

# Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

[www.sermonaudio.com/crc](http://www.sermonaudio.com/crc)

[www.unholycharade.com](http://www.unholycharade.com)

[www.lightfordarktimes.com](http://www.lightfordarktimes.com)

## *Living as Exiles in a Hostile World – The Epistle of 1 Peter*

**(Part 05 – The Inheritance that Awaits Us )**

**August 7, 2016**

**Sermon Text:** 1 Peter 1:1-5

**Scripture Reading:** John 21

1Pe 1:1-5 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (2) according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (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, (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.

When we think of the Apostles Paul and Peter, what comes to mind? Paul the deep theologian who gave us Romans, and then Peter...the fisherman who messed up quite a lot and had to be set straight, though he had a big heart??

Well, as we are seeing here in even these opening verses of his first letter, Peter eventually became capable of writing some pretty deep doctrine himself and we dare not move on until we understand at least in part the things he is telling us. We have already looked at the truth of our election by God the Father:

- Elect exiles in dispersion
- According to the foreknowledge of God the Father
- Sanctification of the Spirit
- For obedience to Jesus Christ

- For Sprinkling with His blood

Now let's consider verses 3-4:

*“According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again...”*

- To a living hope...
- To an inheritance that is imperishable...

The new birth (regeneration) is very much in Peter's mind and he wants it to be in ours as well. He will speak of it again:

since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; (1Pe 1:23)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—(1Pe 2:2)

Keep in mind that Peter, as he writes these epistles, is a man who had been told by the Lord Jesus Himself (after the resurrection!) that he (Peter) would be martyred. Now Peter is writing to the “elect exiles” – Christians who, like every genuine believer in Christ, are bound to suffer in this sinful, fallen world that is hostile to God.

So where is our hope? It is in the same place that Peter's hope was. Our hope is in God who has *caused us to be born*

*again* by speaking the same powerful Word He spoke when He created the universe from nothing. The same Word He spoke when He raised His Son from the dead.

Notice that our new birth is not of us nor, unlike our physical birth, of man. It is of God. He *caused us* to be born again. This is God's doing. *As Jesus told Nicodemus, the new birth is vital, essential, and absolutely necessary if we are ever to see the kingdom of God.*

Joh 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but of God.**

Joh 3:3-7 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (4) Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (5) Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** (7) Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

NOTHING is more important in this life than entering into new life by being born again through faith in Christ by the creative Word of God acting upon us. Nothing! Apart from the new birth, a person is not a Christian and shares in none of the blessings Christ gives. I have no doubt at all that many, many, many (and in some cases MOST) people sitting in church pews every Sunday are still dead in their sins because they continue to rely upon themselves and their own doings to commend themselves to God. But no one EVER “birthed” themselves! And no man can ever regenerate his own heart. God must speak – “Lazarus, come forth!” Only God can make dead bones live.

### **To a Living Hope**

*he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

Why does Peter call this “hope” of the Christian a “living” hope? What is a “dead” hope anyway? Well, think of this. All religions invented by man have, as the object of their hope, *a dead man*. Their prophet, their savior – lies in a grave someplace, dead. But the Christian’s hope of God’s promises are *alive* and certain because Christ is raised from the dead. The Christian’s inheritance is a certainty. Furthermore, because Christ is raised from the dead,

WE have this hope, this confidence, this certain future *that is alive, that is real*. That is to say, the Christian’s hope is NOT the kind of hope that is some kind of “legacy.”

Think about this carefully. Here are some examples of “legacy” from the Webster Dictionary -

1. She left us a *legacy* of a million dollars.
2. He left his children a *legacy* of love and respect.
3. The war left a *legacy of* pain and suffering.
4. Her artistic *legacy* lives on through her children.

Generally a “legacy” connotes something positive. And it is certainly a good thing for each of us to leave behind something that will be of help to our children and coming generations. Many people leave an evil legacy that the children must break free of, rather than being helped by it.

But is this the hope Peter speaks of?

Legacy - something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past

No. And the reason is that it is not *living*. Those who leave it are dead and eventually those who receive it will die, and one day the legacy itself will be gone and forgotten. Besides all of this, really, what good is a legacy *to*

*the one who leaves it?* Where is he or she? Dead. Gone. When we die, in fact, we do not “live on in the memory of the living.” Not really. And in fact without Christ, the dead are in hell.

The Christian’s hope, says Peter, *is a living hope!* It is alive because Jesus is our hope and He is alive! Our hope is a living hope because WE are going to be raised from the dead and WE are going to LIVE in a new heavens and new earth. A real place where our true *life* is even now.

What hope does Buddha give? He’s dead. Go on down the line. These “saviors” are all dead. Their followers have a hope, but it is a dead hope. All of man’s –isms and religions in the end leave him in the grave. Dead. Not so with Christ, says Peter. We have a *living* hope because Christ is raised from the grave, and WE will be raised as well.

Now, what will we be raised TO?

### **To an Inheritance...**

Notice the adjectives Peter uses here to describe our inheritance –

- IM-perishable
- UN-defiled
- UN-fading
- Kept in heaven

Let’s be certain that we understand this doctrine of the Christian’s inheritance. We need to go back to Abraham to see it and I suppose Hebrews will explain it most clearly –

Heb 11:8-10 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (9) By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. (10) For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

“Inheritance” is a huge, huge theme in the Old Testament and on into the NT. It is vital that we understand it.

To have an inheritance is to be *an heir*. And to be an heir requires that we be *a child*. *A son* in biblical culture. Now, the Bible calls Abraham *the father of those who believe*.

Rom 4:11-25 He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, (12) and to make him the father of the

circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. (13) For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (14) For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. (15) For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. (16) That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (17) as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. (18) In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." (19) He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. (20) No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, (21) fully

convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. (22) That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." (23) But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, (24) but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, (25) who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

See it? God promised Abraham *an inheritance*. The earthly promised land of Canaan and its rains in season, lack of enemies, and all kinds of other blessings, *was an earthly, temporal type or picture of the real inheritance that is not of THIS earth.*

Heb 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Heb 13:14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Heb 12:22-29 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, (23) and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all,

and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, (24) and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (25) See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. (26) At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." (27) This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. (28) Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, (29) for our God is a consuming fire.

Alright then, our inheritance is the New Heavens and New Earth which is to come. In fact, Christ is preparing it right now –

Joh 14:1-3 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come

again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

And it is of THIS inheritance that Peter is speaking when he says of it –

- IM-perishable
- UN-defiled
- UN-fading
- Kept in heaven

Notice that the original Canaan was just the opposite of these descriptions:

- Perishable
- Defiled
- Fading
- On earth

But Jesus is better. Jesus, unlike Moses, is the Mediator of a better covenant that is unbreakable and whose benefits are eternal. In addition, they are CERTAIN-

*Kept in heaven for you.*

And that is not all –

(1 Peter 1:5) who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Not only is our inheritance safe and secure in heaven, but God is, by His infinite power, guarding us – keeping

our faith alive – so that we will receive that inheritance when Christ comes and the fullness of our salvation in Him is revealed for all to see.

These are the words of encouragement Peter has for people like us – for Christians, for elect exiles, living and waiting in this perishing world to come into our inheritance. A world, a creation, a universe that will never perish (no flood, no judgment), will never again be defiled by evil, whose glory GROWS instead of fading away, and that fills the universe and beyond.

You are going to see it, if you have been born again. You are going to see it, you are going to live there forever, in a real body with real people whom death will never touch again.