

Sunday, September 4, 2022
Summary of Our Living Hope in Christ
1 Peter 1:3-9
Wayne Shelton

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Professor G. C. Berkouwer often began his opening lecture by stating, "Gentlemen, all sound theology must begin and end with doxology." The Apostle Paul, in the middle of his teaching of the weightiest theological matters, breaks spontaneously into doxology: "*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*" (Romans 11:33). Peter, at the beginning of this letter, starts with a doxology: "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope*" (v3). A doxology is a hymn of praise. Peter began theologically with praising God for His great benefits of salvation, but then pauses pastorally to show that the Christians in Asia Minor can be exceedingly glad about the final day of salvation even though they are presently enduring various kinds of trials. They can be glad because they will survive this trial and find themselves in the glorious situation of salvation. The letter is a word of consolation and comfort, reminding them of the future hope that awaits them. In this text we see a marvelous reaffirmation of the doctrine of the providence of God.