

Bible Study for April 10-16, 2023

Read: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Notes:

Because 1 Peter is used as the epistle lesson throughout this year's Easter season, it is important to know something about the background of this book, especially when the church and the world are going through unusual times. It is believed that the book was written for believers in what is now modern-day Turkey at a time when the persecution of Christians was on the rise. In July of A.D. 64 the city of Rome caught fire, burning out of control for 3 days and 3 nights, demolishing much of the city. Because it was initially believed by many that Emperor Nero was somehow responsible (he did have a passion for building and rebuilding), he turned the blame to a new struggling group of people, the Christians, and outlawed the practice of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. Believers therefore needed words of encouragement and hope in difficult times, so Peter often reaches back to the past in order to confront the realities of the present with words of hope and promise.

Questions to Ponder:

How spread apart is your extended family? How often does everyone get together?

What circumstances do you think might have caused Peter to write these verses?

What basis does Peter give the reader for a "living hope"?

Imagine your faith journey as a mountain climb. At what point are you now?

- a) Hanging off a cliff?
- b) An easy trail with great views?
- c) Steep, but you feel pretty sure you can handle it?

Under what fiery conditions has your faith become more genuine by being melted down to the essentials?