

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

James 1:1-12

STAND FAST IN YOUR LIVING HOPE

1 Peter 1:3-12

Main Thought: Our living hope in Christ can help us stand fast in the midst of a hostile world for the following reasons.

- 1. OUR LIVING HOPE IS ROOTED IN JESUS' RESURRECTION. (v 3)**
- 2. OUR LIVING HOPE INVOLVES AN INHERITANCE THAT CANNOT PERISH. (vv 4-5)**
- 3. OUR LIVING HOPE SUSTAINS US IN TIMES OF TRIAL. (v 6-7)**
- 4. OUR LIVING HOPE IS A SOURCE OF JOY. (v 8-9)**
- 5. OUR LIVING HOPE WAS PART OF GOD'S PLAN FROM ETERNITY. (v 10-12)**

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3-12.
2. What does it mean to be born again?
(See also John 3:1-6)
3. What is our living hope? Why is it called a “living” hope? What is the difference between human hope and biblical hope?
4. What made this hope possible? Why is the resurrection of Jesus important to our faith? (See 1 Cor. 1:1-27)
5. What is our inheritance in Christ? What are the unique characteristics mentioned about this inheritance? How does that compare with say the inheritance left behind by an extremely wealthy person for his child?
6. In this world, sometimes a child with a big inheritance will grow lazy. Does our heavenly inheritance have the same effect? Why or why not?
7. What does it mean that our salvation is going to “be revealed in the last time?” Is our salvation not complete yet? In what way?
8. What does it mean that we are “shielded by God’s power” until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time? How does that make you feel?
9. What is our rejoicing (v 6) based on? Do you greatly rejoice? When do we tend to rejoice more than other times?
10. What should our attitude be when we face trials? Have you faced any trials recently? What were they?
11. How will knowing we have an inheritance in heaven affect our behavior and attitudes when we face trials?
12. What is more precious than gold (v 7)? Why?
13. How can we love God whom we do not see (v 8)?
14. Do you have this kind of inexpressible joy mentioned in verse 8? Why or why not? How can we get more of this kind of joy?
15. Who formerly wanted to understand God’s plan for the salvation of human beings and what, in particular, did they want to know 1:10-12?
16. What had been predicted regarding Christ? (Think: Give some examples of these predictions.)
17. Why was this information not given to these people, and to whom was it given? (Think: Did inspired men always understand their messages? What does this tell you?)
18. How will this week’s lesson help you live for Christ in a hostile world?