

Born Again to a Living Hope

1 Peter 1:1-2:3

BORN AGAIN

- A. Peter was a newly called disciple of Jesus, when Jesus taught Nicodemus, a Pharisee, about the necessity of being born again to see and enter the Kingdom of God (John 3).
- B. Nicodemus and the Pharisees did not understand the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:1-2 with John 3:5-8), which is rooted in Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension (John 3:13-16).
- C. The Pharisees were so focused on ceremonial purity and washings/baptisms that they missed God's work (Luke 11:37-38; cf. Leviticus 22:4; Numbers 19:11-19; Psalm 51:2,7,10; Matthew 15:1-3; 23:25-28; Mark 7:1-15; **Luke 7:29-30**; John 11:55; 18:28).
- John 1 — John the Baptist: I baptize with water...
 - John 2 — Water into wine (Ceremonial water)
 - John 3 — Sanctifying work of the Spirit rooted in Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension.

LIVING HOPE

- A. We have been born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- B. Hope is an everyday part of the world we live in and is found in news headlines. The reason hope is so much a part of our lives politically, economically, scientifically, etc. is because we live in a fallen and sin cursed world
- "miseries of the life" (Westminster Shorter Catechism #17-19).
 - "meaningless, meaningless..." (Ecclesiastes)
- C. Hope is a constant reminder that we are in need of salvation and a Redeemer (Westminster Shorter Catechism #20-32).
- D. Our living hope is rooted in:
- The certainty of redemption accomplished and the exaltations of Jesus to the right hand of God.
 - The work of the Holy Spirit and God's Word (1 Peter 1:1-2,23-25; Romans 5:1-5)
 - Jesus' return and the New Heavens and New Earth (1 Peter 1:13; cf. Isaiah 25:8-9).
- E. We, like Job, will lose everything of worldly value, but our hope is that our Redeemer lives (Job 13:15; 19:25-27).

ESTIMATING HOW MUCH "LIVING HOPE" IS A PART OF SCRIPTURE (cf. 1 Peter 1:10-12)

- A. Hope encompasses everything in the Bible that has to do with the Fall of mankind and Christ's redemptive work.
- B. What would life and the Bible look like without hope?
1. "Abandon all hope, you who enter here" (*Inferno*, Canto III, line 9).
 2. The "Slave Bible".