

# Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

## Sermon Series in 1 Peter

*1 Peter 1: 1-13*

### *Our Soul's Destination*

January 22, 2017 A.D.

Pastor Matthew Diehl

(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

**1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

<sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

<sup>4</sup> to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

<sup>5</sup> who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Continue 1 Peter 1 verse 6

<sup>6</sup> **In this** you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

**Verse six** points to the previous five verses. Peter has laid out in a Biblical worldview the most precious and valued possession a human being can

obtain. That is the salvation of your soul. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials. Peter is direct with his words and writes to reassure and make very declarative statements about where Believers go after we leave this life.

We all, as Believers, go through trials. In fact, if you claim to be a Believer and have not gone through trials then you are not trying hard enough to be a follower of Christ. Being a follower of Christ puts you at odds with the world. This is not to say that Believers should go out and look for martyrdom. However, taking a biblical stand against this fallen world in raising children and marriage can bring trials upon you.

**Verse seven** indicates that even though we have trials due to our service and devotion to our Lord and Savior, we also have proof of our faith. Whatever trials we go through, the result is for us to produce praise, glory and honor for the Lord. The praise, glory and honor to the Lord is revealed at His coming. People call this “The Second Coming.” When is the Second Coming? No one knows for sure. What we do know is that when we leave this life and leave our earthy bodies behind, we go to be with the Lord. This has the same affect for the individual as the Second Coming. The difference is that after the Second Coming final judgement for all (Great White Throne Judgement) is pronounced and death & sin are thrown into the lake of fire.

There is an example in Revelation 6 of people who were martyred and had an awareness, a consciousness of events taking place on earth and in heaven.

### Revelation 6:9-11

<sup>9</sup> And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the **souls of those who had been slain** because of the word of God, **and because of the testimony which they had maintained;**

<sup>10</sup> and they cried out with a loud voice, saying,  
"How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from  
judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the  
earth?"

<sup>11</sup> And there was given to each of them a white robe;  
and they were told that they should rest for a little while  
longer, until *the number of* their fellow servants and their  
brethren who were to be killed even as they had been,  
should be completed also.

### Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, a great  
multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and  
*all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the  
throne and before the Lamb, **clothed in white robes**, and  
palm branches *were* in their hands;

<sup>10</sup> and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation  
to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**"

<sup>11</sup> And all the **angels** were standing around the throne  
and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they  
fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

<sup>12</sup> saying, "**Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and  
thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God  
forever and ever. Amen.**"

<sup>13</sup> And one of the elders answered, saying to me,  
"These who are clothed in the **white robes**, who are they,  
and from where have they come?"

<sup>14</sup> And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said  
to me, "**These are the ones who come out of the great  
tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made  
them white in the blood of the Lamb.**"

<sup>15</sup> "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.

<sup>16</sup> "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

Continuing in 1 Peter . . .

1 Peter 1: <sup>7</sup> that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

<sup>8</sup> and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

<sup>9</sup> obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

Combining 1 Peter 1:7 with Revelation 6:10 and 7:9,13

No doubt that these in the book of Revelation have obtained salvation due to their faith. It is obvious that their faith brought persecution upon them from the fallen world which cost them their earthly lives. However, through persecution, due to their witness, they still praise the Lord and credit Him with their salvation. This is giving praise, glory and honor.

So, we have such a great cloud of witnesses as our example who gave their lives for being faithful to the Lord. This is hard for many to accept. The fallen world views their life ending here at the end of their biological existence. As Believers, we know better.

1 John 5:13 clearly states <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **in order that you may know that you have eternal life.**

**How is the world currently dealing with the idea of life after death?**

We Believers do not need to have secular scientific evidence to possess the knowledge of our eternal destination. I believe the Lord never intends for fallen man to possess the scientific knowledge to prove heaven exists or that there is an after-life. **We are saved by faith and not by science. The Gospel is transferred from faith to faith (Romans 1) not test-tube to test-tube!** The fallen world seeks to prove that people go nowhere after death. They present the idea that once our earthly body dies there is no continuum. No after-life. No Heaven or Hell. This view teaches that man is not created in the image of the eternal God. This view places man as a product of happenstance in the universe. This view takes away that God exists and therefore God's declaratives of what is right and what is wrong do not exist. This leaves man to govern himself and make self-determining rules for life. This has not worked so far in human history for death and destruction rule, and the father of lies pervades men's souls due to the void in their hearts of God's righteousness of good.

Romans 1:14-17 <sup>14</sup> I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

<sup>15</sup> Thus, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

<sup>17</sup> For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous *man* shall live by faith."

### What do some scientists say?

Near-Death, Life-After-Death and Out-of-Body experiences have been well-documented. Secular researchers have gone to great lengths to prove these experiences are biological. They find that the biological shut-down of a human's central nervous system produces the 'bright light' and the review of life's relationships. Their report only addresses partial questions. Their premise is to measure the electrical signals and chemical production that takes place in a person's brain at the time leading up to death, but not actual death, because the brain still has readable data coming from its core. Again, their reports are partial to suit their secular belief systems. Not all doctors and researchers have come to the same conclusion.

Physicist Sir Roger Penrose and Stuart Hameroff are two scientists who have worked in the area of human consciousness in the area of quantum vibrations in 'microtubules' corroborating the theory of consciousness. Basically, in layman's terms, Mr. Penrose and Hameroff report that consciousness resides in microtubules deep inside the brain at the quantum or sub atomic level. Penrose explains that when a person dies temporarily, this quantum information is released into the universe. However, this temporary death is short, and the quantum information returned to the body's cells as the host is brought back to life. Thus, the soul temporarily leaves the body in a Near-Death Experience. In the event a person dies, their quantum information or

soul is released into the universe and can exist forever. In addition, the Max Planck Institute for Physics in Munich (Dr. Han-Peter Durr) position that our physical universe we see is just our perceptions, and once we die, we can experience a life beyond this one.

**Example One: A PAIR of world-renowned quantum scientists say they can prove the existence of the soul.**

<http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/quantum-scientists-offer-proof-soul-exists/news-story/a02f2d9db939472b1a29d758c54e6a8d>

American Dr. Stuart Hameroff and British Physicist Sir Roger Penrose developed a quantum theory of consciousness asserting that our souls are contained inside structures called microtubules which live within our brain cells.

Their idea stems from the notion of the brain as a biological computer, "with 100 billion neurons and their axonal firings and synaptic connections acting as information networks".

Dr. Hameroff, Professor Emeritus at the Departments of Anesthesiology and Psychology and Director of the Centre of Consciousness Studies at the University of Arizona, and Sir Roger have been working on the theory since 1996.

They argue that our experience of consciousness is the result of quantum gravity effects inside these microtubules - a process they call orchestrated objective reduction (Orch-OR).

In a near-death experience, the microtubules lose their quantum state, but the information within them is not destroyed. Or in layman's terms, the soul does not die, but returns to the universe.

Dr. Hameroff explained the theory at length in the Morgan Freeman-narrated documentary Through the Wormhole, which was recently aired in the US by the Science Channel.

The quantum soul theory is now trending worldwide, thanks to stories published this week by The Huffington Post and the

Daily Mail, which have generated thousands of reader's comments and social media shares.

"Let's say the heart stops beating, the blood stops flowing, the microtubules lose their quantum state," Dr. Hameroff said.

"The quantum information within the microtubules is not destroyed, it can't be destroyed, it just distributes and dissipates to the universe at large. 'If the patient is resuscitated, revived, this quantum information can go back into the microtubules and the patient says "I had a near death experience".'

In the event of the patient's death, it was "possible that this quantum information can exist outside the body indefinitely - as a soul".

Dr. Hameroff believes new findings about the role quantum physics plays in biological processes, such as the navigation of birds, adds weight to the theory.

Originally published as [Scientists offer 'proof' soul exists](#)

## Example Two

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eben\\_Alexander\\_\(author\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eben_Alexander_(author))

**Eben Alexander III** (born December 11, 1953) is an American [neurosurgeon](#) and the author of the book *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife*, in which he describes his 2008 [near-death experience](#) and asserts that science can and will determine that the brain does not create consciousness and that consciousness survives bodily death.

Alexander has taught at [Duke University Medical Center](#), Brigham and Women's Hospital, [Harvard Medical School](#), [University of Massachusetts Medical School](#), and the [University of Virginia](#) Medical School.

He has had hospital appointments at Brigham and Women's Hospital, [Boston Children's Hospital](#), [Dana–Farber Cancer Institute](#),



Massachusetts General Hospital, [University of Massachusetts](#) Medical Center, and Lynchburg (Virginia) General Hospital-CentraHealth.

## ***Proof of Heaven***

Alexander is the author of the 2012 autobiographical book *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife*, in which he asserts that his [out-of-body](#) and [near-death experience](#) (NDE) while in a [meningitis](#)-induced coma in 2008 proves that consciousness is independent of the brain, that death is a transition, and that an eternity of perfect splendor awaits us beyond the grave – complete with angels, clouds, butterflies, and deceased relatives, one of whom included a beautiful girl in peasant dress whom Alexander later identifies as his deceased sister. He further asserts that the current understanding of the mind . . . . "now lies broken at our feet "— for "What happened to me destroyed it, and I intend to spend the rest of my life investigating the true nature of consciousness and making the fact that we are more, much more, than our physical brains as clear as I can, both to my fellow scientists and to people at large."

### [Rebuttal from some scientists:](#)

The one most plausible hypothesis in Dr. Alexander's case...“is that his NDE occurred not during his coma, but as he was surfacing from the coma and his cortex was returning to full function. It is curious that he does not allow this obvious and natural explanation, but instead insists on a supernatural one.” In 2012 Alexander responded to critics in a second *Newsweek* article.

There is a great challenge in the scientific community to being open to the possibility of a spiritual explanation for Near-Death Experiences and the like. Too many scientists have their minds made-up that today's scientific community has the basic facts of how the universe works with a set law of physics. There is no room for the “spiritual” in their equation. Einstein faced this same wall and presented his paper anyway. Albert Einstein published his [Special Theory of Relativity](#) in 1905, and, in doing so, discovered that mass and energy are actually the same thing, with one a tightly compressed manifestation

of the other. There is a basic law that is understood in physics (Conservation of Energy) that energy does not go away. Energy can change forms, but still exists. Thus, the acceptance of the “Transfer of Energy” is a basic law of physics.

Since Mr. Einstein’s publication, there has been acceleration in the study of mass and energy in the universe. If we have a discussion with present day physicists, we find a wide array of views, but some commonality. We have all heard of the Big Bang. This presents the idea that the universe was once very small and exploded creating an outward projection of objects that now form planets, suns and solar systems. The energy from the explosion continues to project all objects outward. Scientists have been looking for gravity to take-over and pull objects back together and eventually retract the outward motion of all matter. In time, this would bring the universe back to a small and very dense mass of matter as it was before the Big Bang. However, what baffles scientists is that the universe does not seem to be retracting. They see the effects of what is called “black matter” and “black energy”, however, they cannot see the black matter or energy itself. Hence, they call it black. But, they believe it is there and keeping the gravitational pull from overtaking the Big Bang.

So, what is this black matter and energy? Heaven?

Where does heaven exist? Universe?

How big is heaven? Infinite?

Is heaven big enough to hold all of God’s creation from the beginning? Is God limited by space?

**The goal** here is to get the skeptic, the non-believer, to think about their next life and how they will exist in the next life.

Are there determining acts and beliefs that follow us to the next life?

Is there a compartmentalization in the next life?

**Review:** Going back to the American Dr. Stuart Hameroff and British physicist Sir Roger Penrose who developed a quantum theory of consciousness asserting that our souls are contained inside structures called microtubules which live within our brain cells.

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In the event of the patient's death, it was "possible that this quantum information can exist outside the body indefinitely - as a soul".

[So, and therefore, what does Peter have to say about all of this?](#)

Peter does not talk in the physics language of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He has a summation and calls the Believer's after-life with God **salvation**. Peter refers to salvation for the Believer as a done deal, in the bank, guaranteed, a living hope. He does not have to technically describe the

scientific process of how God accomplishes **salvation** or the transfer of our soul to heaven. His speech is spiritual, built-upon on principals of faith. Man struggles and searches truths in the creation via physics. God's intent for man is much simpler. God does not desire man to struggle so much. Faith like a child is healthier. So, Peter simply sums up . . .

1 Peter 1:<sup>10</sup> As to this **salvation**,  
the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you  
made careful search and inquiry,

<sup>11</sup> seeking to know what person or time  
the Spirit of Christ **within them** was indicating  
as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

<sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them  
that they were not serving themselves,  
but you, in these things  
which now have been announced to you  
through those  
who preached the gospel to you  
by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—  
things into which angels long to look.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore,  
**gird your minds for action**,  
keep sober *in spirit*,  
fix your hope completely  
on the grace to be brought to you  
**at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

**AMEN.. End Sermon for Jan 22.**

<sup>14</sup> As obedient children,  
do not be conformed to the former lusts  
*which were yours* in your ignorance,

<sup>15</sup> but like the Holy One who called you,  
be holy yourselves also  
in all *your* behavior;

<sup>16</sup> because it is written,  
"You shall be holy, for I am holy."

<sup>17</sup> And if you address as Father  
the One who impartially judges  
**according to each man's work,**  
conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *upon earth*;

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were **not redeemed**  
**with perishable things** like silver or gold  
from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

<sup>19</sup> but with **precious blood,**  
as of a **lamb unblemished and spotless,**  
***the blood of Christ.***

<sup>20</sup> For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, **(verse 2)**  
but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

<sup>21</sup> who through Him **(Christ)** are believers in God,  
who raised Him **(Christ)** from the dead and gave Him **(Christ)** glory,  
so that your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Since you have in obedience to the truth  
purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren,  
fervently love one another from the heart,

<sup>23</sup> for you have been born again  
not of **seed** which is perishable but imperishable,  
***that is, through*** the living and abiding word of God.

<sup>24</sup> For, "**All flesh is like grass,**

And all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass **withers**, And the flower **falls off**,

<sup>25</sup> **But the word of the Lord abides forever."**

And this is the word which was preached to you.

End of 1 Peter 1