



The Letter of Hope

1 Peter—Wrap Up

hope in Christ, life in Christ

Opening

Christ has risen from the dead,

God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,

He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

He has put all things under His feet.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Who Are We? Our Christian Identity

+ Review the following passages, words, and phrases, considering what each one has to say about *who* we are as Christians:

- 1 Peter 1:3–5
- 1 Peter 2:18, 21: “You were ransomed . . . [and] through Him are believers in God”
- 1 Peter 2:5, 9–10
- “Elect exiles of the dispersion” (1:1; see also 1:17); “as sojourners and exiles” (2:11)
- “newborn infants” (2:2); “servants of God” (2:16); “Beloved” (4:12); “in Christ” (5:14)

+ *Reflect:*

- What descriptions are most meaningful to you? Why?

The Exhortations

+ Martin Luther wrote: “This epistle St. Peter wrote to the converted heathen; he exhorts them to be steadfast in faith and to increase through all kinds of suffering and good works.” Consider these exhortations:

- Negative: To abstain / live no longer as / put away . . . see 1 Peter 1:18; 2:1, 11; 4:1–6
- Positive: Be holy . . . see 1 Peter 1:13–17; 22; 2:1, 5, 9, 12, 13, 16–17; 3:8–9; 4:7–11
- In suffering: 2:19, 21; 3:14–17; 4:13–16; 5:5b–9

+ *Reflect:*

- What are our duties in general to those outside? To those inside?
- What specific duties has God given you?
- In what ways do these exhortations burden you? In what ways do they direct, encourage, and spur you on?

For What Purpose?

+ The Holy Spirit through St. Peter instructs us as Christians regarding our life and conduct in the world. Review the following passages to see the purposes and results of this way of life:

- 1 Peter 2:12, 15
- 1 Peter 3:1, 14–17
- 1 Peter 4:10–11, 16, 19

+ *Reflect:*

- What is the relationship between good works/a holy life and salvation?
- What does it mean to “glorify God”? What gives glory to God?

The Promise

+ After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. – 1 Peter 5:10

Closing

After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.