

Weekend of 3/21-22 Time of Coronavirus – Covid-19

Aloha to All... Far and Near...

Interesting Times... But then again, Just about Every Generation has had them.

Wars, plagues, pestilence, Famines, = *You name it*

- Approximately 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War
- WWI The number of deaths were 20 million, (10 mil = Civ)
- Over 75 million people died in World War II (40 mil = Civ)
- Nearly 5 million people died in the Korean War (2.5 mil = Civ)
- Vietnam over 3 million (est 2 mil civ)

- I feel Safer from a Germ than a Bomb Falling

We've been Talking a lot about FEAR... and How Many are Struggling with it

Interestingly... One of the things that brings Most People... the Most Fear... Is CHANGE

“EVERYTHING IS CHANGING”

We have been Affirming our Hearts and Minds with God's Words and Promises

While being Reminded to be Compassionate towards OTHERS

I mentioned last week that “Faith IN God and His Word” IS the Antidote to FEAR

WHY? Because God's Word “RESULTS” in “HOPE”

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lam 3: 21 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. 22 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness. 24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." 25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

It seems like God in His Word is Constantly giving A Message of Correction and Comfort

Since the Day Jesus Came, (as we are seeing in Mark,)
Persecution has Never Ceased... it has come in So Many ways

Before the NT Cannon was even Finished, Believers were being Arrested and Brutally put to TEST and Put to DEATH

Let's take a look at what Peter Said to such Believers in the Midst of their Fears and very Viable Concerns

1 Pet 1:3-7

3 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, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 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;

Let's take a Closer Look at this great Nugget:

3 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,

I find it interesting that Peter's first words to them (after his intro) is "Blessed"

Remember WHO it is Reading this and under WHAT Conditions

Peter says "Blessed"... but notice WHO is "Blessed"???

➤ Be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ –

And WHY is He blessed? - has caused us to be born again

... according to His great mercy

It blesses God, it Stokes God, when we get Born Again! "Hello" !!!!

That's what this whole thing IS and Has Been All about :

*You - Me, Garden of Eden, Tree of Life, Kicked Out
...So we could be Brought Home!*

- He Loves You and Can't Stop!
- God Wants you to "Come Home" !

Now note: *WHAT do we come "Home" to?*

...to a Living Hope ...

Now to some Today, that may Sound Redundant - "Living Hope"

But Not so, there is a Difference Between "Human Hope" and "Living Hope"

- Human Hope, the Longer it goes on Without, the Weaker it gets...
- Living Hope, the Longer it goes, the Stronger it gets...

Just ask or look at some Seasoned Saint...

And how did they attain this steadfast "Hope"?

(3) ... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead



Jesus is Alive... Peter Knew that, Peter had Seen that

Peter had seen the Cross, the death, and Jesus alive eatn' fish with him

Peter had seen with his Own Eyes both "*the Dead*" & "*Resurrection*"

To the Point of his own Un-cowardly Death!

Dear one, what *Lights your Fire?* What *Stokes you* Beyond Yourself?

For Peter and the other Disciples it is found in verse 4

4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away,

An Inheritance is Something you Don't Earn..

But Also, something you Don't GET Right Away (obtain)

But IT'S Yours Right Away!

If I Knew I had a 50 million dollar Inheritance,

I think my Spending Habits would be Different...

Well: ...which is imperishable and undefiled and will *not fade away*,
“reserved” in heaven for you,

I like Having Reservations... I like Even More Knowing I have
Reservations in Heaven!

How about You? Is Your Name ON the List?

Rev 20: 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, *5 who are protected by the power of God through faith

Talk about a “Backer” - how many of you remember “My Bodyguard”

Well this pretty much summed up my Elementary and Jr. High

But you and I are *protected by the power of God through faith*...

And WHAT IS being “Protected”? US... From Every Storm, Trial and Discomfort?

... a salvation *ready to be revealed* in the last time.

NO... our Salvation!

THAT is what is Protected, by the Most Capable Hands Around

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, (perisimos) = Storms

Let me Remind all What Kinds of “TRIALS” they were facing:

Pliny the Younger to the Emperor Trajan:

“Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished.

Those who denied that they were or had been Christians, when they invoked the gods in words dictated by me, offered prayer with incense and wine to your image, which I had ordered to be brought for this purpose together with statues of the gods, and moreover cursed Christ--none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do-

Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition.

6 *In this you greatly rejoice*, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been *distressed by various trials*, 7 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;

V - B/P = C Another way of saying that is Results...

7 that the proof of your faith = result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Do you have a “Living HOPE” ?

Dartmouth Medical School in 2013

33 Neuro-scientist to address rising rates of mental illness, behavioral problems, and emotional distress among U.S. children and teens.

- 1) Humans are wired for relationship
- 2) Nurture shapes the brain
- 3) Nurture neutralizes genetics
- 4) Adolescence needs nurture

5) Humans seek moral & spiritual meaning, relationships are essential to develop this.

6) Spiritual connection to transcendent improves physical and emotional health.

*Do you know that "Because He Lives YOU CAN face Tomorrow" ?
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*

And thus, no matter what, YOU TOO Can Greatly Rejoice,

Our World is Leaving many to Ask, "WHAT IS GOING ON" ???

Eph 1: 15 (Paul said, I) 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; 17 THAT the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

THESE are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places

In Christianity, it's in Submission that we get Stronger! Phil 4:13 Gal 2:20

Life Group Questions

1. Do you have a Living Hope? What does that look like in your life and how is it helping you in these times?

2. When you are faced with changes, what things help you face them?

3. The text said today that God is "Blessed" when we became Born Again, how does that impact you?

4. What does it mean to you that you have "Reservations" in Heaven, an inheritance and they are protected by God? How does that impact your daily life and decisions? If it has not what can change?

5. What would be the results of your Faith today?