

- 1 ¶ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
- 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.
- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
- 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Last week we saw that God the Father is the source of the unimaginable inheritance that He has provided for those who love Him and who endure tribulations and trials in His Name. They are called “strangers.....scattered” My text is verse -05 to day, to enlarge and apply the wonderful promises that are declared here by the Holy Spirit.³ There are three things: Mercy begets; Hope energizes; Faith preserves. Last week we saw the Mercy that from the beginning, before the world was, existed in the Blessedness of God, the fountain from which all mercy and goodness originates.

This is the source of our joy; the source of our hope in Christ

The means by which these blessing come to us are the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. These are not vain words, but the lively possession of every heir of eternal life.

- I. Love and Mercy beget hope, a lively hope, not dull fatalism.
 - A. Fatalism says, “It is what it is.” And “Whatever will be will be. Living Hope says, “You cannot imagine what My Heavenly Father has prepared for those who love Him, but God has revealed them by His Spirit. Hallelujah. Amen and Amen. I have understood and I believe, because I have been taught by the Spirit.
 - B. The power of this hope is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 1. The Christians in all the ages of the world have lived in the hope of the resurrection from the dead and the world to come.,
 2. This hope, however, is always tested. It is not tested to make it genuine, but to show that it is genuine. The tests will reveal where your hope is. Remember Lot’s Wife. Her hope was in Sodom. Remember Judas Iscari-

ot; his hopes were with the high priests. Remember Demas, to forsook Paul because he loved the present world. The tests will reveal.

II. This testing and patience demonstrated. There are many places we could cite, but this will suffice.

1. Jesus said, remember the patience of Job. Job passed the test, demonstrating that his faith was genuine and not directed to this world, but to God. “I want to talk\ to God.” 10:23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! 24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever! 25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.
2. Abraham: Offered up his only Son. See Hebrews 11:8-19 read and expound.
3. Jesus Himself: Unlike Adam
 - a. Psalm 8 promised
 - b. Hebrews 2:6 ff.
 - c. Adam miserably failed the test, though created perfect. How could he be expected to rule over God’s creation, when he couldn’t even deny himself one piece of fruit. !!!

III. Hope is energized by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Note these things from. Where will your hope rest, O men that I have created. Where will you find the rest from conflict and sin that your heart so dearly longs for. Where? Well, let us look at Hebrews 4, for the answer to that.

- A. There is such a rest and it is the inheritance of the people of God, and comes from God alone.
- B. It was not found by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. There was a serpent in the Garden. See. 1-5. If it had been found in creation, then there would be no promise of Psalm 95:11. Long after the rest of creation.
- C. Also these words of Ps. 95 were written long after the Conquest of the land under Joshua. These two rests are types of “My rest” the rest of God.,
- D. To enter into God’s rest, we must endure the penetrating gaze of God Himself and the scrutiny of His Holy World. Heb. 4:11- O the horror of that Holy Gaze!!! That penetrating look that can at an instance see the difference between pretense and reality.

- E. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. My vision is blinded by the impurity of my own heart. My heart—meant to be the image of God, becomes the image of my lusts and desires, clouding my perception of God, and destroying my perception of myself and of others.
- F. How can you reign over all things as the image of God, when you cannot even see God. Your vision must be tested as Adam’s was.
- G. Ah, but here is the lively hope: Heb 4:13-16 He was tested for US. He was without sin. He looked with open face on the face of His father, so that we, in looking on His face, by see God.
- H. Here is the rest of the people of God: “Come onto me, and I will give you rest; take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
- I. I. This the purchase of the blood of Christ, sealed by the resurrection from the dead: Hebrews 5:5-9 Amen and Amen.

Amen and Amen.