

The Believer's Inheritance

1Peter 1:3-9

Hope is all we have! When everything falls apart, we have hope in Christ Jesus our Lord. He never falls apart. We are anchored in Christ, who is our Hope!

1Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

In our text Peter speaks of "a living hope". This is a HOPE that never dies. It never crumbles and blows away like a dandelion. Everything in this life dries up and fades away. Something is gnawing away at what little treasure we might have. Inflation is eating up the ability to purchase things. All earthly hopes and dreams have a way of disappointing us. That's not true with our Living HOPE in Christ.

Peter writes saying 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,

We pointed out last time,

- 1- Our Living Hope is based on what God has done in the PAST. The key word is found in v.1 "elect" or "chosen" We have a Living Hope because we are God's Elect. He chose us before the world began.
- 2- Our Living Hope is based on what God is doing in the PRESENT. We have a Living Hope because we are Born Again. It's something God has done. It's because of His GREAT MERCY (see v.3)
- 3- Our Living Hope is based on what God will do in the FUTURE. We have a Living Hope because we are destined to receive an inheritance.

This is what we want to look at in our message this morning.... The Believer's Inheritance.

v.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.

God gave the Promised Land to the children of Israel. He first gave this promise to Abraham, the father of the nation of the Jewish people. This was their inheritance. In the Old Testament we read how God brought the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage to go to the Promised Land, the land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey. It was to be their earthly possession. It was to be their inheritance. An inheritance God promised to give to their Father Abraham.

Numbers 34:1-2 The Lord spake unto Moses saying, "Command the people of Israel, and say to them, When you enter the land of Canaan (this is the land that shall fall to you for an inheritance, the land of Canaan as defined by its borders),

Psalms 105:11 "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

This was an earthly inheritance.

Through Jesus Believers are promised a spiritual inheritance. A Heavenly inheritance. 1Peter 1:4 ...to an inheritance.... This inheritance is mentioned in other places of the New Testament...

Ephesians 1:11,18 In whom also we have obtained an **inheritance**, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
v.18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his **glorious inheritance** in the saints,

Colossians 1:12,24 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in **the inheritance** of the saints in light. v.24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive **the inheritance** as your reward...

Hebrews 9:15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal **inheritance**....

Let's look at what Peter gives us concerning the BELIEVER'S INHERITANCE....

I. The Perfection of our Inheritance v.4

a) **Imperishable (incorruptible)** - It will NEVER be destroyed. That was not true with the inheritance Israel received in the land of Canaan. The Jewish people have seen their inheritance taken away by invading armies. They've seen their treasured possessions go up in smoke. It's been said the city of Jerusalem has been destroyed over 17 times during its history. The same is true with people and their inheritance today. What seems to be a promising inheritance, quickly becomes only a passing dream. Like vapor, it eventually disappears over time.

That's not the case with the spiritual inheritance we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is imperishable.

It is not subject to corruption, it will not perish, it will not decay, it will never be destroyed, fire won't touch it, thieves can't steal it, water won't rot it, powerful destructive winds won't budge it, the burning sun won't melt it, the weather won't damage it, time won't diminish it's value, all eternity won't tarnish this precious and glorious treasure we have in Christ.

b) **Unfiled** - The inheritance we have in Christ is "undefiled", which means it is PURE. It has no mixture of pollution. That's not true with earthly inheritance. If you receive some inheritance passed down from your parents, there is the mark of "defilement". It may have looked like some beautiful treasure, but give it time. Rust will work on it. The termites will work on it. Thieves will steal it from your garage, or wherever you have it parked. This corrupt fallen world will take what you have through the high cost of taxation, inflation, and medication. Thank the Lord, our inheritance in Christ is UNDEFILED, sin can't touch it. The devil can't put a dent, or a scar on what we have in heaven. It's a glorious treasure where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (Matthew 6:19)

c) **Unfading – It will not fade away.** This means the beauty and the splendor of our inheritance will not fade one bit. It's not like some treasured possession we have here in this life. If what you admire is nothing more than some beautiful flower you have planted somewhere.

You look out one morning....what's happened with it. It's wilted...the flower has fallen. It's fading away. Our inheritance in Christ will NEVER FADE AWAY. The glory and beauty of our inheritance will never diminish in all its splendor. Look at 1Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive **a crown of glory that fadeth not away.**

II. The Protection of our Inheritance vv.4c-5

A) The inheritance is protected

Kept in heaven for you. Or as KJ RESERVED in heaven for you.

"Kept" means it is Guarded, or protected. The safest place is in Heaven. Nobody will get what belongs to you in Heaven. No guarded vault here on earth can match the protection and security of our heavenly possessions. That's why Jesus said, you better invest in heavenly treasures.

Matthew 6:19-20 ¹⁹Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

What we have in Christ is Guarded, Kept in heaven for us. No one can touch it.

Let's think about something else. Let's say you put some protection on an earthly investment. You lock it up. You put insurance on it. You do everything possible to protect your earthly treasures. But what good is it, if something happens to you.?

Let's say you go to an insurance company... and this insurance company says...you've got the best protection... if a thief breaks in and steals something...it will be replaced... if fire burns your house down...it's replaced.... No matter what happens..you are covered. Will an insurance company say, hey will even cover you... if something happens to you, will bring you back to life so you can enjoy your earthly treasures. That's nonsense. No one can cover your life to bring you back to life.

In Christ...all that we HAVE in Christ is Guarded, Protected....reserved in heaven for you.

Not only is your inheritance protected.....

YOU are Protected !

B) The Heir is Protected v.5

Romans 8:16-17 ¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:¹⁷ And if children, **then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

The inheritance is protected, so also is the HEIR to that inheritance. It often happens that an heir to some property may die and never enjoy his/her inheritance. It's left to someone else.

Our spiritual inheritance is protected....and we who are heirs to that spiritual inheritance ARE

PROTECTED AS WELL !

Notice - who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (WHO ARE KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD, KJV)

We are KEPT by two things here....

1) Kept by the Power of God

We are protected by the power of God. We are guarded by divine omnipotence. Nothing can overcome the Almighty God who has us in the palm of His hands. No one is greater than our Lord God.

Romans 8:38-39 ³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 10:28-29 ²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

2) Kept by our Persevering Faith v.5 "through faith..."

This is a FAITH given to us. No one is born having faith in God.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Hebrews 12:2 ...Founder and perfecter of our faith

1John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, **even our faith**.

The Heir -- the Believer is KEPT by the Power of God....and God gives us OVERCOMING Faith...a persevering faith.

For "a salvation ready to be revealed" same thing as "our inheritance"

Our salvation is ready to be revealed.... It's not in the process of being completed. It's already done! Jesus said from the cross... It is finished!

III. The Provision of our Inheritance vv.6-9

We know there is a future purpose for our inheritance. There are rewards for being a faithful follower of Jesus. There is a present purpose for all that's coming in the future.

a) Reasons to Rejoice v.6

There is a Future JOY. Joy in Heaven. There will be rejoicing in heaven. If there's no rejoicing in heaven, then we might be in the wrong place. There's no sadness there. There's no gloomy faces, and broken hearts in heaven. It's a place of eternal happiness beyond our imagination.

There is a Present Joy. But right now, our future inheritance, our future living hope we have in Christ serves a great purpose. It gives us good reasons to REJOICE!

Notice v.6 **In this you rejoice, though now for a little while.....**

In this you rejoice... It's not "in this you Will ONE DAY Rejoice" no! Right now....rejoice in the midst of various trials.

KJV - Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

Circumstances can be very bad.... Yet we rejoice because WHAT we HAVE in Christ, and our inheritance remains intact.

Let's say you have a child playing soccer or football, and you notice as you watch, it's not looking too good. But you look to the scoreboard, and your team is still winning. You can still smile and have hope. Maybe, you are not into sports.... Then you can still smile and have hope because the game will be over and there's some home-made ice cream waiting back home. Either way you win, right?

Here's what you can do....when the chips are down...and there's disaster, and bad news.....there's heart-breaking news.....you can look on the scoreboard of your Bible... Where's that? The last page of the book of Revelation....It tells you who won, and who lost! No matter what happens, all we have in Christ....remains in place. We are winners in the Lord Jesus Christ! We have reasons to REJOICE!

Matthew 5:11-12 ¹¹ Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ¹² Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

b) Incentive to know the genuineness of our faith v.7

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.

It's good to know we have an inheritance in Heaven. It is Reserved in heaven for us.

It's good to know that we are protected by the power of God. And it's being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Here's a question --- IS OUR FAITH REAL? ARE WE ONLY PRETENDING TO BE A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST? IS THE FAITH THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD TRULY SOMETHING WE REALLY POSSESS?

Our Future Inheritance is only a fictitious story if our FAITH is proven to be false. Some say, "you can't know for sure. No one knows if they're going to Heaven. You have to wait until that time comes to see if you've been found worthy to enter into the pearly gates."

Here's where they are wrong! God wants us to know with certainty that we are saved. That's the purpose of our future inheritance. It has a present purpose to motivate us to know where we stand with the Lord.

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.

If we wait until the REVELATION of Jesus Christ, it will be too late. Peter writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and he is not saying "you have to wait until the revelation, or coming of the Lord to FIND OUT. NO! Your faith is tested NOW before that day comes to prove the genuineness of your faith.

1John 3:2-3 ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

God allows trials to come to test our faith. And to purify us... to be holy and godly in our lives.

Warren Wiersbe:

When God puts His own people into the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. He knows how long and how much.

If we rebel, He may have to reset the clock; but if we submit, He will not permit us to suffer one minute too long. The important thing is that we learn the lesson He wants to teach us and that we bring glory to Him alone.

We may question why He does it to begin with, or why He doesn't turn down the heat or even turn it off; but our questions are only evidences of unbelief.

[Job 23:10](#) is the answer: "But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold" (NKJV). Gold does not fear the fire. The furnace can only make the gold purer and brighter."¹

Now two questions:

Question 1 - How can I know if I'm really saved?

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

How do I know if I'm really saved? ask two questions....

1. Do you believe in Him?

You do not now see him, you believe in him

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

¹ (Wiersbe, W. Be Patient. An Old Testament study. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books)

Romans 10:9-10 ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

2. Do you love Him?

You have not seen him, you love him.

Romans 5:5 God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

1John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Can you say that you have a love for Christ? Can you say that you have affections for the Jesus we see in the Bible? Maybe, you don't love him like you should. And who can say they do love Jesus in a perfect way? If you have at least to some degree affections and love for Jesus, then you must be born again. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Question 2--- How do I know if I am growing in my faith and love for Christ?

1. Is there **More Joy**..... You will experience the JOY of salvation. vv.8c-9

Rejoice with joy that is inexpressible (unspeakable) and filled with glory

This is not an experience we wait until we get to heaven. Joy is for the Believer right now!

Jesus said - John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

We can get away from the Lord....and lose our joy.. Example is David...King David sinned by taking another man's wife....had her husband killed.....We can say "oh, how he sinned! But then we also must say, "oh, how he repented" **Ps 51:12 return unto me the joy of salvation**

Look at the fuel gauge.....level of joy? E- empty F- full

2. Is there **More Victory!** You will experience the Delivering Power of Faith in your life.

"Obtaining" - "presently receiving for yourselves"

There is an outcome to your faith in Christ. Yes, there is a future OUTCOME, but there is right now a PRESENT outcome. It works in the present as much as it does for the future.

The salvation of your souls: or the Deliverance of your souls....

Our salvation has a delivering work in our life.

We are saved, or delivered from the **penalty of our sins**. All are sins are covered by the blood of Christ. The penalty has been paid by Christ.

We will be saved, or delivered from the very **presence of sins**. Right now, we still have remaining sin. We are still in this body of flesh. One day we will forever be delivered from the presence of sin.

We are being saved, or delivered from the **power of sin**. We are OBTAINING, presently receiving for ourselves the OUTCOME of faith....it works to deliver us from the power of sin. Sin has power to overcome us with guilt. Sin has power to give you confusion, doubts, and simply dominate your thoughts. Everything that is not of faith is sin.

Our Faith will grow as we focus on the Lord; and are grounded in His Word;

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the words of Christ Romans 10:17

There are some dangerous roads..... steep hillsplaces no guard rails.... Danger of driving off deep ravines....(driving from Clifton, TN..... to Hohenwald....some places are scary....)

For the Believer....There is the danger of experiencing a shipwreck faith..... Paul spoke this to Timothy....

1Timothy 1:18-20

¹⁸ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰ among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls

Is there more joy? Not in our circumstances....but joy in the Lord!

Is there more victory? Are we Overcomers? Can we say this like John Newton?

"I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am"

- John Newton