**Praising God for a living hope. 1 Peter 1v1-9 – Bible Study St. Margaret’s April 2023**

**Introduction**

We have before us a passage that is full of praise and rejoicing focusing on a living hope. This is what we will be looking at in this study. This letter was written by the apostle Peter probably in the 60s AD. It is an astonishing epistle that shows many echoes of Paul, not least the book of Ephesians. It is written to Christians throughout the Mediterranean area.

**Warm up**

1. As we look at the world around us where do people tend to find hope? (I’m thinking mainly of those outside the church)
2. What is life like without hope?
3. What is the connection between faith and hope?

**Verses 1 and 2**

1. Where do we see the Trinity involved in verse 2?
2. How is each person of the Trinity involved?
3. How would this affect our whole approach to 1 Peter?

**Verses 3 – 5**

1. This passage is so rich and dense it poses a question of how to get into it. So it may be helpful to explain the weight and meaning of each or some of the words/phrases below in their context:
	1. Praise
	2. Great mercy
	3. New Birth
	4. Living hope
	5. An inheritance
	6. Kept in Heaven
	7. Through faith
	8. Shielded
	9. The coming of the salvation
	10. Revealed at the last time
2. So having looked at some of the key words above and now looking more at the bigger picture what would you say is the primary focus and meaning of verses 3 – 5?
3. How do the truths in this passage impact our lives? Are they relevant?

**Verses 6 – 9**

1. Verse 6 speaks of all kinds of grief and trials. If God is control why do these things happen?
2. What would you say to someone whose faith has suffered on account of much grief.?
3. Verse 7 speaks of the testing of one’s faith and the genuineness of faith. What is the link between a genuine faith and trials of many kinds?
4. Peter saw Jesus in the flesh. We haven’t. What is the point he is trying to make in verse 8?
5. This passage speaks using words like ‘praise’ and ‘inexpressible joy’. What is the link between an inheritance kept in heaven and the praise and joy that is mentioned here?

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