

## **1 Peter 1:3-9**

### **Reflection Guide**

Have you ever connected praising God and praising others? (they are closely related. If we have a hard time praising God, we will have a hard time praising others. Struggling with praising others is also an indication of a soul that is not actively praising God) Why do you think this is?

Peter gives us 7 examples of God's great works and excellencies to meditate on and praise Him for this week.

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

### **Sunday - Great Mercy (vs 3)**

At one point you and I were enemies of God, estranged from Him...worthy of His judgment but in His mercy...while we were still sinners He sent Jesus to save us.

**Have we forgotten the extent of the scandal of our sin nature and our particular sins?**  
**Have we begun to presume upon our place with him? Like somehow we deserve it or maintain it?**  
**What have we lost sight of about God's holiness?**  
**How can we remind ourselves of this and what we really deserve from God?**  
**Does this now make his mercy seem....great?**

### **Monday - God has caused you to be born again (vs 3)**

Being BORN AGAIN means that God has literally rewritten your story...your past you have been made a new creation. The most defining moment in your past is not that mistake you made...what was done to you...whose child you are or what school you went to. Therefore, your past no longer defines you...confines you...determines your future.

**What was/is a defining event / experience that you are right now trying to erase, cover-up, or run from?**  
**How has this affected your life to date? Your choices, relationships, and character?**  
**How does knowing that God has given you a NEW life with a new past and record affect you?**

### **Tuesday - God has given you a living hope (vs3) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

Have you considered that we are shaped and motivated by what we are looking forward to? It keeps us going and trying. Hope is essential to living. People who lose hope have a hard time continuing on.

So what is hope? It is a wishful desire that something happens in the future. Hope is confidence that something good will happen that hasn't happened yet. You don't hope for what you have, but for what has not occurred. It is tethered to a certain confidence in God...that He is faithful and true and never goes back or too weak to accomplish his purposes...that he's good.

What is a *living* hope? It is a hope of future that is based on the reality that Jesus himself suffered for our sins by dying on a cross and then rose again! Jesus has already suffered all the tragedy our future should have because of our sins. Everything else is a dying hope that gets worse everyday due to circumstances or our own constitution. A living hope, based on Jesus' resurrection can grow stronger everyday no matter what has happened.

**What has is dashing your hope for your marriage, family, career, relationship with God, others?**

**What could Jesus' resurrection mean for your hope for your future?**

**Do you still feel you will be punished for your sins?**

**How does the resurrection help us here?**

**(The assurance given us in the resurrection is that we KNOW our sins were actually paid for.)**

**Wednesday - God is keeping an inheritance for you (vs 4) and its:**

- imperishable
- undefiled
- unfading
- kept in heaven for you

Not only has God has rewritten your past, he has rewritten the future you deserve. It is an inheritance, not something we earn, but something we receive because of the family you now belong to since being born again. Its unlike any earthly inheritance because its imperishable, undefiled, unfading and only gets better. Its also a unique understanding of what happens after death. We are not annihilated, reincarnated, disembodied. Apart from Jesus we will get what we deserve...judgement in hell. But all who trust in Jesus have this incredible hope of being with him forever with new bodies and a new heaven and earth where we will be free to enjoy his excellencies forever! As exiles in the world, we are compelled to long for this as our home.

**When was the last time you relished in your eternal inheritance?**

**What do you find yourself relishing the most in?**

**How does contemplating an assured future with God change your perspective about \_\_\_\_\_?**

**What aspect in the list above about your inheritance encourage you the most today?**

**Thursday - God is keeping you for your inheritance vs 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

You may say, "Yes, I believe an inheritance is kept waiting for me. It may not be lost, but I still can be! Who is keeping me?"

Peter says we are being guarded, literally "garrisoned". The enemy forces of temptation, guilt, wavering passions, and unbelief are pressing all around, but we do not protect ourselves. Or protection is from God! ...enemy forces pressing in all around...our protection is from God. Charles Simeon commenting on this verse,

What would it be to be made sons of God, and heirs of heaven, if we were left to ourselves, to engage in our own strength our great adversary? Truly there is not one of us, however elevated he

may at this moment be, who would not, in a very short space of time, if left to himself, become a child of Satan, and an heir of hell.

But the power of God! What shall withstand that? or who shall fail, that has that exerted for him? All that is required of us is, to “have faith in God.” If only our faith be as a grain of mustard-seed, there is nothing that we shall not be able to effect. Like persons in an impregnable fortress, we may defy all the powers of darkness, and smile at all the confederacies both of earth and hell. All that is required of us is, to “have faith in God.” If only our faith be as a grain of mustard-seed, there is nothing that we shall not be able to effect. Like persons in an impregnable fortress, we may defy all the powers of darkness, and smile at all the confederacies both of earth and hell.

God promises to keep us believing him by his power, not ours!

**Has your joy / assurance been growing or waning recently?**

**Can you point to some reasons why?**

**What are the means God uses to keep us?**

**Which one can we lean into today?**

**How does this promise encourage you?**

## **Friday - Rejoicing IN Trials (vs 6)**

*in this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,*

The Bible doesn't shy away from the “various trials” we experience physical...financial...relational... family / marriage. We will feel grieved, weighed down, anxious...exceedingly sad. However, there are many teachers out there who refer to the Christian faith but teach that God's people are not to be grieved...if you would only think rightly then you can have health, wealth, prosperity. But consider:

*1 Peter 2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*

Hebrews 11:33 [remember the prophets] who through faith...were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned... 39 And all these, [were] commended through their faith...

So, far from suffering because they lacked faith, they experienced suffering through faith.

**How are you responding to the suffering in your life right now?**

**Are we feeling like victims of an evil world or an uncaring God?**

**Are we blaming ourselves?**

**How do these passages change your perspective?**

**How is God calling you to respond?**

Your Pain is Not Permanent (vs 6) *though now for a little while*

*Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. In light of eternity...these decades though hard..are just a blip. A hard life is nothing compared to a bad eternity*

## **Saturday - Your pain is not pointless (vs 7)**

*so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

This is the most precious possession of the day that Jesus returns...not accomplishment or stuff...but a pure faith and praise from Him. Jesus will praise the faith of Christians who in the heat trusted Him.

*Well done..I saw your broken body, abounded family, still believed I was good...well done...you trusted me and praised my name even when you buried your son...I know you were broken... welcome to the glory I now share with you.*

Even as we receive this praise and glory who does it point to? It points to Jesus the one who was guarding us to that day and the faint we have was what He gave so that even as we participate we'll take the praise and cast it at his feet...no...it was you who did this.

*2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made him sin who knew no sin that we might become the righteousness of God in him."*

What that means is on the cross Jesus Christ took our place, and God gave him everything the human race deserves. What do we deserve? Condemnation, rejection.

What this means is if you believe in him, if you believe he took everything you deserve, you get from God what Jesus deserved. Jesus took our curse, the curse we deserved, so we could get the record he deserved. The minute you believe, something is kept for you, and on the last day you're going to get it. On that day, God is going to give you everything Jesus Christ deserves.

Religion says "I give God a righteous record, and then he owes me." The gospel is, "God gives me a righteous record in Jesus Christ, and then I live in absolute freedom for him."

Knowing it's coming, knowing it's kept ... Not thinking, "Maybe if I live a good enough life it might happen." No, it's kept. Knowing that, even now, will help you endure anything. Because why? This is what it means to be born again. You get a new hope.

**Do you believe this?  
Is this alive in you?**