



What Has Been Revealed
1 Peter 1:3-13
Westport Christian Church
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Many of us enjoy a good suspense movie or perhaps a good mystery. There could be many reasons as to why. I think one reason is that we are fascinated at trying to figure out who did what before we get to the end of the story. Its fun to try to figure out who, what, where or how. When I was a boy some of the most exciting part of a movie or a special occasion was the building up to the climax. Often times we are either excited or let down according to the outcome. As the facts or the plot is laid out our excitement builds. As the facts come we are sure of the ending but often it's not the way we thought. Imagine with me for just a moment that you are a young child again. Yes, I know for some of you this could be a mystery itself. But let pretend for a moment that you are having a birthday party. As everyone that you invited starts arriving they bring their gifts in and set them in the house. The suspense starts building as you look at those presents wondering what is in each one. Finally the time comes to open up the gifts. Then as you tear them open the things inside become revealed to you. I remember a show I had to watch for school and do a report on. It was "My dog Skip." Now in the movie the little boy was having a birthday party and he was extremely excited about opening his presents but disappointed by what was inside. Today I want us to open our Bibles to see what God has to reveal to us today from His Word. I want us to focus on three things from I Peter 1:3-13 that will be revealed to us. Unlike the boy in the movie, we won't be disappointed. *1 Peter 1:3-13 Blessed be the God and Father of our*

Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven -- things into which angels long to look. Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (NASU)

Three things that I want to observe is a revealed hope, revealed trails, and a revealed joy.

I. **REVEALED HOPE**

In verse three it says a living hope. Something that should be alive and growing within each one of us. If we want our hope to live and grow how is this done? Verse 13 tells us *fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Place our hope completely on the grace of Jesus Christ! Peter starts off telling us this is a living hope found in Christ, and that it is a hope that grows and builds looking forward for the return of Christ! We should be excited about seeing Jesus face to face. Fanny Crosby one the great hymn writers, was blind most of her life from a child hood illness. During an interview she was asked about her blindness if she could choose something other than blindness what would it be? She replied, "nothing, for when I get to heaven the first thing that I will see when I open my eyes, will be the face of Jesus." It like going to Grandma's when you were little. It used to take us 8 to 10 hours to get to my Granny's house. I would watch and fight going to sleep looking forward to seeing the mountains knowing that soon I would be hugging my granny. It was a little over a mile and a half off the road up Pine Mountain to get to her house. Three quarters of the way up my dad would have to stop the car often times to let it cool off, and we would get out so we could run on ahead. That is how our hope in Christ should be. It must be a growing hope built upon a loving relationship with Him. It must be a hope built upon anticipating His

return. Warren Wirersbe said, "When you center your thoughts on the return of Christ, and live accordingly, you escape the many worldly things that would encumber your mind and hinder your spiritual progress. Outlook determines outcome; attitude determines action." When we center our hope on our salvation found in Christ, and on His return then our life of obedience will follow. There are many times in our lives that we can't come up with an answer, our hope in Christ is all we have. Samuel Johnson once said, "The natural flights of the human mind are not from pleasure to pleasure but from hope to hope." Peter says being born again to a living hope, a new beginning, and a fresh start. This takes place when we surrender our life to Jesus. When we repent, confess, proclaim Christ as our Lord and are immersed into the waters of baptism. Then Peter shares with us the fact of Jesus' resurrection. That through the resurrection of Christ we too will be raised from the grave to live with Him and to celebrate His second coming. *1 Thess 4:13-18 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.* Our hope is a living hope found in the person of Jesus Christ. It is a hope not based on how we feel or what we think. But based on the facts found in the Scriptures and evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our hope is a revealed hope. It is with our hope that we get through...

II. Revealed Trials

We must realize that we will go through some tough times. Why? Because we are on this earth and therefore we must endure what this world gives us. So what is the purpose of these trials? I think there are many reasons but I want to focus on two. First, it is a testing of our faith. After all how can you be sure of something if you don't test it out? *2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you -- unless indeed you fail the test?*

James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

It is through our trials that we are tested about our faith and trust in the Lord. It is through our trials that our faith must grow and develop. *James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. NASU*

Now listen to how it is worded in the TLB translation. *Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.*

These trials make us grow and come complete. It makes us strong. But I think it also helps us to understand our dependency on God. These trials also are a proof of our faith. Our faith it says is more precious than gold, which is perishable, refined by the fire. Our faith through these trials will refine our love and trust for God. It is an act of witness to those around so that through them we will bring glory and honor to Christ! Verse 7 *So that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* A worm goes into a cocoon and is changed then fights its way through the trial and becomes a beautiful butterfly. It is through our trials that we overcome, that will bring glory to God. We should give Him the praise for the outcome. We must always remember that God didn't promise us a rose garden and primrose path. He did tell us that He would never leave us or forsake us. Therefore we must lean on Him. For it has been revealed to us of trials. It is through these trials that we must reveal Jesus to others. When revealing this to others then to us will be...

III. Revealed Joy

Joy to a Christian is not some feel good emotion. For that is what we often think and that is what the world tells us. True joy is a by-product of God's love to those who love Him and seek to do His will in their life. Verse 8 tells us that even though we have not seen Him we can rejoice with an inexpressible and glorious joy! A joy that cannot be put into words, the joy that we have in Christ! A joy that we have when God bring us through those trials. And the joy we have when we tell someone about Christ and they respond to the message. It is sharing Jesus with others that will give us a joy that cannot be described or explained until they experience it for themselves. It is fully trusting in Christ and allowing Him to bring you through a trial, or a traumatic time in your life. That is the joy! Those are the things that are inexpressible and glorious. Coming to the realization in our life of what Christ has truly done for us, for you and me. Coming to the full knowledge that He died for my salvation to save my soul from punishment. Romans 6:23 inform me that my eternal life is a free gift that has been given to me! Not without a price, but that price has been paid in full by the Son of God. Though we may face hardship, we may get knocked down. Bruised, kicked and rejected by the world, we can hold fast to what the Psalmist wrote *Ps 30:5 Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning. NAS*

Ps 100:1-3 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the LORD Himself is God;
NASU

Conclusion; Today unlike some mystery or movie that we have to wait until it's over to have the thrill revealed to us. In God's Word we have seen three very important things revealed. First, the true living hope has been revealed. Not some hope in something that we are not a sure of, but hope found in the One who gives life. The One who overcame death and promises to all who follow Him, the free gift of eternal life. It has been revealed to us of the trials that will come into our lives. Trials to help us grow in our faith and our witness for Christ. After the trials comes joy, true joy. Joy based not on emotions but as a by-product of God's great love. Joy of knowing that He is always with us. A joy that is only found in Christ!

Many years ago a young boy was given a priceless gift, his grandfather pocket watch. Oh, how he treasured it! One day as he was working in his father ice plant, he lost the watch. There mix in with all that ice and sawdust was his grandfather's watch. The boy suddenly realized that it was missing he began to panic. He started to push the blocks of ice around, moving the sawdust looking for the watch. No watch! What was he going to do? Then as he fell on the floor and begin to set there, he heard! Tick! Tick! Tick, from his grandfather's watch. God has given to us a priceless gift, His name is Jesus! He has revealed to us His hope. However in the midst of the trials we often lose track of Jesus. We go about things on our own, throwing ice and sawdust. When all we need to do is sit and listen for Him. During our busy life we often over look the most important thing in our life, yet if we would only stop, listen and find the joy that only He can give.

AMEN