

# **The St. Peter Option: To Everyone an Answer**

## **Living as Exiles in a Foreign Land**

1 Peter, 2 Peter, Christian Vocation, and the Table of Duties

### **1. Christian Joy and Hope Under Persecution and Suffering**

1 Peter 1:3-9 The Baptismal Doxology

#### **A. What are the challenges and threats to Christians today?**

- i. Contemporary challenges: The Paganism of radical environmentalism; WOKE culture; social Marxism; cancel culture; progressivism; the effect of Darwinism upon societal beliefs and man's self-appraisal; transgenderism; LGBTQ; godlessness; atheism; and the loss of absolute truth. The common denominator in these challenges to Christianity is that Christianity and the God of the Bible must be destroyed. Christianity is an impediment to the advancement of mankind.
- ii. Underlying spiritual problems are as old as the fall into sin: the thorough corruption of our nature; man's desire to control and dominate; the rejection of what God has ordered as good in favor of the disorder, self-centeredness, and lovelessness that flows from a rejection of God as Creator and Redeemer.

#### **B. Peter's Joy:**

##### **The Living Hope of Salvation through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

- i. Blessing God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ under the cross of persecution and suffering (external persecution on account of one's faith in Christ and internal suffering on account of the problem of original sin.)
- ii. Who was Simon Peter? Uneducated fisherman, called to be a disciple of Jesus and an Apostle of Christ.
  - a. Peter was a disciple of Jesus (the person and work of His Savior was what he became an "expert" in)
  - b. Peter saw Christology and the redemptive work of Christ as permeating all of theology and the self-understanding of every humble Christian in his or her respective station in life.
  - c. Peter sees the entire life of the Christian as one of joyful confessing under the cross of persecution and suffering.
  - d. Peter believed that God furthered the cause of the Gospel and the kingdom of God on earth through the suffering and persecution of the Church, just as He accomplished the salvation of the world through the suffering and death of Christ.
  - e. Peter's life and ministry was one of joy and singing in the optimistic hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

#### **Suggestions for Prayer—**

**Psalm 34** "The Joy of Those Who Trust in the Lord"

**Hymn 756** "Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me"

## Baptismal Doxology

*For the Church Living as Exiles in a Foreign Land*

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again  
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
<sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away,  
reserved in heaven for you,  
<sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith  
for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.  
<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice,  
though now for a little while, if need be,  
you have been <sup>g</sup>grieved by various trials,  
<sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith,  
*being* much more precious than gold that perishes,  
though it is tested by fire,  
may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,  
<sup>8</sup> whom having not <sup>g</sup>seen you love.  
Though now you do not see *Him*,  
yet believing,  
you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,  
<sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.