

A lion is shown in profile, roaring with its mouth wide open, revealing its teeth and tongue. The lion's mane is thick and golden-brown. The background is a vast savanna landscape under a dramatic, golden sunset sky with soft clouds. The overall tone is warm and powerful.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH  
COLUMBUS, OH

Bible Study Series

# **COURAGEOUS CHRISTIANITY**

## **A Study of I Peter Chapter 1**

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# Focus Verse

I Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Question

How do we maintain our  
Christianity in hostile  
circumstances?

# Introduction and Greeting

## **I Peter:1-2**

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

- The Authorship
  - Peter, An Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ
- The Audience
  - Pilgrims of Dispersion; strangers, exiles, resident aliens
  - Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia
  - Elect: the chosen
    - According to what we know of God the Father
    - Sanctify work of the Holy Spirit
    - For obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ
- Greetings
  - Grace and peace be multiplied

# Who We Are and What We Have

I Peter 1:3-12

<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.

<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

# We Are Born Again to A Living Hope

- Because of God's Mercy
- Because of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead
- Because of the inheritance
  - Incorruptible, undefiled and that does not fade away
  - Reserved in Heaven
- Because of being safely kept
  - By the power of God through faith
  - For salvation that is to be revealed

# Producing Joy In Suffering

- Great Joy regardless of the various trials
- Faith that is tested by fire
- Joy expressed full of glory
  - For loving Him whom you have not seen
  - For believing in Him whom you have not seen
- Receiving the end reward...salvation of the souls

# Served By the Prophets and Apostles

- The salvation and benefits of Christ that the original audience were receiving were foretold by the Old Testament prophets
- The time and the manner of the benefits and how they were delivered were previously a mystery, notwithstanding the interest of the prophets to understand those questions.
- Likewise, the angels were previously unaware of these points.

# What we are to Do

I Peter 1:13-25

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”<sup>[</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For,

“All people are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
<sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord endures forever.”<sup>[</sup>

And this is the word that was preached to you.

# Maintain our Conduct

- Gird your loins...Be on alert
- Be Sober
- Trust the Grace in Jesus Christ
- Be Obedient
- Don't function in ignorance
- Be Holy: be set apart in your life style

- During your stay conduct yourself in fear: reverence
  - Call on the Father
  - Knowing that you are redeemed

## Remain Steadfast in Purity and Love

- Since you have purified your souls
  - Obey the truth through the Spirit
- Having been born again, not of corruptible see but incorruptible

# Conclusion

- How do we maintain our Christianity in hostile circumstances?
  - Remember Who You Are and Whose You Are
  - Remember Your Actions Speak Louder Than Your Words
  - Remember to Remain Steadfast and Display Love