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Community of Hope

1 Peter 1.3-9

Series: The DNA of TVC

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The Village Church

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I. The Hope Story

- A. A Community of Hope in Ukraine
- B. TVC – A Community of Hope
 - 1. Series – **The DNA of TVC**
 - 2. Been exploring what makes us tick; what defines our existence as TVC
 - 3. Done it by examining our **Mission and Core Values**
- C. Mission – **We are building a community of forgiveness, purpose and hope in Jesus Christ**
 - 1. Each of those core aspects of our mission emerged out of a season of examination
 - a. Examination of our history
 - b. Our VC community
 - c. Our Shell Point community
 - d. Our surrounding community
 - 2. Also, an examination of the scriptures
 - a. Specifically – the overarching mission of the “big C” Church
 - b. The Great Commission
 - c. In which the Church – every local church – is called to take the gospel to every people, tongue, tribe and nation
- D. **Forgiveness** as central to our mission came out of the realization that you can have attended church all your lives, and still not trusted Christ alone as savior
 - 1. That being in a church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than being in a garage makes you a car
 - a. That some vague notion that believing that God exists, and even that Jesus was real, is something that even Satan believes
 - b. That the idea that being a relatively good person by the world’s standards makes one acceptable in the presence of the altogether righteous and holy God – is the heresy du jour, the moral tranquilizer that the enemy of our souls uses to put religious people to sleep
 - 2. But Jesus Christ came – as the eternally begotten God the Son
 - a. Incarnate, in the form of humanity
 - b. To live a life of holiness and righteousness that you and I could never live

- c. To die on the cross, taking upon Himself the just punishment for our sins
 - d. And then was raised from the dead, demonstrating that He was – indeed is – the Son of God
 - e. Ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father
 - 3. And all that He asks is that you trust in Him
 - a. In His righteousness
 - b. In His death on the cross in your place
 - c. In order to receive the forgiveness of sins
 - 4. Forgiveness in our mission statement is born out of the conviction that there are still many in our community, in our sphere of engagement – who still need that forgiveness
 - 5. And as well, that all of us have need of spreading that forgiveness with others with whom we have broken relationships
 - a. That we long to be a forgiven people
 - b. And a forgiving people
- E. **Purpose** in our mission was born out of the observation that we are in a retirement community
 - 1. And that retirement usually means that whatever was our purpose for the better part of our adult lives is in the rear view mirror
 - a. And that most of our people find themselves wondering – what now?
 - b. What's my purpose now?
 - 2. And that our purpose needs to be redefined in terms of Jesus Christ
- F. And finally, there's **Hope**
 - 1. We desire to be a people of hope in Jesus Christ
 - 2. Because we're coming down the home stretch of life
 - a. More of life is behind us than before us
 - b. We're approaching – whether we want to admit it or not – the finish line
 - 3. And how we finish is, perhaps, the critical task of each one of us in this senior community
- G. What, in fact, do we have to look forward to?
 - 1. Is what is in store for believers in Jesus worth it all?
 - a. Is the suffering we all experience in one way or another worth the glory that is to be revealed?
 - b. Are the trials and tribulations worth our faithful perseverance to and through the end?
 - 2. The Ukrainian church believes so!
 - a. Do you?
- H. Well, let's see what the Bible says about our hope in Jesus
 - 1. And you decide whether the Jesus of the Bible is worth trusting

II. Text

- A. **1 Peter 1:3–9** (ESV) —

1. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
2. According to his great mercy,
 - a. he has caused us to be born again to a living hope
 - b. through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
3. 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
 - a. kept in heaven for you,
4. 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith
 - a. for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
5. 6 In this you rejoice,
 - a. though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,
6. 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—
 - a. more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—
 - b. may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
7. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him.
 - a. Though you do not now see him,
 - b. you believe in him
 - c. and rejoice with joy
 - d. that is inexpressible and filled with glory,
8. 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith,
 - a. the salvation of your souls.

III. Hope's Cause

- A. First of all, look with me at hope's cause
- B. 1 Peter 1:3 (ESV) —
 1. 3 ... According to his great mercy,
 - a. he has caused us to be born again
 - b. to a living hope
 - c. through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...
- C. The motivation of this great hope comes – not from us, but from God
 1. Indeed, from the God who loves us
 - a. From the God who is love (1 John)
 2. “According to his great mercy”
 - a. As we have been studying this year in Romans, we know what kind of people we really are!
 - b. We are sinners – by nature
 - c. Our fundamental desire and inclination is antagonistic to God
 - d. Romans 8:7–8 (ESV) — 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
 3. But God so loved us that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him might have eternal life (John 3.16)
 4. Romans 5:8 (ESV) — 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

5. It all about the mercy of God
 - a. God didn't have to save us
 - b. He didn't have to save any of us
 - c. If He sent every single one of us to an eternity of destruction, we have absolutely not defense
 - d. For He is holy and we are not
 - e. He is by nature altogether righteous; we have no inherent righteousness of our own
6. But in Jesus Christ the righteousness of God is made available to us by faith
 - a. **Romans 3:21–22** (ESV) — 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe....
7. So the driving force behind our hope is God Himself
 - a. If it were in us – we would have no hope!
- D. Flowing from the motivation of the mercy of God is **the power of God**
 1. Again – not from us, but from God!
 2. “He has caused us to be born again to a living hope”
 3. The new birth – which comes from the initiative and power of God acting – is the basis of our hope
 4. **John 3:3** (ESV) —
 - a. 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 5. **John 3:5–8** (ESV) —
 - a. 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
 - b. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
 - c. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’
 - d. 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
 6. The wind blows where it wishes
 - a. The wind, the breath of God – is the Spirit of God
 - b. The Spirit of God breaths life into genuine believers
 7. **John 1:12–13** (ESV) —
 - a. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
 - b. 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
 8. Born of God!
 - a. God was the cause of our hope
- E. Dear friends, if our hope was up to us – if we had to conjure us hope out of our own meager, corrupt resources – we would have no hope

1. But God does it! He's the cause of our hope
- F. And then, to cement into certainty this living hope, God confirms it through **the resurrection of Jesus Christ!**

1. **1 Peter 1:3** (ESV) —
 - a. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - b. According to his great mercy,
 - c. he has caused us to be born again
 - d. to a living hope
 - e. through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...
2. If there were any doubt to confuse the struggling
 - a. Even the struggling who are going through the trials of life
 - b. The sufferings of this present world
3. Jesus Christ rose from the dead!
- G. The resurrection of Jesus Christ – which we celebrate, when?
 1. Easter?
 - a. Yes, of course
 2. But no!
 - a. We celebrate it every week
 - b. Every week on the first day of the week
 - c. On Sunday
 3. That's why the church worships on Sunday
 - a. The Lord's day – which was what the early church called it
 - b. Because Sunday was resurrection day
 4. So every week we gather on Sunday, we proclaim the resurrection of Christ from the dead
 - a. And so confirm our blessed hope!
 - b. We preach hope every Sunday!

IV. **Hope's Inheritance**

- A. But then, let's look at what we have to hope for
 1. It's called an inheritance in this passage
 2. **1 Peter 1:4** (ESV) —
 - a. 4 to an inheritance that is
 - b. imperishable,
 - c. undefiled,
 - d. and unfading...
- B. **Its Character**
 1. We all have spent much time and energy and attention in putting together an inheritance
 - a. We have saved for our retirement
 - b. We have enough to, we think, finish our lives with some semblance of security
 2. But it's all a mirage!
 - a. When we leave this earth, we take none of it with us!
 - b. U-hauls aren't attached to hearses!

3. But, you say, we leave it to our children and others
 - a. True enough – but that just pushes the issue down the road!
 - b. That just kicks the can down the street!
4. Whatever we amass in this present world is perishable
 - a. In the end, it disappears from our experience
5. But the inheritance we have in Jesus Christ is imperishable!
 - a. It cannot be destroyed
 - b. It cannot be misused
 - c. It cannot grow old and deteriorate like so much of our possessions
6. **Our inheritance in Jesus Christ is imperishable!**
7. And not only that – it is undefiled
 - a. As wonderful as our world is, all our present possessions are capable of corruption
 - b. They can be – and inevitably are – defiled
8. But **our inheritance in Jesus Christ is undefiled**
 - a. It is not capable of any kind of corruption
 - b. Sin cannot taint our inheritance in Jesus
 - c. Shame is nowhere to be found in our inheritance in Jesus
 - d. Disappointment can never be attached to our inheritance in Jesus!
 - e. Because our inheritance in Jesus Christ is undefiled
9. And **our inheritance in Jesus Christ is unfading**
 - a. We all know how things in this world age
 - b. In fact, we ourselves know this in our own bodies!
10. In our church financial reports every month the finance committee looks at a line in our report – it's called depreciation!
 - a. We have to write off a portion of our tangible assets every month as depreciation
 - b. You know why?
 - c. Because, just like us, it wears out!
 - d. It's not as valuable as it once was
 - e. It's not new anymore!
11. But our inheritance in Jesus Christ does not depreciate!
 - a. It doesn't wear out
 - b. It never fades
 - c. In fact, if anything, it appreciates!
 - d. Anything eternal cannot fade
12. Even our bodies, which are wearing out before our eyes, are transformed from a state of depreciation to appreciation
 - a. **1 Corinthians 15:50–55** (ESV) —
 - b. 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
 - c. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

- d. 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.
- e. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.
- f. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."
- g. 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"
- 13. Oh, dear friends – can you not savor the anticipation of a body that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading?
 - a. That's what is promised in the blessed hope we have in Jesus Christ

C. **Its Preservation**

- 1. And then looks at its preservation
- 2. **1 Peter 1:3–5 (ESV) —**
 - a. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 - b. 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept in heaven for you,**
 - c. 5 who **by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**
- 3. This is the Fort Knox of our hope; the safe deposit box of our inheritance
 - a. **Kept in heaven**
 - b. Not kept in the midst of a contingent world – constantly changing
 - c. Subject to the whims of the political powers of the age
 - d. Subject to the wars and rumors of wars
 - e. Subject to the roller coaster of the stock market
 - f. Not even secured in anything our fickle world has to offer
 - g. It's kept in heaven!
 - h. No thief, or power, or politician, or despot can ever touch it!
- 4. And whose power has it under lock and key?
 - a. **"By God's power are being guarded"**
 - b. God doesn't even entrust its security to a servant
 - c. Not even to an angel
 - d. It is God's power that guards your inheritance in Jesus Christ
 - e. God's power – just as it has caused your hope, it secures your hope
- 5. And how does He do it?
 - a. He does it **"through faith"**
 - b. Oh, there's the rub!
 - c. I knew we had something to do with it!
 - d. We are the ones who believe; we are the ones with faith
- 6. Well yes, of course!

- a. But where does that faith come from?
 - b. **Ephesians 2:8–9** (ESV) — 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 - c. Faith – yes, our faith – is a gift of God
 - d. So yes, we believe – and our believing secures our inheritance
 - e. But it is a faith that is given to us by God
- 7. We find that same concept in John 1 that we read earlier
 - a. **John 1:12–13** (ESV) — 12 But to all who did receive him, **who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were **born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God**.
- 8. When you were born, you were born with all kinds of attributes
 - a. You had hair, eyes, ears, liver, kidneys, stomach
 - b. And yes, gender – male or female
- 9. But when you were born again there was something else you were born with
 - a. You were born with faith
 - b. Faith in Jesus
 - c. Jesus Christ alone for salvation
- 10. **1 Peter 1:4–5** (ESV) — 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- D. That’s the kind of hope that drives the Ukrainian church
 - 1. And that’s the kind of hope that drives TVC
 - 2. But wait, there’s more

V. **Hope’s Context**

- A. **1 Peter 1:6–7** (ESV) —
 - 1. 6 In this you rejoice,
 - a. though now for a little while, if necessary,
 - b. you have been grieved by various trials,
 - 2. 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—
 - a. more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—
 - b. may be found to result in praise and glory and honor
 - c. at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- B. **Its Trials**
 - 1. The hope we have in Jesus Christ emerges in the context of trials
 - 2. Whatever trials you have – and they cannot be minimized – is the context in which your hope emerges
 - a. In which your hope springs
 - b. In which your hope blossoms and blooms
 - 3. If there is any greater illustration than the Ukrainian church today, I don’t know what it would be
 - 4. The trials are grievous

- a. They are hard
- b. In walking through the last three years with Jean's mom Jane, this was the main focus of her journey
- c. How she said she never imagined she would have had to go through a time like that
- d. Those were hard times; we could not diminish them or dismiss them
- e. But we could simply remind her of the hope she had in Jesus Christ
- 5. That she had an inheritance – imperishable, undefiled, and unfading
 - a. Kept in heaven
 - b. Guarded by God's power
 - c. Through the gift of faith
- 6. **2 Corinthians 4:17–18** (ESV) —
 - a. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
 - b. 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.
 - c. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

C. **Its Assay**

- 1. But why go through it all?
 - a. Because what I call its assay
- 2. Assay is a term used to describe the testing of precious metals
 - a. The testing to determine their genuineness
- 3. **1 Peter 1:7** (ESV) —
 - a. 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 4. Because when you go through those trials – whatever they may be – your faith will be shown to be genuine
 - a. More precious than the most precious metal
- 5. And will result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus returns
- 6. Dear friends, when you go through trials, trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation
 - a. And when you have this hope in this imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance
 - b. And people watch you go through it with that kind of hope
- 7. You are expressing the surpassing value of Jesus Christ
 - a. And your life brings Him praise and glory and honor
- 8. Your trials – yes, they are often immense
 - a. But Jesus – His worth is beyond comparison
- 9. The testing reveals His glory
 - a. And is perhaps your greatest testimony

VI. **Hope's Response**

A. **1 Peter 1:8–9** (ESV) —

1. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him.
2. Though you do not now see him,
 - a. you believe in him
 - b. and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,
3. 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith,
 - a. the salvation of your souls.

B. **Its Love**

1. You love the One you do not even see!
 - a. Because you know the “He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, will graciously give us all things” (**Romans 8.32**)
2. We love because He first loved us!
 - a. **1 John 4:10** (ESV) — 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
 - b. Propitiation – the wrath removing sacrifice!
 - c. What love!
3. But because of this hope
 - a. This inheritance – imperishable, undefiled, and unfading
4. We love this One we do not even see
 - a. See – not yet!
 - b. **1 John 3:2** (ESV) — 2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.
5. That moment when we see Him – our love will be consummated
 - a. We will be transformed
 - b. We shall be like Him
 - c. Our image of God – corrupted and tarnished because of sin – will be completely restored
6. And the love we have for Him now – will explode from our glorified beings

C. **Its Joy**

1. But in the meantime – we have joy
2. **1 Peter 1:8** (ESV) —
 - a. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him.
 - b. Though you do not now see him,
 - c. you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory...
3. You can have joy – even now in the midst of trials
 - a. Just as the Ukrainian church has joy
4. Because of the hope we have in Jesus Christ

D. **Its Salvation**

1. Finally – it all culminates in our salvation

2. **1 Peter 1:8–9** (ESV) —
 - a. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him.
 - b. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,
 - c. 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith,
 - d. the salvation of your souls.
3. The Bible speaks of salvation in three ways
 - a. Past, present and future
4. If we have trusted in Christ alone, we have been saved
 - a. Past tense
5. As we continue to trust in Christ, we are being saved
 - a. Present tense
 - b. The process of sanctification is the theological term that applies
6. But in our living hope
 - a. As we look forward to our inheritance
 - b. Imperishable, undefiled, and unfading
 - c. We will be saved
7. Our salvation, our transformation, our glorification will be completed
 - a. **2 Corinthians 3:18** (ESV) — 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- E. This salvation is the outcome of your faith
 1. Your faith – a gift of God at its inception – will surely produce this salvation
 - a. In which your transformation into glory will be complete
- F. And it is that hope that is to characterize TVC
 1. Even as it has captured the heart of the Ukrainian church