

As God's Chosen People, You are Refined and Focused

Week Three: 1 Peter 1:5-9

Last week, we couldn't quite finish our questions from verses 3 and 4. Let's do that first.

1. We talk about hope often—and with good reason. What does the unbelieving world mean when it talks about hope?
 - a. A German pastor once said, *Der Christ ist ein Optimist*. Some might take that to mean that a Christian always has to be happy or look on the bright side of life. Is that what hope means? If not, how do you define it? How would you explain it to someone who can't understand the Christian's viewpoint on life?

2. The last words of verse 3 are the most important of the entire verse. Explain.

3. In what ways is heaven like an earthly inheritance?
 - a. In what ways is heaven unlike an earthly inheritance?

4. Agree or disagree: A Christian's life is all about waiting to go to heaven.

5. In what way(s) might we be tempted to abuse God's promise of protection?
 - a. At the same time, in what way that present passive verb an immense comfort? *In Greek, the present tense says, "There is never a time this won't happen;" a passive verb means the action is done to you, not by you.*

6. Some might take the second half of verse 5 (“the salvation...”) to mean there is another piece to the plan of salvation that God is waiting to reveal. That’s true, in a way. Still, how do we know exactly what God is going to reveal?

Let’s look at verses 6 through 9 as a whole, since the thoughts all run together.

7. This idea of joy in the face of persecution (or hardship in general) is such a foreign concept to our human mind that God made sure to say it multiple times through different mouths. Look up the following and comment on the reason why Christians ought to rejoice when they face hardship:
 - a. **Matthew 5:11-12** –
 - b. **Acts 5:41** –
 - c. **2 Corinthians 12:10** –
 - d. Others?
8. Name at least three ways in which our faith is more valuable than gold.
9. Agree or disagree and explain: God’s act of pruning in John 15:2 (from 4/28 worship service) and his refining/testing with fire in 1 Peter 1:7 are two ways to talk about the same thing.
10. Verses 8 and 9 really hit on the essence of faith and hope. What phrases in these verses (or others that come to mind) stand out to you when thinking about faith and hope? Explain.

What comments and questions do you have on these verses?

Closing Prayer 855 The Church’s One Foundation v. 5

**Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest. Amen.**