

**Dual Citizens: 1 Peter 1:3-9**  
**11/4/2018**

Last week we started a new series studying the book of 1 Peter, if you missed that message go online and listen to it or watch it...important introduction to this book. We made it exactly 2 verses through 1 Peter chapter 1...and you may be thinking at that pace we will finish by the end of 2020. Elect, exiles- Dual Citizenship who live fully in their humanity and yet, live as strangers of another world, our heavenly home. This is our identity.

**1 Peter 1:3-9**

<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,

<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. <sup>6</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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Top 5 Foods that shouldn't work together but somehow do:**

- 5) Deep Fried Pickles
- 4) Chocolate Covered Bacon
- 3) Pumpkin Spice Yogurt
- 2) Peanut butter and Pickle Sandwich
- 1) Wendy's Fries and in a Frosty

Peter is going to show us that as Dual Citizens of Earth and Heaven there are two experiences in the Christian life that we think shouldn't go together but they do- Joy and Suffering. We get this from v. 6 *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.*

Peter says we have more than enough reason for rejoicing as Christians in this life...right now. We should experience a deep, unshakeable joy that can bubble up and burst out in song like a Broadway show... AND, right now, there is great reason for deep, grieving. Peter is NOT saying, there WAS grief but NOW, since you are Christians, you only rejoice. No, he is saying simultaneously you can be experiencing immense grief and immense joy. This is one of the

unique experiences of our Dual Citizenship. I want to show you Peter's train of thought as these two realities cohabit in our lives.

- 1) Why we Rejoice (v.3-6a)
- 2) Why we Grieve (v.6b)
- 3) Why we Rejoice while we Grieve (v.7-12)

### Why we Rejoice

#### 1 Peter 1:3-6a

<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, <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. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice,

Peter starts out with what theologians call a Doxological Eulogy...Aren't you glad you know that now? What is that? Giving God the praise he deserves. He just bursts out in rejoicing in God. The reason for his rejoicing is in v.3-6. (Point it out)...See this is not a lecture on regeneration... Read your Bible as a worshipper. Be that kind of vertical person. People will think you are weird if you burst into a hallelujah chorus in your cubicle while you are reading your Bible at lunch break. But we need more weird people!

**New Birth.** We were "born again"- Some people think of Born Again Christians as a type of Christian. This is how salvation actually happens. We are begotten of God, our Father through Christ. It is the implantation of new life in our soul, without this no one sees God.

What caused our new birth? v.3 **In his great mercy**- Nothing we did to earn it. Nothing we did to get it. It is God in his mercy who comes to a dead person and makes them alive spiritually. If someone asked how you were born- you wouldn't tell them about all the work you did. I got myself in just the right position, I made sure I breathed my first breath nice and strong. Your mother should slap you if you said that! When you talk about birth you talk about your momma's work! It's no different with our spiritual birth. We should talk about the work of our spiritual parent! God- the Father, son and Holy Spirit.

Our Heavenly citizenship, our new birth as Peter puts it is to a **living hope**. What makes our hope living? Well because it's not dead. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This makes Christianity utterly unique among philosophies and religion. None have an intellectually grounded, rational, physical hope like Christianity. It is living because we believe that Jesus actually physically rose from the dead and we are going to end up like him.

And so this future, living hope that we are and will be Citizens of heaven and inherit all the glories of heaven as citizens is reason for great rejoicing. **Do you rejoice?** When we see these songs, do you rejoice? It is good to experience emotion. You can shout, you can lift your hands.

However you want to express your praise to God. But not just here. **Do you have a sustained joy that marks your life?** This is yours as a Citizen of Heaven!

## 2) And Yet, We Grieve. **Why We Grieve**

**<sup>6</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.**

In a broken world we suffer grief...this isn't news to anyone right? But here Peter talks specifically about grief that Christians will have to experience. What this phrase **"suffer grief" means is to be deeply troubled**... Originally used to describe the sea during storms. When this happens the sea churns, waves crash, the muck on the bottom gets churned...Those of you who have been in deep grief say yeah that's an accurate description of my life right now.

But some of us have never understood this because we grew up in church not dealing with this kind of grief. Remember the hymn- Alas Did My Savior Bleed?

*At the cross, at the cross where  
I first saw the light,  
And the burden of my heart rolled away,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
And now I am happy all the day!*

And I used to look out at the people singing and they didn't look happy all the day...sometimes I wondered if they were happy any of the day. I think people felt guilty because they were bearing all kinds of burdens and grief and that song didn't describe their reality. Maybe something was wrong with them, they thought. There was a message in the church world that said once you become a Christian you may experience troubles but you don't really feel it, you praise God and you are detached from it or are above it, you claim the victory and throw on a plastic smile. Maybe you feel like you need to do that before you come into church. This kind of false idea misses this passage, it misses the reality of the Christian life. You don't just face trials and suffering, you FEEL them immensely and deeply. You are troubled like a stormy sea. Remember Job when he got news that his family and property were killed and destroyed? Bible says he ripped his garments, shaved his head, fell to the ground and screamed...and yet didn't sin. I wonder if someone did this in the middle of the lobby what people would say...well he didn't take hold of the victory. There are seasons of life as Peter says, "Now for a little while" where we grieve deeply. Some of you are in that season now. Have you believed a false understanding of spirituality? Have you freed yourself to experience grief. It's Biblical.

## 3) **Why we Rejoice while we Grieve**

2 Reasons:

**#1 Because there is purpose in suffering**

1 Peter 1:7

***These [sufferings] 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.***

Peter is saying that God co-opts the suffering in this broken world. God is not the cause of evil, he does not wish evil upon you or hope you experience horrible things. But his sovereign hand is in suffering. He turns a furnace that the enemy designs to burn us to a crisp into a furnace that refines us into pure gold. When gold is melted under intense heat the impurities float to the top and can be removed. When the refining fire is over, the gold is even more valuable. So it is with your faith in God. You have faith. You trust his promises. But there are impurities in it. There are elements of selfishness, anger, pride... There are tendencies to trust money and position and popularity alongside God. There are tendencies to value a relationship or sexual fulfillment or entertainment more than God...dirt mingled with the gold of faith. The heat of the refining fire will either burn you up or remove those impurities so you are utterly dependent on him and not on things and other persons for our joy. God is in it. **John Newton- Everything is necessary that he sends, nothing can be necessary that he withholds.** That is the implication of this teaching. If it is in your life you need it, if it's not in your life you don't need it.

**#2 Because we know how it all ends.**

1 Peter 1:8-9

***<sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.***

The living hope that we are birthed into is a sure conviction of the triumph of God in the end.  
Ex: Eagles Game- Watching a game on DVR after you know how it would end...the final triumph.

Last Saturday, I watched the family of TJ McGrath simultaneously grieve deeply and appropriately rejoice. Wailing over the death of their brother, their son, a life taken suddenly and too soon. And then raise their arms in praise and worship to God for his goodness and greatness. The world doesn't understand this. I saw some of the faces of those at the funeral not knowing how to process that. Grief death and Rejoicing in God because we know he gets the final triumph, not death, not suffering, not injustice or disease or depression or any other trial we may be facing right now. This is the reality of our Dual Citizenship- we grieve and yet we rejoice.

Transition to Communion

In the Christian life grieving and rejoicing, suffering and glory are always bound up together. Because our forerunner and pioneer, Jesus had it this way.

**Hebrews 12:2**

***Fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***