

RELATED SCRIPTURES

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 4.23.23

Ephesians 2:1-10 | John 3:1-15 | Romans 6:4-5

SUMMARY

As Peter continues with his letter to the church, he praises God for his work in the new Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor. He delivers this “doxology” as God has made them to be “born again,” that is, given new life. In our fallen, sinful state, the apostle Paul describes us as being “dead in the trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). But God raises those who believe in Christ with the power of the resurrection, giving them a second birth (Romans 6:4-5). It’s important to remember we are passive in this transaction; we do not obtain a new life because we are righteous, smart, or generally just good people; we are dead in sin. Nevertheless, God, by his sovereign choice, quickens us to life and grants us an inheritance of eternal life. This truth is the hope of all Christians; by faith, we share in what Christ has earned on our behalf. However, as Peter defines it, hope is not just a possibility, as is often associated with the word. Because rebirth is God’s doing, our inheritance is sure; it is imperishable, undefiled, unfaded, and guarded by God himself (vs. 4-5). This is Peter’s encouragement to these new Christians suffering through immense persecution because of their faith in Jesus. But this is also a timeless message for Christians of all ages; he implores believers to consider their present trials and sufferings in light of a certain future reality. As Peter puts it, this is the “outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (v. 9) despite what we may experience at the moment.

GROUP QUESTIONS

From the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Peter 1:1-12, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you.

Consider the term “born again.” What does it mean to you to be born again? What parallels can we make between our first birth and the second? How are they similar, and how are they different?

How does the assurance and hope of eternal life impact your day-to-day life? Does it affect you one way or the other, and to what degree?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.