

Lesson 1 – September 4  
1 Peter 1:1-12

# Living Hope

*Rome*

## *Our Living Hope*

FBC Woodville  
Sunday School Class  
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see  
[PreciousHeart.net/SS](http://PreciousHeart.net/SS)



# **1. Sept 4 Living Hope 1:1-12**

- |            |                        |                           |
|------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. Sept 11 | Be Holy                | 1:13-25                   |
| 3. Sept 18 | Building Our Faith     | 2:1-10                    |
| 4. Sept 25 | Living as Strangers    | 2:11-25                   |
| 5. Oct 2   | Living in Relationship | 3:1-12                    |
| 6. Oct 9   | Always Ready           | 3:13-22                   |
| 7. Oct 16  | Equipped to Live       | 4:1-11                    |
| 8. Oct 23  | When Ridiculed         | 4:12-19                   |
| 9. Oct 30  | Alert Living           | 5:1-14                    |
| 10. Nov 6  | Being Useful           | 2 Pet. 1:1-11             |
| 11. Nov 13 | With Trust             | 2 Pet. 1:12-21            |
| 12. Nov 20 | On Guard               | 2 Pet. 2:1-13; Jude 16-25 |
| 13. Nov 27 | With Anticipation      | 2 Pet. 3:1-13, 17-18      |



## Lesson Author's Theme

# Jesus' resurrection gives believers a Living Hope

1 Peter 1:

**1-2** *Introduction – To God's elect, scattered, chosen*

**3-4** **Hope Discovered** – New birth into a Living Hope

**5** **Hope Assured** – Protected by God's power

**6-9** **Hope Celebrated** – Rejoice in suffering for faith in Christ

**10-12** *The Prophets Looked ... even Angels Longed to Look*

## **Key Verse I Peter 1:3**

In his great mercy he has given us  
**new birth into a Living Hope**  
through the resurrection of  
**Jesus Christ from the dead**





## 1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

Before we go to the introduction ...

Savor the heart of this lesson, indeed, the HEART of 1 Peter, in these splendid, saintly inspired verses:

**3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.**

**This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.**

There a couple dozen passages of similar sublimity in the N.T.

***all of them touching heaven***

## 1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

Psalm 18 is one of the most sublime SONGS, for the rugged, for those who have been DEEP in the Valley of Death ...

This passage is among about two dozen that touch heaven

- ✓ given us new birth into a **living hope**
- ✓ through the resurrection ... of Christ
- ✓ into an inheritance that can never perish ...
- ✓ kept in heaven for you ... by God's power
- ✓ until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

## 1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

These timeless verses REVEAL several truths about the gospel

- ✓ Like John 3:16, they describe our world and the world to come in clear terms that separate us from all the other religions
- ✓ These ADD to John 3:16 and the gospels ... insights into the peculiar life, privilege and “inheritance” of the Christian
- ✓ The parables of Jesus reveal similar truths in their beauty and timeless brushstrokes that are CLEAR, yet limitless:  
Kingdom of God is like ... **SEE the ocean, the “depth” unseen**
- ✓ Here, we go below the surface and **peak into “the deep”**
- ✓ Compare Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians
- ✓ Today, as we live and struggle, some more than others,  
yet ALL of us have been gifted with a ***LIVING HOPE***



# Compare with Islam's Fatalism

- ✓ Islam = “submission” – Muslim = “one who submits”
- ✓ Kabba = House of Allah, Muslims face it for prayers
- ✓ Five Pillars of Islam:
  1. Shahadah – creed & confession  
*There is no god but God;  
Muhammad is the messenger of God.*
  2. Salat – 5 daily prayers at specific times
  3. Zakkah – almsgiving
  4. Ramadan Fasting – for whole month
  5. Hajj – the pilgrimage to Mecca
- ✓ All is in sync – prayers reflect being in sync with nature
- ✓ ALL is SETTLED with ALLAH *and* they are NOT sure WHAT is settled
- ✓ One's fate/future is dependent upon “will of Allah,” his mercy

Yes, they face a  
**Black Box!**



**No *LIVING* HOPE at ALL**



# Buddhism's Four Noble Truths:

1. Dukkha: Craving/No Satisfaction = life of pain
2. Reincarnation: repeated life, Karma, repeated life  
*Karma* = essentially *you GET what you GIVE*
3. Cessation of Pain in attaining Nirvana  
*Nirvana* = “blown out” = freedom of peace
4. Path to Cessation in Nirvana = Eight-fold Path:
  1. Right View in afterlife
  2. Right Resolve, give up home
  3. Right Speech, truth, kindness
  4. Right Conduct, no killing, etc.
  5. Right Livelihood, simple
  6. Right Effort
  7. Right Mind
  8. Right Concentration

*5 Hindrances, 7 awakenings*

So ... if you Live Bad = Bad Karma = Next Life you're TOAD

**No *LIVING* HOPE at ALL**



Dharma Wheel  
8-fold Path



## **1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope**

### **Worst of all ...**

**Islam and Buddhism are WRONG ... their denial = damnation**

**NO TRUTH to their essential beliefs**

**In America, we believe in freedom of religion ... “right” to be wrong**

**NATURE of religion is exclusive ... each excludes ALL OTHERS**

**Islam denies divinity of Christ ... Buddhism denies personal God**

**Judaism is *STILL LOOKING* ... Atheism denies all spirituality**

**NO HOPE ... No Where**

***No LIVING HOPE at ALL***

**None have as clear or more beautiful Scriptures**



## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of ...

**Peter – walked with Christ, walked on the water**

He hurt after his denial ... learned a lot in Acts 1-12

ROME – now in Rome, writing near the end of his life

Peter, now old, having worked for Christ for 30 years

Galilee Fishman, rustic, now a writer of sublime letters

**Peter – The Rock** – a world traveler in the greatest city of the Western World

Nero is Emperor ... an **insane oink-oink**

Nero plays fiddle as Rome burns in A.D. 64

blames Christians – brutal persecution begins

Because he makes no mention, Peter *likely* wrote in 62-63

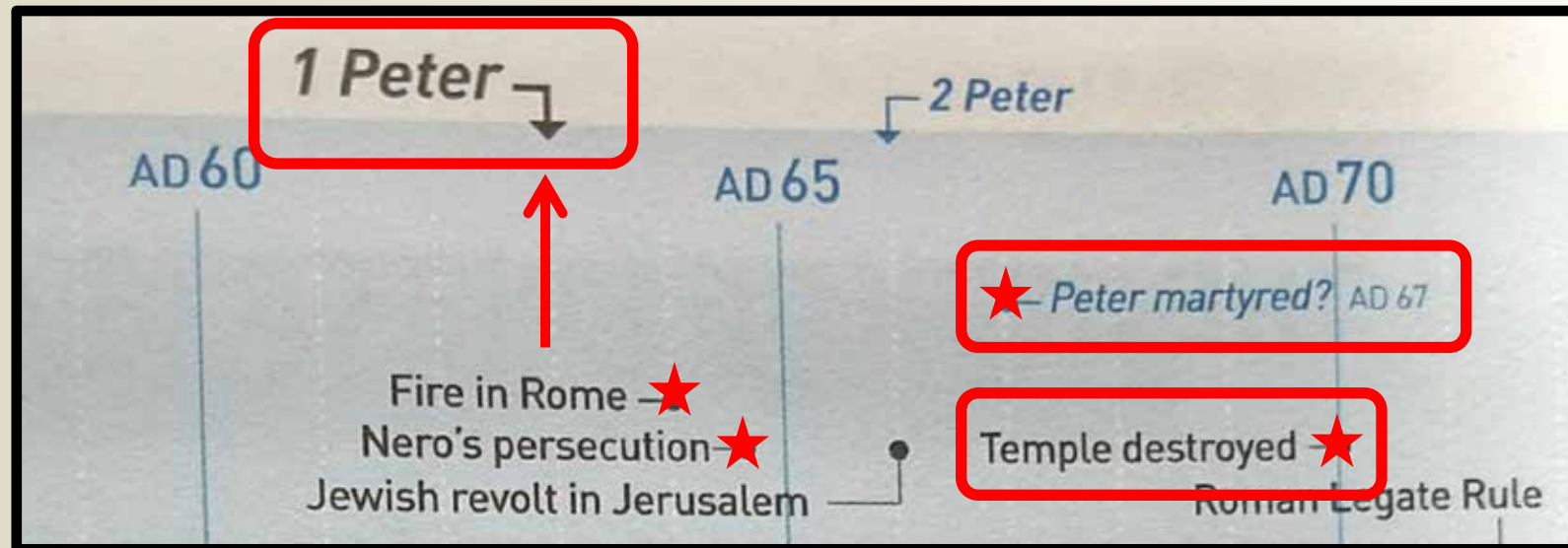


Bust of Nero  
Capitoline Museum  
Rome

## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of ...

Charles Swindoll, *Living Insights Commentary on 1 Peter*



Because Peter makes no mention of Nero's burning Rome & deadly persecution, **Peter likely wrote in 62-63**  
Perhaps, Peter was crucified upside down in **A.D. 67ish**  
**Jewish Temple in Jerusalem is destroyed in A.D. 70**



Bust of Nero  
Capitoline Museum  
Rome



Emperor Oink-Oink

Nero Watching Rome Burning  
by Alphonse Mucha, 1887

Nero Fiddles as Rome **BURNS**



**Fire of Rome, 1784**  
**Hubert Robert**

**NOT a good time  
for Christians**

**Worse times  
unfold quickly**



<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia ...

**Rome**

- 500-300 Golden Greece
- 325 BC Alexander
- 200 BC LXX
- 72-71 BC Spartacus
- *Hellenism Dominates*  
... Latin on Rise
- 44 BC J. Caesar killed
- 31 BC Battle of Actium
- *Rome Dominates*
- AD 14 Augustus Dies
- **AD 64 Nero burns Rome**
- AD 70 Temple Destroyed

**600 Miles**



**Area of Study**  
**Acts 1-12**

## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia ...**





# 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

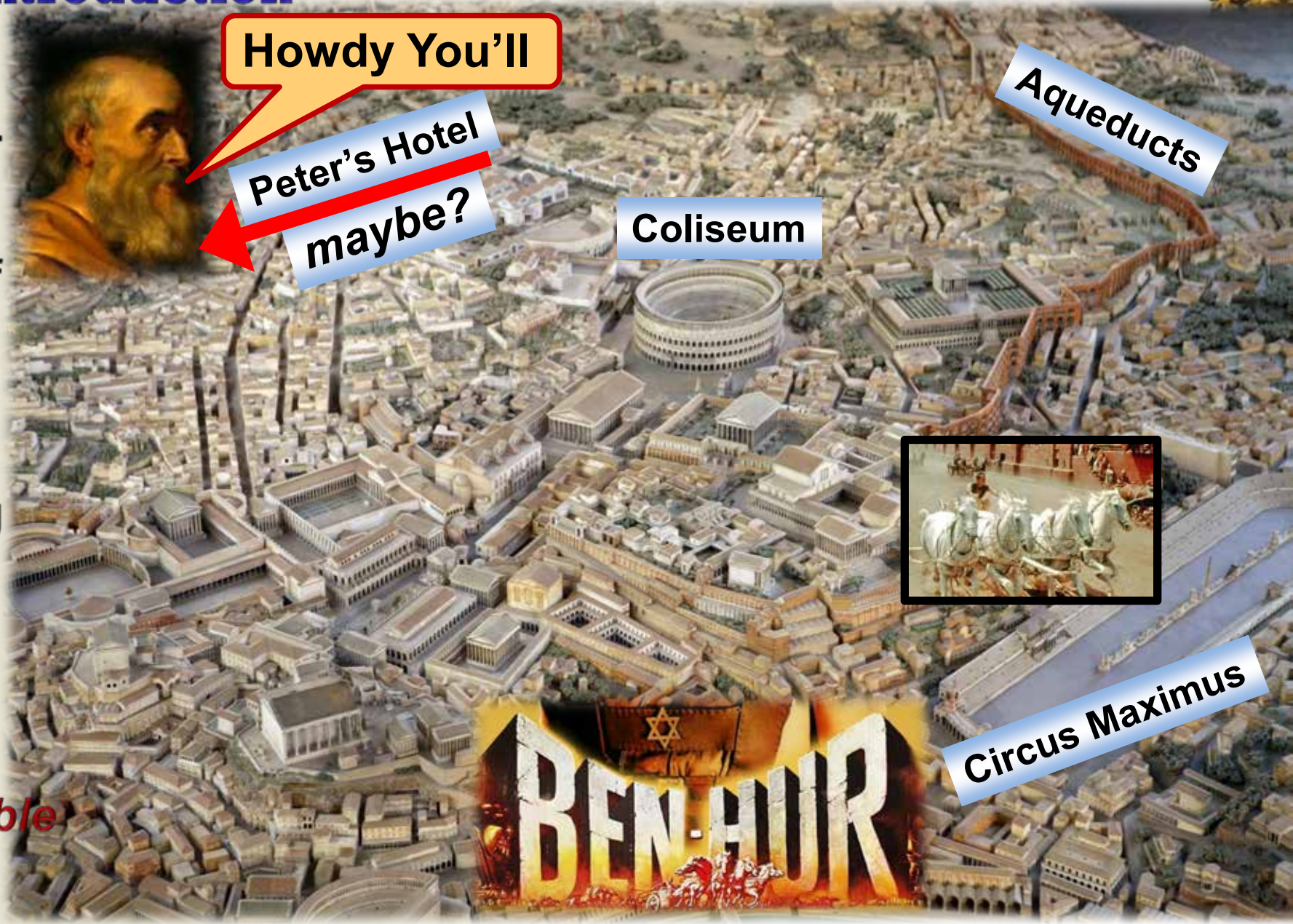
Rome

We know a LOT  
about Rome

Great source of  
OUR gov today

I can imagine  
Peter seeing all  
of this, thinking  
much like WE  
do when we  
visit D.C. today

***Awesome***  
***Incomprehensible***





## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.**

- ✓ A lot, a very lot has been written on these over the centuries
- ✓ I don't blame the author not addressing them ...
- ✓ I struggled too ... *have we not enough already?*

Some would say upon these pivot ALL ... and there is a lot more Foreknowledge of God sees all, knows all ... beginning to end



# 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

**Peter repeats this in use of “called” five more times**

**1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do ...**

**2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation ...**

**2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps ...**

**3:9 Do not repay evil with evil ... repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing ...**

**5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while ...**

**At least, God's ELECT that He CHOSE is the CHURCH, the Redeemed  
From the foundation of the world with Christ God chose the church**

# 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

**Foreknowledge?** Distinguished thought by Albert Barnes (1798-1870) from his highly respected *Notes on the New Testament*

- ✓ God foreknew all the events and reasons which would ever occur
- ✓ ... foreknew all that could be made to bear on their salvation
- ✓ ... foreknew all that He would himself do to secure their salvation
- ✓ ... foreknew them as having been designated by his own counsel
- ✓ ... foreknew all that could be accomplished by their instrumentality

Barnes also said, "it should not be assumed that the word means necessarily any one of these things."



## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.**

**John MacArthur, founder of Grace to You radio program**

- ✓ Pastor of Grace Community Church in California
- ✓ Founder, Master's Seminary ... author of 400 books & study guides
- ✓ An outstanding teacher ... I've listened to a lot of him

**In his book on 1 Peter, he devoted 12 pages to this verse alone, quoting several, with perhaps 100 cross references ...**

**You were ELECTED-CHOSEN from the foundation of the world!**

**I was disappointed that he made NO mention of Free Will ...**

**There are TITANS who have written MORE ...**

*The John MacArthur N.T. Commentary 1 Peter (Moody, 2004)*

## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

John Feinberg, *No One Like Him—a Theology of God*  
(Crossway, 2001, **879p.**)

John Frame, *The Doctrine of God—a Theology of Lordship*  
(P & R, 2002, **864p.**).

No stone is left unturned ... every conceivable scripture and argument is made for the Absolute Sovereignty of God.

Their sections on **Free Will were SMALL, nearly an afterthought**

Our “Free Will” is somehow assumed in sovereignty

**You were ELECTED-CHOSEN from the foundation of the world!**



# 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

Isaiah 46:9-10 "Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God.... I make known the **end from the beginning**, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, '**My purpose will stand**, and I will do all that I please.'"

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

**How does Absolute Sovereignty jive with Free Will??**

Ooooh ... Free Will is there ... just BELIEVE ... like a ghost

How and why, DAH?? ... tis a mystery ...

# 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

**How does Absolute Sovereignty jive with Free Will??**

**Free Will is the ugly stepchild, something relegated to verses like Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."**

**i.e., Free Will is there, somehow ... like**

**Casper, the Friendly Ghost**

**Free Will is *just there*, like a ghost ... accept it ...**

**Aaaaah ... but WE DO UNDERSTAND God's Sovereignty**





# 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

**My argument is a little more down-to-earth ...**

**I reverse a little ...**

**Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts ... As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."**

**Isaiah 55 applies to the WHOLE ISSUE, not just Sovereignty ...**

**God knows all ... yet my case is that all is NOT SETTLED in the mind of God ... for we are created in His Image ...**

**Most of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation REVEALS we have SOME responsibility, some REAL Free Will that MEANS something**

## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

That is ... if Love is Real ... then all is NOT settled from the foundation of the world ...

I think I love God more today than 10 years ago ...

If God is *personal*, He loves me MORE TODAY than 10 years ago

If there is a relationship ... both parties contribute ... daahh!!

**No victim's future that GOD sees TODAY  
is so SETTLED today that—*tomorrow*—  
God CANNOT protect ...**



# 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

1-2 Peter ... To **God's elect** ... who have been given the foreknowledge of God the Father



**Father Time—for whom all is SETTLED—  
is NOT Greater than Father God**

## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

Essentially ... if God did Elect and Chose ALL from beginning, then there is a man or woman walking today **DESTINED to HELL**

**Some HAVE said ALL is settled with God for ALL TIME**

Not me ... that is ... flipping the issue over ...

No man or woman's future is so SETTLED that God CANNOT save

No victim's future that GOD sees TODAY is so SETTLED **TODAY** that—*tomorrow*—God CANNOT save and protect ...

I so very profoundly believe ...



**Father Time is NOT Greater than FATHER God**



## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

Moreover ... MacArthur and several VERY great men of God would say that God knows ALL, from the beginning to the end, and ALL that God knows is SETTLED in the mind of God.

Experts call it **Exhaustive Foreknowledge** ... closed, finished.

If that is what "God's ... chosen" means, then there is man or woman who CANNOT be saved. There is NO REAL evangelism.

I contend for **Dynamic Foreknowledge**, that, yes, God knows all of the future, but all of the future is NOT settled.

God can be **MOVED** by our prayers, *really and truly*

**Father Time is NOT Greater than Father God**

## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

God can be MOVED by our prayers, and our pleas ...  
and that movement of God was NOT planned by  
God a 1,000 years ago

Why? – Because our God is a Living God  
Heaven will be better for GOD, too,  
once He brings down the New Jerusalem

The idea that God's Foreknowledge is EXHAUSTIVE  
and His knowledge of the future COMPLETE—DONE—

**Kills God's REAL-time LOVE for us**

Actually, the idea of an all-settled God is Greek



## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

**1-2 Peter ... To God's elect ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

**How does Absolute Sovereignty jive with Free Will?**

**Not sure ... but Free Will is NOT an ugly stepchild.**

**Without REAL Free Will, MOST of the N.T. must be cut.**

**That is,**

**Free Will is CRITICAL to a  
REAL relationship with God**

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## 1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

<sup>1-2</sup> Peter ... To **God's elect** ... who have been **chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**

**How does Absolute Sovereignty jive with Free Will?**

Remember, **THE metaphor** that God chose for BOTH his relationship to Israel and his relationship to the church was:

**Marriage – most intimate relationship of all**

**Great Banquet Table is NOT a Sham to God!**

Furthermore, as we shall see—and DO LOOK—please look

**1 Peter—ALL Five chapters imply Free Will**



## 1 Peter 1:3-4 Hope Discovered

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

<sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

**3-4 Hope Discovered** – New birth into a Living Hope”

**5 Hope Assured** – Protected by God’s power

**6-9 Hope Celebrated** – Rejoice in suffering for faith in Christ

**10-12 The Prophets Looked ... even Angels Longed to Look**

## 1 Peter 1:3-4 Hope Discovered

<sup>3</sup> ... In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

By his mercy ... through the resurrection of Christ

**GIVEN us new birth into a Living Hope**

We gather around the camp fire and TRULY THANK God for that,  
If NOT, as Paul said in his own sublime verse of 1 Corinthians 15:9

**If in this life only we have hope in Christ,  
we are of all men most miserable**

**Miserable** to others as they pity us

**Miserable** to ourselves as we gurgle nonsense

Maybe Ancient Aliens can help





## 1 Peter 1:3-4 Hope Discovered

<sup>3</sup> ... In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Our anchor is the resurrection of Christ . . .

Christ was given by his Father ... Christ gave his life

Part of our Salvation Package includes this

**GIVEN us new birth into a Living Hope**

Now then ... as we walk through 1 Peter

Most of the book impacts this Living Hope

## 1 Peter 1:3-4 Hope Discovered

<sup>3</sup> ... In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Got to love this . . . **a LIVING Hope is ALIVE**

- ✓ Living Hope can be choked ... yes, a Choked Hope
- ✓ Living Hope can be run dry ... *if you stay away from the well!*
- ✓ Living Hope can be strengthened ... made mighty
- ✓ Many times, by APPLYING **ALL** in 1 Peter, that ...  
*o o o o h ... wait for it ...*
- ✓ Many times, by APPLYING **ALL** in 1 Peter, that ...

**LIVING HOPE can Empower to Supreme Heights**



# 1 Peter 1:3-4 Hope Discovered

<sup>3</sup> ... In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Got to love this . . . a LIVING Hope can

- ✓ Sometimes, by APPLYING all in 1 Peter, a LIVING HOPE can be made MIGHTY
- ✓ Living Hope made strong like a huge **Oak Tree**
- ✓ Giving **SHADE** to others
- ✓ Supplying **SHELTER** for small
- ✓ Even become a **Great Humankind Landmark**



## 1 Peter 1:5 Hope Assured

<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

A strong Living Hope ... goooooood!

Now, do NOT confuse this Hope with WHO is shielded

Our Christian Living Hope is secure, but **BECAUSE** it is living,  
that hope can wane, grow dim, sometimes fade

**But NOT the Salvation.** Once born again, you and I are protected  
until the “coming of the salvation” ...

**It is a certainty ... Your Salvation is PROTECTED by God**

Our “faith” and “hope” waver this side of heaven, but Peter, Paul,  
and the Gospels make clear—your salvation is secure



## 1 Peter 1:5 Hope Assured

<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

There is MUCH MORE to this **Living Hope**

Salvation is the thing we hope for, long for—our **HOPE**

Salvation and our Eternal Rest, Heaven—those are our **HOPE**

The END of this world, the Coming of the NEW—our **HOPE**

Shedding of Perishable and Clothed Immortal—our **HOPE**

**In our best hours, you know ... you know very well  
what this Living Hope does ... *next verse please***

## 1 Peter 1:6-9 Hope Celebrated – 6-7

<sup>6-7</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

### Fire? ... Peter, really?

Sometimes, those prophets and apostles should have gone to a Finishing School ... or something.

I really don't like these verses ... many times, I would just wish Peter and some of them would SHUT UP ... and, hate to say it ...

But I would like to say to God, too—***ENOUGH already!***



## 1 Peter 1:6-9 Hope Celebrated – 6-7

<sup>6-7</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Truly ... that is a Prophecy I can do WITHOUT

Dear God, **ENOUGH** already!

**My faith is OKAY ... don't need anymore "TRIALS"**

**Don't want any ... but GIVE me the GOLD**

Ooops ... this is NOT a prophecy, but it, too, is DESCRIPTIVE

Almost makes it all WORSE ... *but not really*

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## 1 Peter 1:6-9 Hope Celebrated – 6-7

<sup>6-7</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

NOT a prophecy, you say? ... DESCRIPTIVE ... you say?

Trials come in many colors. Some because of Christ

only first portion  
of audio used

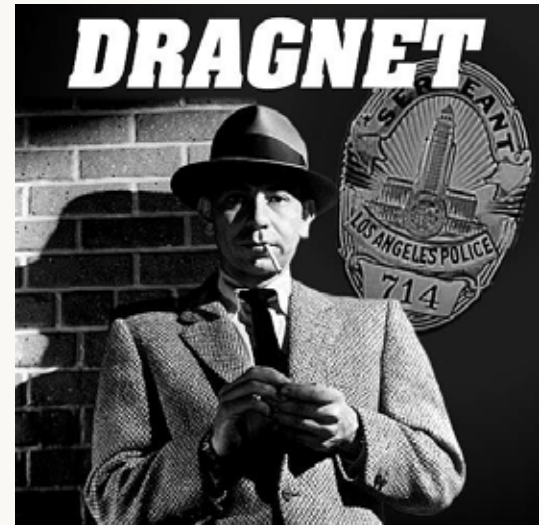


DESCRIPTIVE, just the facts ... **the FACTS**

They were suffering ... **FACT**

and Peter knew **more suffering was coming**

As their FAITH is proved ... the **GOLD** is that  
glory and honor will go to Christ



## **1 Peter 1:6-9 Hope Celebrated – 8-9**

**8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**

- **Integral with this God-protected salvation is the tearing of the veil**
- **No more going to the Temple, because the Temple is INSIDE you**
- **Christ is IN YOU, working out this salvation to be revealed**
- **You go to the Father in the Name of the Son ...**
- **Oh heck FIRE ... YOU LOVE God in Christ ... He LOVES You**
- **And you have God's Spirit BEARING witness within—**

***KNOWING You ARE GOD's Child  
fuels the Living Hope***



## **1 Peter 1:6-9 Hope Celebrated – 8-9**

**8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**

### **Being GOD's Child**

**Then what? ... You have a Relationship with God  
And if God has one with you, then the future is NOT settled  
That means ... I hate to repeat ... but I MUST**

**That this Hope in Christ, in Salvation, in Heaven  
is indeed and truth a**

### **Living Hope**

***Therefore ... and Therefore***

***Therefore ... and Therefore***

this verse is NOT a description anymore

This verse is a TESTIMONY ... a WITNESS

**NOW Read these two verses:**

**8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**

**Unlike the Muslim, Buddhist and Dead Atheist  
our LIVING HOPE grows with each remembrance**

## ***10-12 The Prophets Looked ... even Angels Longed to Look***

**10-11 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.**

**Daniel 12:5-13 ... “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders” ... “O my Lord, what shall be the issue of these things.”**

**God answers, “Go your way ... words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.”**

**Ezra 4:33, he asks the angel, “How long and when shall these things be coming to pass? For our years are few and evil.”**

**No Kidding Daniel & Ezra!!!**



## ***10-12 The Prophets Looked ... even Angels Longed to Look***

<sup>10-11</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently ...

Habakkuk 2:1-4, he takes his stand on the watchtower to “**Look forth to see what God will say to me**” and he is told “the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seem slow, **wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay** ... the righteous shall live by his faith.

In the Qumran Habakkuk commentary on these, “the final age shall be prolonged, and shall exceed all that the Prophets have said.”

# **No Kidding Habakkuk!!!**

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## ***10-12 The Prophets Looked ... even Angels Longed to Look***

**10-11** Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the **Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.**

**The Spirit of Christ  
POINTED to  
Sufferings and Glories to follow**

## ***10-12 The Prophets Looked ... even Angels Longed to Look***

**<sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.**

***God is so working through the gospel and the Holy Spirit in such way ... in the Prophets of the Old Testament ...***

**As ALL was happening in the O.T. ... even the **ANGELS****

**Long to Look into These Things**

**What things?**

**Salvation: *Substance of Living Hope***

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1 Peter 1:1-12

# Living Hope

End where we began ...

Born into a **LIVING Hope** of a  
Salvation secured by God

No lost person's or victim's future is so  
**SETTLED** that God cannot **ANSWER** prayer  
and **SAVE** that person

A Salvation that God foreknew for a Church God foreknew

A Salvation for a Chosen People in a future **NOT** settled

What **IS SETTLED** is that the Child of God will **INHERIT** Eternal Life



1 Peter 1:1-12

# Living Hope

A Living Hope that can be choked by doubt

A Living Hope that can dry up in the desert

Yet and so glorious, a Living Hope that can

## Grow and become Strong

If you and I apply 1 Peter, the rest of the book, **your Hope Grows**

If you go to church, your **Living Hope grows**

If you read and meditate upon His Word,

read your Bible, your **Living Hope grows**



# Living Hope

Now the most important of all ...

For those who grow rightly in this Living Hope

For those who LOVE God truly

There is a pinnacle ... a Supreme Height

There is a reward of faithfulness ...

Those who grow truly **MIGHTY** in their **Living Hope**

We have seen these Mighty Christian Oaks already ...

Because we have seen the Rest of the Story already





1 Peter 1:1-12

# Living Hope

We know Peter himself, strong to the end saying, “I am unworthy to be crucified as my Lord”

Peter opts out of the norm

Crucify me upside-down

## Supreme Living Hope

Michelangelo da Caravaggio  
*The Crucifixion of Saint Peter*, 1601

Cerasi Chapel, Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome



1 Peter 1:1-12

# Living Hope

*“unworthy to be  
crucified as my Lord”*

**THAT** is a Mighty Oak

*Indeed, the  
Supreme Height of*  
**Living Hope**



1 Peter 1:1-12

# Living Hope

Like Peter, strong to the end ...  
History is full of ...

## Mighty Christian Oaks

- ... facing horrendous fates
- ... courageously facing death
- ... this **Living Hope** empowers the heart
- ... empowers the heart to **BOLDNESS**





1 Peter 1:1-12

# Living Hope



**They sang as LIONS sought them in the Coliseum**

# **Living Hope**

**Hebrews 11:1 – Now faith is confidence in what we hope for ... faith – foundation of Living Hope**

**3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command ...**

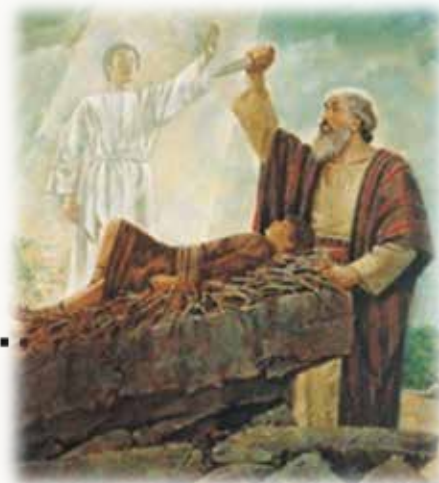
**4 By faith Abel ... 5 By faith Enoch ... 7 By faith Noah ...**

**8 By faith Abraham ... 11 And by faith even Sarah**

**13 All these people ...**

**16 ... longing for a better country—a heavenly one....**

**19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead ...**





# Living Hope

Hebrews 11:20 – By faith Isaac blessed  
Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

21 By faith Jacob ... 22 By faith Joseph ...

23 By faith Moses' parents ... 24 By faith Moses ...

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea ...

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell ...

32 And what more shall I say?

32 I do **NOT HAVE TIME to tell** about Gideon, Barak,  
Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel ...





# **Living Hope**

**Hebrews 11:33 – who through faith conquered kingdoms ... who shut the mouths of lions**

**34 By faith ... quenched the fury of the flames,  
and escaped the edge of the sword;  
whose weakness was turned to strength;  
who became powerful in battle....**

**35 By faith ... Women received back their dead ... others tortured,  
refusing to be released ... they might gain an even better resurrection.**

**37-39 By faith ... put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two ...  
none of them received what had been promised**



1 Peter 1:1-12

# Living Hope

Now then ... make it personal ... ??????

By faith ... Larry? ... he ...

By faith ... Michael? ... he ...

By faith ... Myra? ... she ...

By faith ... Jerry? ... he ...

By faith ... Toby? ... he ...

By faith ... born into a

# LIVING HOPE



# Living Hope

that overcomes all

Hebrew 12:1 – Therefore,

since we are **SURROUNDED**

by such a **GREAT CLOUD** of  
**WITNESSES**, let us throw off  
everything that hinders ...





# **Living Hope**

**Now, you MIGHT be saying, “Faith ... Hope—  
what in the world is the difference?”**

**Glad you asked.**

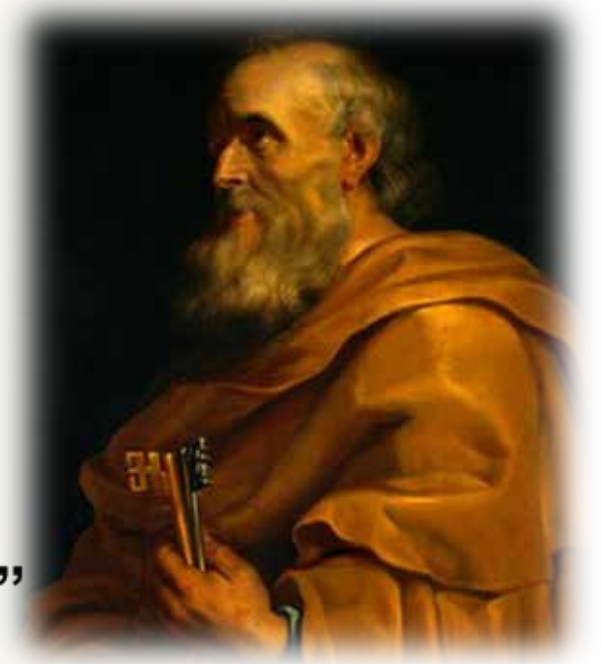
**Faith gets you eternal life, gets you “born again”**

**Hope energizes your life ... and points you to the future.**

**Hold it ... hold'em dem horses ... there is one more passage**

**The very Pinnacle of N.T. sublimity ... the most sublime of all**

**The height in N.T. beauty and sublimity is . . . . . *wait for it* . . .**



# Living Hope

1 Corinthians 13 . . . Yes, others get close,  
a few others are more important theologically.  
Yet—my opinion—no other matches this in  
beautiful sublimity

AFTER our entrance into heaven, this is one passage  
that will be proven true and truer for eternity.

Just the last verse applies here SO WELL: 1 Corinthians 13:13

**These three remain: FAITH, HOPE and LOVE.  
But the greatest of these is LOVE**



1 Peter 1:1-12

# Living Hope

Faith gets you life ... sustains spiritual life  
even from faith to faith

Hope takes you through life ... touching heaven

**Love—Love IS LIFE ... *best of Life***  
here and in the hereafter ... God is LOVE

Ooooooh . . . you MIGHT be saying . . . still a tad FOGGY-BOGGY  
. . . daahhhh mail has NOT quite arrived yet mister postman

Let me make the difference CRYSTAL clear ...





**Look closely ... in the center of to the arena**

Faith got us **into** the arena  
Love **unites** us in arena  
But our **Living Hope**  
took us to the  
**Supreme Heights**  
And we **sang** as the  
Lions approached

Raymond  
& I got  
here early  
We're still  
toasting

Myra

Beverly

Michael

Charles

Larry

Betty

Coleen

Ann

Wende

Toby

Sue

Richard



**Look closely ... in the center of to the arena**



Love is **STILL** the greatest  
You see, there is only **ONE**  
thing **WORSE** than getting  
chewed upon by a **LION**

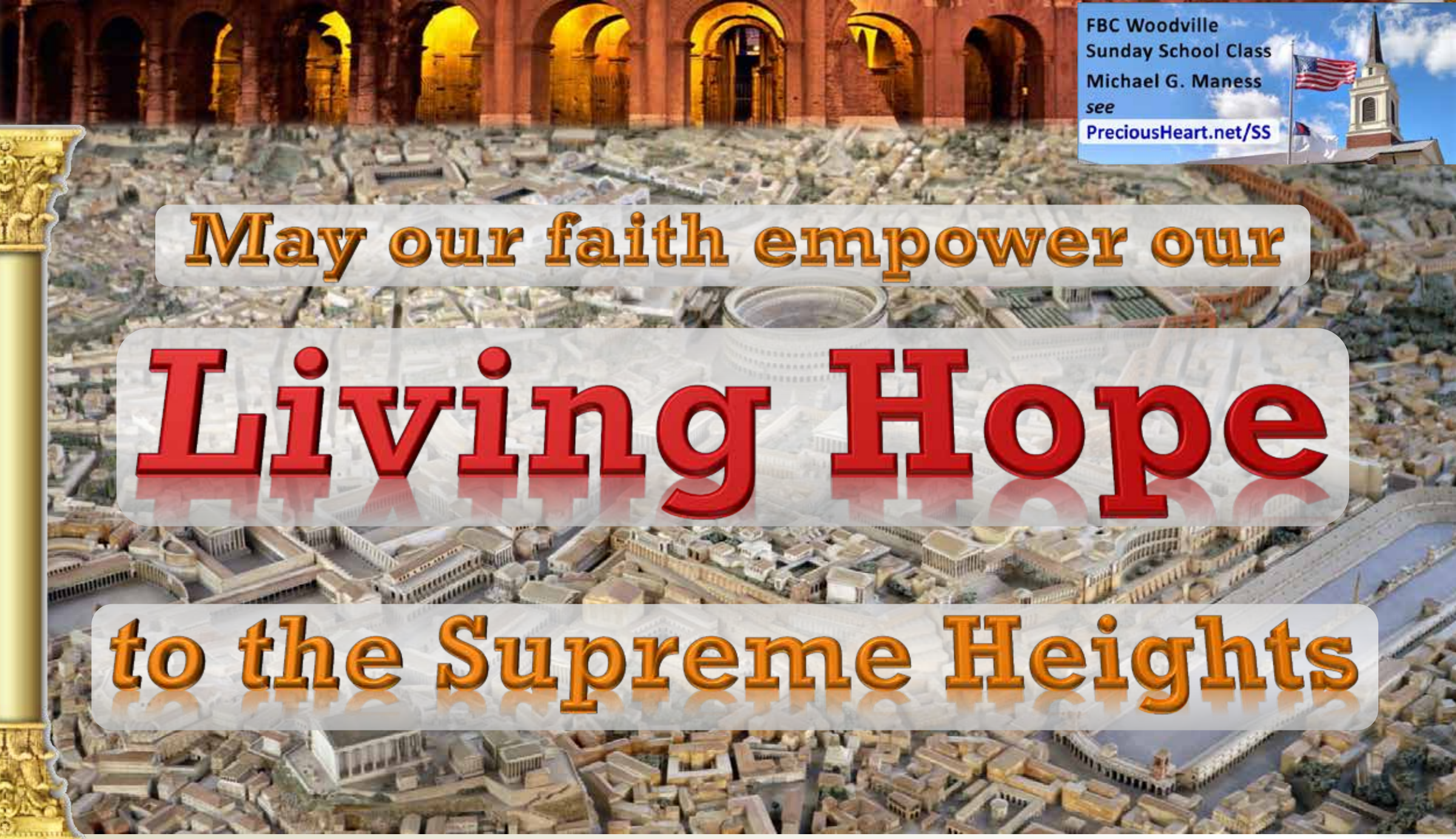
..... you **KNOW**

Watching someone you  
**LOVE** getting torn

Love **IS** the Greatest

Yet, in the **ARENA** ... it is  
**LIVING HOPE**  
that allows us to **SING**





FBC Woodville  
Sunday School Class  
Michael G. Maness  
see  
[PreciousHeart.net/SS](http://PreciousHeart.net/SS)

May our faith empower our

**Living Hope**

to the Supreme Heights