1 Peter – 1:4-1:12 May 27, 2025

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1 Peter: A Commentary on 1 Peter - Paul J Achtemeier (Fortress Press – 1996)

Lutheran Study Bible

# 1 Peter 1:(3) 4-9 – Born to a Living Hope

* Begotten into an inheritance for you all!
	+ An inheritance looks to the future.[[1]](#footnote-1)
	+ And this is one that is unlike anything our world has to offer!
		- Luther ponders why we are tempted with the things of this world that continue to pass away, when such great gifts and blessings await us.
			* A human being is ugly as soon as he becomes old. But this inheritance does not change; it remains fresh and green forever. On earth no pleasure is so great that it does not become unpleasant as time goes on. We see that one becomes weary of everything[[2]](#footnote-2)
		- Romans 8:17
		- 2 Timothy 4:8
	+ Achtemeier compares this to the emphasis many Jews had at the time for the hope of a worldly reign.[[3]](#footnote-3)
	+ With the plural of “you” we are led to recognize as Luther pointed out above, that this inheritance is for the benefit of the Christian community compared to that of individual rewards.
* Guarded by God’s power through faith for salvation.
	+ The image is that of a position guarded by a military sentinel as evidence of the military force He represents.[[4]](#footnote-4)
	+ We are being guarded by God’s power and not something we create or choose to utilize.
		- Ephesians 1:17-19
		- (This faith) is such a tender and precious thing that it gives us a true and clear understanding of everything that pertains to salvation, so that we are able to judge everything on earth and say: “This doctrine is right. That one is false. This life is right. That one is not. This work is good and well done. That one is evil.”[[5]](#footnote-5)
	+ The importance of the gift of faith.
		- “…we are unable to perform even the slightest works without the Spirit of God. How, then, could we by our own strength perform the greatest work, namely, to believe?[[6]](#footnote-6)”
* Set up in opposition of the world. (v.6)
	+ Due to the Christian focus on what is to come, your main focus is not going to be on earthly things…
		- How will those who focus on worldly things regard you?
	+ If you are a Christian and look forward to the inheritance or salvation, you must cling only to this goal, despise everything on earth, and acknowledge that all worldly reason, wisdom, and holiness are nothing. The world will not be able to tolerate this. Therefore you must be prepared to be condemned and persecuted. In this way St. Peter sums up faith, hope, and the holy cross; for one follows from the other.[[7]](#footnote-7)
		- Luther goes on to question if the Christian is to create trials of their own to prove their faith?
			* How do you think he answered this??
	+ The Lord alone brings us into trials for His purpose:
		- God afflicts us in this way in order that our faith may be proved and made manifest before the world, with the result that others are attracted to the faith and we are praised and extolled[[8]](#footnote-8)
* No one likes to be burned. (v.7-9)
	+ God has imposed the cross on all Christians to cleanse and to purge them well, in order that faith may remain pure, just as the Word is, so that one adheres to the Word alone and relies on nothing else. For we really need such purging and affliction every day because of the coarse old Adam.[[9]](#footnote-9)
		- Malachi 3:3
		- A process of Christian growth.
	+ Where is one’s focus to be in such trials?
		- Christ Jesus, who suffered for our behalf.
			* We too may suffer in order that others may come to know Christ.
	+ Suffering with joy?!?
		- Not of human origin.
		- One that is given in the light of eternity.[[10]](#footnote-10)
	+ Did the apostles suffer and die for a lie?
		- But what about you?
			* Have you, unlike Peter, actually *seen* Jesus?
				+ John 20:29
	+ A Christian goal?
		- Goal #1 – Salvation
			* Who has accomplished this for you?
		- Goal #2 – Sanctification
			* Romans 6:22
			* It is characteristic of a Christian life to improve constantly and to become purer.[[11]](#footnote-11)
			* Because we have been saved, we get to love and rejoice![[12]](#footnote-12)
			* “The sense is that Christians now obtain by faith what they will only fully enter into at the end; the power of the new age is already at work and allows Christians in their present plight nevertheless to experience something of the eschatological joy awaiting them.”[[13]](#footnote-13)

# 1 Peter 1:10-12 – This gift is nothing new

* The importance of the OT.
	+ We must go back to the Old Testament and learn to prove the New Testament from the Old. There we shall see the promise concerning Christ, as Christ Himself declares in John 5:39: “You search the Scriptures … and it is they that bear witness to Me[[14]](#footnote-14)
		- Matthew 13:17
	+ the former pointed to Christ, while the New Testament now gives us what was promised and prefigured in the Old Testament.[[15]](#footnote-15)
		- Romans 16:25-26
		- Matthew 11:5
			* Isaiah 35:5-6
		- Psalm 119:2
			* These people of God were blessed with a desire to literally look to the Scriptures for the promised Messiah.
	+ Revealed to them through the Holy Spirit
		- “The Spirit is and remains Christ’s and the Father’s own Spirit to all eternity, not separated from God’s Son… the entire fulness of the Spirit has been communicated by the personal union to Christ according to the flesh, which is personally united with God’s Son.”[[16]](#footnote-16)
		- The Law and prophets point to Jesus.
* Is it all about you?
	+ We desperately need to be saved in and by Christ alone…
		- But is that great salvation to stay only with you?
	+ The OT prophets were given by the same Spirit the hope of Who and what was to come.
		- Hebrews 11:13
		- A hope to be shared and proclaimed.
			* Matthew 13:17
* “Things which angels long to look.”
	+ “The greatest, holiest mystery of all time – the incarnation and work of Christ – was revealed among humans. Though we may neglect this great treasure, all heaven worships the God of our salvation.”[[17]](#footnote-17)
	+ “What seems to be implied is that this angelic desire points to the greatness of what Christians now hear announced to them, and further underlines one of the author’s main purposes for writing the letter: the readers live in a time firmly under God’s control when history is about to reach its climax. They therefore have reason rather to rejoice than to despair.”[[18]](#footnote-18)
	+ Through the Holy Spirit, who descended on them from heaven, the apostles proclaimed to us great things of the kind the angels like to see.[[19]](#footnote-19)
		- What does this all mean?
			* The amazing gift of faith.
				+ Angels are witnesses of the Triune Lord God and all His works!

They do not need faith.

We do!

* + - * + Because we do not see or experience, faith and Christian hope is all we have!

And it is God’s gift to us!

* + - * + We long for what we do not see…

They long for the gift we have.

* + - St. Peter orders us to close our eyes and see what the Gospel is. This will give us joy and delight. As yet we cannot see this with our physical eyes; but we must believe that we partake of and share in the righteousness, truth, blessedness, and all the good things God has. For since He gave us Christ, His only Son, the highest Good, He, through Him, also gives us all His good things, riches, and treasures, from which the angels in heaven derive all pleasure and joy. All this is offered to us in the Gospel; and if we believe, we necessarily take such joy in it. But while we are living on earth, our joy cannot be perfect like that of the angels. Through faith we are now beginning to feel some of it. In heaven, however, it is so great that no human heart can grasp it. But when we get there, we, too, shall feel it.[[20]](#footnote-20)
1. Achtemeier, 95. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.9&off=9537&ctx=t+lacks+permanency.+~A+human+being+is+ugl), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Achetemeier, 96. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Achtemeier, 96. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.9&off=13204&ctx=which+we+are+filled%E2%80%94~is+such+a+tender+and), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 15. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.9&off=11089&ctx=s+of+Scripture+that+~we+are+unable+to+per), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.9&off=14666&ctx=fer+various+trials.%0a~If+you+are+a+Christi), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 16. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.9&off=17002&ctx=and+the+true+faith.+~God+afflicts+us+in+t), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 17. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.9&off=17637&ctx=oy+is+removed.+Thus+~God+has+imposed+the+), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 17. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Achtemeier, 104. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.9&off=17929&ctx=he+coarse+old+Adam.%0a~It+is+characteristic), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 17. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Achtemeier, 104. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Achtemeier, 104. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.12&off=1149&ctx=+do+the+same+thing.+~We+must+go+back+to+t), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 18–19. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.12&off=3306&ctx=ated%2c+is+this%2c+that+~the+former+pointed+t), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 19. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration VIII 73, as quoted in the Lutheran Study Bible, 2149. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. LSB, 2150. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Achtemeier, 112. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.12&off=11122), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 24. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.12&off=14285&ctx=angels+like+to+see.+~St.+Peter+orders+us+), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 24–25. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)