

Thought for the Day 29th May - John Reed

Read 1 Peter 1:1-9

Ted Williams is not a household name in Australia, but if you live in America you would probably recognise the name. Ted Williams was an American baseball player who played for the Boston Red Sox between 1939 and 1960. Nicknamed *The Kid*, *The Splendid Splinter*, *Teddy Ballgame*, and *The Thumper*, he is regarded as one of the greatest hitters in baseball history.

Ted Williams is also probably the most famous person to have been cryonically frozen – that is, frozen after death in the hope that one day in the future some form of resurrection will be possible. (It is sometimes reported that Walt Disney's corpse was "cryopreserved," but actually he was cremated and interred at Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery).

The story of Ted Williams' cryopreservation is a particularly interesting one. When he died in 2002, his will stated that his desire was to be cremated and his ashes scattered in the Florida Keys. However, his son John-Henry produced a "family pact" written on a stained paper napkin which said that he wanted to "put into biostasis" so that he and his family could "be able to be together in the future, even if it is only a chance." Despite an appeal by his daughter, a court ruled that the napkin pact should stand, and he was frozen.

I find it poignantly sad that not only was his family fighting over what to do with his body after his death, but that Ted Williams felt his only faint hope of seeing them again was to be frozen.

By contrast, Peter tells us that it's not a vague future hope but a sure and certain present reality that we have been born again into a living hope (verse 1), through the resurrection of Jesus. Our bodies are not going to be kept in a freezer, but our inheritance is being kept in heaven for us (verse 4).

This confident hope, Peter tells us, should see us through even the darkest of times. When we experience various trials, we can rejoice – not in the trials themselves (we're not called to be masochists!), but in the confidence we have in what waits for us beyond the trials.