



**Summer Bible Study 2009**

Defending Our  
**HOPE**

*What Can We Do When our World is Falling Apart?*

“... always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess...”



## *We proclaim Christ*

*by warning and teaching all people with all wisdom  
so that we may present every person mature in Christ.*

*Toward this goal I also labor,  
struggling according to his power  
that powerfully works in me.*

| COLOSSIANS 1:28-29 |



*Defending Our Hope: What Can We Do When Our World is Falling Apart?*

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## 1 Where are we and where are we heading?

### 1.1 What is hope?

» **1 Peter 3:15** But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess.

“Hope is the confident expectation that things will turn out well because God will be who He promises to be and do what He promises to do.”

“Hope is built on the foundation of God’s past works, yet always looks forward to the future completion and perfection of these works.”

### 1.2 What is the background of 1 Peter?

» **1 Peter 1:1-9** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are **elect exiles** of the **dispersion** in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and for sprinkling with Jesus Christ’s blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

► “elect exiles of the dispersion”



“... always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess...”

- ▶ “according to the foreknowledge of God...”
  - ▶ “in the sanctification of the Spirit...”
  - ▶ “for obedience and for sprinkling with Jesus Christ’s blood...”
  - ▶ “may Grace be multiplied to you...”
- “Grace is God’s **unearned favor**, freely given to us in Christ so that we may have access to His **unlimited power**.”

### 1.3 Why is 1 Peter Significant for us?

- 1 | The collapse of “institutional religion.”
- 2 | The rise in the search for and practice of “spirituality.”
- 3 | Increased Imperial/Governmental oppression.
- 4 | Increased cultural and societal oppression.
- 5 | An Anti-Truth culture clashing with the Truth Culture of Christianity.

### 1.4 How Does Peter Address the Seven Life Questions?

#### 1.4.1 Who are We?

- » **1 Peter 1:1-9** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are **elect exiles** of the **dispersion** ...

#### 1.4.2 Who is God?

- 1 | He is the Father of Believers [1:2, 17]
- 2 | He is Father, Son and Spirit [1:2]
- 3 | He is Merciful, The God of all grace [1:3, 5:10]

- 4 | He is Holy (1:15)
- 5 | He is the Impartial Judge of all [1:17, 2:23, 4:5]
- 6 | He is the focus of faith and hope [1:21]
- 7 | He is “deliciously” good [2:3]
- 8 | He is powerful [1:5, 4:11]

1.4.3 **What went wrong?**

- » **1 Peter 1:18** “... knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, ...”
- » **1 Peter 2:25** “For we were all straying like sheep...”
- » **1 Peter 3:18** “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous...”

1.4.4 **What did the Father Do?**

- » **1 Peter 1:3** 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, ...

1.4.5 **What did Jesus Do?**

- » **1 Peter 1:18-20** You know that you were ransomed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors—not by perishable things like silver or gold, but by precious blood like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, namely Christ. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was manifested in these last times for your sake.

1.4.6 **What is the Spirit doing?**

- » **1 Peter 4:14** If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, who is the Spirit of God, rests on you.

1.4.7 **How do we respond?**

- » **1 Peter 1:13** Therefore, get your minds ready for action by being fully sober, and set your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.
- » **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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