Suffering on the Inside
Smiling on the Outside

I Peter 1:1-12
* I think it is pretty safe to say we all exhibit different characteristics.

* There is one thing we all have in common: *All of us knows what it means to hurt.*

* Pain/Suffering is a universal language.
I. Looking Back

A.) Peter was acquainted with suffering.

B.) Peter is now writing to a people who were being burned by the flames of persecution.

C.) Peter puts the pain in perspective when he focusses our attention on the position we have in Christ.
   1. We are chosen.
   2. We are being sanctified.
   3. We have the full measure of God’s grace & peace available to us.
II. Smiling While Suffering

A. We have a living hope  (3)

B.) We have a permanent inheritance  (4)

C.) We have divine protection (5)

D.) We have a developing faith  (6-7)

E.) We have an unseen Savior  (8)

F.) We have a guaranteed deliverance  (9)
III. Curious Prophets (10-12)

* Two critical privileges we have the prophets did not have

1.) They did not have the completed scriptures which gives us a clear picture of God’s completed plan.

2.) They did not have the Holy Spirit indwelling them as we do today.
Two Concluding Thoughts

To Those who Suffer:

Only the perspective of Christ can replace your resentment with rejoicing. Jesus is the central piece of the puzzle of trials in our lives. When Jesus is central, it makes the tough times, no matter how dark, less overwhelming.

To Those who Wonder:

Only salvation through the blood of Christ can change you from a spectator to a participant. Only then can you truly begin to understand the role suffering plays in your life.