

scattered

LIVING AS A COMMUNITY OF HOPE AT A TIME OF DISPERSAL

HOLY TRINITY
JESMOND



11.00am **Sundays** in May **2020**

SMALL GROUP NOTES: Sunday 24th May – Week 4 ‘letter to the scattered’

Read together 1 Peter 1.1-12

Four Blessings

Note the blessings God has given His people in 1:3-5. To the best of your understanding **what do each of these four blessings mean** (in your own words):

- We have been given a **new birth** (1:3)
- We have a **living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead** (1:3)
- We have an **inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade.** (1:4)
- Through faith we are **shielded by God’s power until the coming salvation is revealed.** (1:5)

Impossible Joy?

Though believers have great blessing in Christ, they also will experience great difficulty in this life. In 1:6-9, Peter encourages us that we can **greatly rejoice** in our trials (1:6) and be filled with an **inexpressible and glorious joy** in our struggle (1:8). This kind of joy is available even to those of us who have never seen Jesus face to face and who live life today without Him physically by our side. In 1 Peter 1:3-9, Peter gives some indication how this kind of joy is possible for believers in Jesus Christ.

Based on what you see in these verses, how is this joy possible?

What is the connection between knowing the blessings of 1:3-5 and having joy in trials in 1:6-9?

What trials are you going through in life now or have gone through in your past? To what extent does this passage encourage you to experience joy in your struggle?

In our Generation

Even though people today do not have the advantage of seeing Jesus face to face (as Peter did during the earthly life of Jesus), they do have a huge blessing that the prophets of the Old Testament (who lived before the time of Peter) did not have.

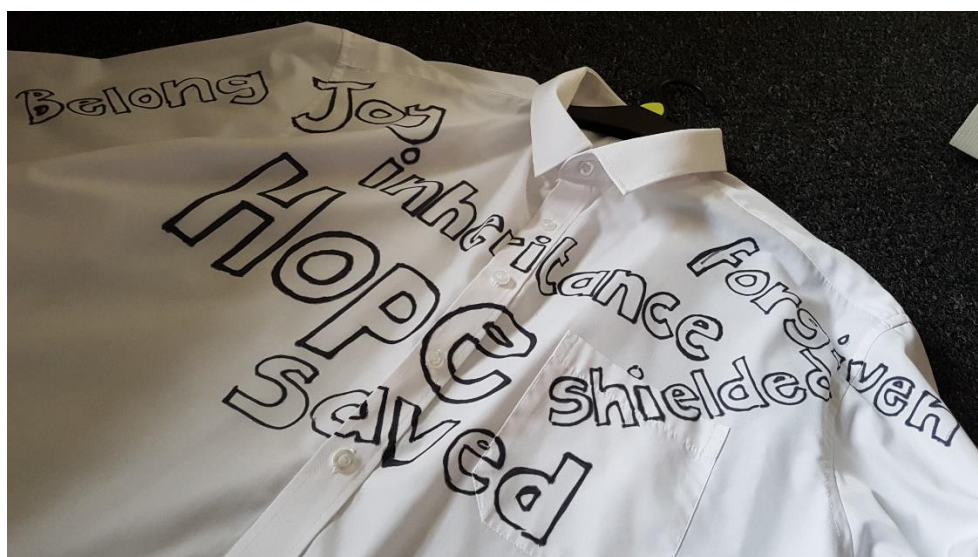
According to 1 Peter 1:10-12, in what way are we more blessed today than the prophets of the Old Testament?

In a larger sense (and beyond the scope of this passage), believers in every generation have experienced different advantages/disadvantages to their place in God's timetable. For instance, the Israelites during Moses time got to see the power of God pour out in the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. The disciples got to see Jesus feed the 5,000 and calm the raging sea. Eventually one day, those living at the time of the return of Christ to the earth will get to see Jesus return from the perspective of those on the earth, a sight Christians have longed to see since the ascension of Christ in Acts 1.

Take a moment and think about all the blessings we have because we get to live today . . . at this point in God's timetable.

Powerful Words?

What do you think was the significance of Tim writing the key words from this passage onto his shirt as part of his sermon on Sunday?



What difference do the 'words spoken over us' from Tim's sermon (and taken from 1 Peter 1) make?

'Holy Trinity in this scattered and bewildered time, Jesus is our **Living Hope**. You have a rich **inheritance** that is **shielded** and certain, so be full of **joy** because you are **forgiven**, you **belong**, you are **saved**.'

Pray for one another as you finish.