

# N. Wilm. Bockrath Fellowship Group

April 26, 2002

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## 1 Peter 1:3-12 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

<sup>10</sup>Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup>trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup>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.

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### Questions for Discussion:

1. If you were faced with trials and tribulations, what would you do to endure or even prepare (if possible) for them? [Prior to reading or studying these verses]
2. Peter begins here by praising God before focusing on tribulation. For what does Peter praise God? [v. 3]
3. What three things does Peter highlight for Christians to look forward to and how might each one add to our hope and joy? Does Peter oversimplify the situation of those who suffer w/ a confusing paradox? [vv. 3b-5]
4. What points of emphasis does Peter make regarding trials and sufferings? How do the trials we face compare to our hope? [vv. 6-9]
5. Faith is repeated in these verses four times. What are some key points Peter makes about faith? Which aspects do you most easily relate to? Least easily? [vv. 5-9]
6. According to Peter, the prophets saw the New Covenant that was to come our way. What comforting and encouraging points does Peter make for us in this section? [vv. 10-12]