



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS – April 12, 2026

Sermon Series	1 Peter: Living It Out
Sermon Title	Not Home Yet
Scripture	1 Peter 1:1-21
Preacher:	Mike Kenyon

Theme/Concept: Peter opens with an amazing list: foreknowledge of God; sanctifying work of the Spirit, obedience, new birth into a living hope, inheritance, shielded by God’s power, trials reveal a genuine faith in a savior you cannot see. Have minds alert and sober, set hope on grace, do not conform to evil desires from ignorance (You know better!). Be holy as I am holy. (What is holiness?) God judges impartially. Live as strangers in reverent fear, this world is not your ultimate home. You were bought at a price.

Icebreaker: Share a time when you had a deep longing or desire for something that you thought you wanted or needed, only later to find what you already had was way better?

Reflections on the Sermon and Application: What will you remember from Mike’s sermon? What points made an impact, or challenged or encouraged you?

Scripture Passages: 1 Peter 1:1-21 NIV

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God’s elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² 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.

Praise to God for a Living Hope

³ 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, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ 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. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.

Be Holy

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."^[a]

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Reviewing the Scripture:

1- In Verses 1-2, describe who might be reading Peter's letter? Who do you think is his target audience? What challenges might they be facing?

2- In verses 3-12, Peter starts a list of the benefits believers have:

Vs 3 - What are the two things He's given us through the resurrection?

Vs 4 – What are the two benefits from His resurrection? How secure is it?

Vs 5 – What's the basis of the shield He affords us and how long is it good for?

Vs 6-7 – What's the advantage to suffering? How long? Results prove?

Vs 8-9 – Though not being able to see Him, what are the Now and Later results of your Belief in Him?

Vs 10-12 – This whole salvation plan was foretold by the prophets. Who benefits?

3- Now Peter Lists the things we should be doing because of these benefits:

Vs 13: What should be our perspective? What should we be doing?

Vs 14: What's our perspective? What should we be doing?

Vs 15-16: What's our perspective and action here? What does it mean to be holy?

Vs 17: What's to be our perspective and action here?

Vs 18-19: What should we know and remember about our redemption?

Vs 20-21: When was this salvation plan put into place? Into effect? Whose idea was it?
Who's the power and authority behind it all?

Going Deeper:

- 1. In verses 1-12, Peter gives us quite a detailed list of advantages we believers have through our faith in Christ Jesus. Which of these advantages are new or perhaps unfamiliar to you? Which are you most grateful for?**
- 2. Does it surprise you that Peter drops suffering into the list of benefits to the chosen? How might suffering work to our advantage?**
- 3. Then in verses 13-21, he tells us how we ought to see ourselves and in so viewing, what we should be doing with that new perspective. What are the new challenges for you from this new perspective?**
- 4. "Be holy, because I am holy." Is quite a tall order. How should your understanding of "be holy" work out in daily living?**

Personal Reflection Questions:

1. There seems to be three stages to the suffering and grief that comes our way – we are currently the midst of a challenge, or one has just passed, or the next is just around the corner. What are you facing that threatens to challenge you, but may instead be for your benefit?
2. Peter talks about Jesus’ resurrection giving us a “new birth” and “a living hope”. How should that statement be foundational for us? For you?
3. Peter would say to us that Jesus’ resurrection changes everything – absolutely everything in our lives. What would you say still needs changing in your life?

Application:

This week, let moments of need be washed by the realization of how secure we are because of Christ’s resurrection. Let the “new birth” and “the living hope” be the secure anchor Peter means for us.

Closing prayer:

Our Dear Heavenly Father, we need an anchor – a “new birth”, a “living hope” and we probably need to be reminded of that hope being entirely, and eternally found only in You. Our world seems in such a mess on every level we can see. Yet You are eternal and so are Your promises. Thank you that our salvation was totally Your idea – from the very foundation of our world onward. Help us to live here like foreigners, because our real home is with You.
Amen.

Service Opportunities:

- As the new year begins, consider partnering with our youth or children's departments on a regular basis. Contact staff members Diane Grams in the church office.