

# ***Is it Time to Give Up?***

## **1 Peter 1.3-5**

To be a Christian in Peter's time meant facing uncertain and unpleasant experiences from the surrounding world. A person might hesitate in becoming a Christian for fear of the consequences or quietly opt out because the demands were too great. One of Peter's aims in his letter, then, was to encourage his readers by giving them grounds for solid hope in the ultimate future so that they might face the immediate future with calmness, courage and even joy. Right at the beginning of the letter he sets his mood in what is, so far as its form is concerned, an expression of thanks to God.

In understanding what God has done, is doing and will do in the future, the Christian is able to have an attitude that will enable him to face these challenges. We can develop positive attitudes because of several key truths.

*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--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.* 1 Peter 1.3-5

**First**, we can have a solid grasp of divine truth – the revealed Word of God to our hearts.

*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; Exodus 34.6; Numbers 14.18; Psalm 86.5, 15*

*Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2.10; Hosea 1.6-10; 2.23*

**Second**, we have a hope that is not going to be raised to be dashed, *it is a hope that is overwhelmingly confident.*

*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Romans 8.32-35*

**Third**, Peter's positive approach to life is also related to *his understanding of the gift of a new status.*

*...and into an inheritance that can never **perish, spoil or fade** – kept in heaven for you... 1 Peter 1.4*

*Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8.17*

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6.19-21*

**Fourth**, Peter describes *the gift of a new security which every believer possesses.*

*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. 1 Peter 1.5*

**So – Where Do We Go From Here?**

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