

## Sermon: In Search of a Living Hope

Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:3-9

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**WHAT IS A LIVING HOPE?** It is a deep \_\_\_\_\_ that there is a reality beyond what I can see right now, and a living Savior in whom I can place my \_\_\_\_\_, no matter what my \_\_\_\_\_ may be.

### 3 STEPS TO HAVING A LIVING HOPE:

#### 1. Recognize where you can find it (3)

- a. Given by \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Described as a new \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Confirmed through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ from the dead

#### 2. Know the value of the hope being offered (4-5)

- a. It is an inheritance – You don't \_\_\_\_\_ it
- b. It can never perish, spoil or fade – It doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ in value
- c. It is kept in heaven for you – It can't be \_\_\_\_\_ from you
- d. It shields you by God's \_\_\_\_\_ until the end – It is guarded by a living Savior

#### 3. Respond as if it your life depended on it (6-9)

- a. We greatly \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of grief and trials
- b. Our faith is proved \_\_\_\_\_ – worth more than gold
- c. It results in \_\_\_\_\_, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed
- d. We are able to \_\_\_\_\_ him even though we don't see him
- e. We are filled with an inexpressible and glorious \_\_\_\_\_
- f. The end result is experiencing the \_\_\_\_\_ of our souls

*“And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” - Romans 5:2-5*

#### Growth Group prep:

1. The Bishop mentioned that we live in an age where hopelessness is at epidemic levels. Why do you feel that people today are feeling so hopeless?
2. What are the greatest barriers today to people placing their hope in Jesus?
3. What is it about the resurrection of Jesus that is so vital to giving people hope?
4. Which of the four points under step 2 (knowing the value of what is being offered) most encourages you and gives you hope?
5. What is your next step in responding to the living hope that God has for you in Jesus?