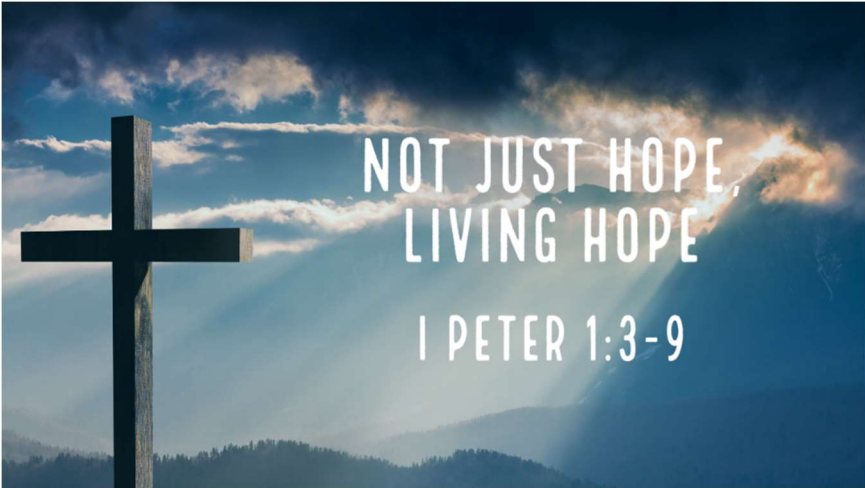




I Peter 1:3-9 New Revised Standard Version

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Notes _____



“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” –Desmond Tutu

We are one week removed from experiencing the empty tomb which once held the body of our Lord and Savior. Unfortunately, much of the celebration was short-lived. By Monday morning, Easter candy and decor were 50% off and space was being made for summer fun and festivities. In recent days, we have learned of acts of violence in various parts of our nation which, in addition to personal struggles, have overshadowed the good news of Easter morning. This week’s Epistle Lesson considers the benefits of the Resurrection and communicates a hope which includes ongoing benefits. It shares of an inheritance that surpasses land, money, heirlooms, etc. and supplies our lives with that which cannot perish or be taken away from us. Peter’s words encourage us to hold on to hope even when we do not see, feel, or understand. This is one of the joys of Jesus’ overcoming the grave.

- 1. New birth brings about a glorious inheritance.**
- 2. This assurance is not without its challenges.**
- 3. Although challenged, it is a guarantee.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, sometimes life just doesn’t make sense. It is painful, unfair, and fear-filled. Some days, I can’t see beyond the fog which clouds my vision. In spite of such uncertainty, help me to lean upon the hope that comes through your Son’s Resurrection. May that sustain me in a manner which has ongoing effects. Amen.