

FINDING HOPE IN HARD TIMES – P.2

1 Peter 1:3-12

Our purpose and God's purpose for us is building disciples who finish this race. We're in this for the long haul. We can all picture the faces of those who are no longer running this race as followers of Jesus, some of whom used to sit where you're sitting today. For some, the going got tough so they got out.

Scripture is clear... To finish well, we must be prepared to suffer well. How do we learn to "suffer well?" Welcome to 1 Peter....

GOD GAVE US A WHOLE NEW LIFE!

GOD GAVE US A WHOLE NEW INHERITANCE!

2 dimensions...

We are His inheritance!

Jesus gives us an inheritance! In other words, the choices I make today will matter throughout eternity. There will be an awards ceremony to beat all! If this is true, where should I invest?

- § *Work hard and honor my employer as if I were working for Christ (Colossians 3:22-24; Ephesians 6:7-8).*
- § *Serve the poor, needy, and oppressed in His name (Luke 14:12-14; Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews. 10:32-36).*
- § *Stand firm in spite of suffering (Luke 6:22-23; Revelation 20.4)*
- § *See first His Kingdom (Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 3.8; 1 Timothy 6:18-19; James 1:12)*
- § *Treat Hard To Love People With Grace And Kindness (Luke 6:35ff)*

GOD IS COMMITTED TO OUR MATURITY!