

Hope ... in a Time of Despair

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- **1 Peter 1:3-9** (ESV)

Hope ... or despair ...

Ultimately to be without _____ is to be without _____.

¹² ... remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God** in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- **Ephesians 2:12-13** (ESV)

To have Christ is to have cause to _____, and _____ is the remedy for _____!

Praise God for His _____ - the only reason He saved me

Praise God for His _____ - He is the cause of my salvation

Praise God for His _____ - demonstrated in Resurrection

Praise God for His _____ - my everlasting inheritance

Praise God for the _____ of all - It is He who guards it!

The **living hope*** of God's children:

What is a "**living hope**"?

How does this (v. 6) change how I live *right now*?

I can choose _____ even in sorrow and struggle.

I can endure _____ because I know it has _____.

I can _____ without _____ because He gives me _____ .

I can _____ in Christ, confident of what is to come.