to KIN who have a background in construction, HVAC, or plumbing trade. - Pray for a couple or single to volunteer to live/host at the Welcome House in the Belle Morris area. This can be temporary or long-term, ask the Lord to bring about who He desires to reside with the internationals who live there.