

As we continue in our series Hope and Holiness – We turn to the first word ‘Hope’
Have you ever felt hopeless? Like a pain will never end? A circumstance will never change?

Hopelessness = Perceived absence of a positive future | Text tells us Living Hope

A living hope is the settled confidence that because Jesus is alive, your future is secure

• Do you ever lay in bed at night and wish for things...**Jiminy Cricket is gonna come sing**
Wish for great riches – Go back in time – Exotic Travel – Wish the world was different
Often times the word ‘wish’ & ‘hope’ are used interchangeably...but they are not the same

Wishing based fantasy – Hope rooted possibility | **Biggest difference = likely outcome**
I wish I could fly – I hope God will answer my prayer – I hope Jesus will return = Certainty

Hope has a Name (Jesus) – Hope has a History (Done) – Hope has a Future (Will do)

Big idea - The Resurrection Proves the Certainty of our Salvation

³Blessed 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, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

• Lists set of realities...not possibilities - Not a list of what might happen, but will happen
Old friends at grocery store...we should get together sometime | **Close friends & Weekend**
• **One is wishful thinking...the other is a hopeful certainty** | **God's promises = Certainty**

What we'll see in text are primarily 3 realities we have because of God's mercy in Christ

1. Because of God's Mercy We Are: Granted a Hope (3a)

³Blessed 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 – Suffering...Exiles under Roman Authority

• 1st Peter shouts out in praise; ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
• More just introductory phrase...pronouncement of worship...Not based circumstance
Before he gives commands...Before he addresses suffering...Before he talks about trials...

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! | **Hope begins with worship**

Then Peter gives the motivation for Hope – According to His great mercy

Not: According to our obedience - According to our faithfulness - According to our works
 Mercy means God does not give us what we deserve

If salvation were according to justice, be condemned - according to merit, we would fail
Standing in a torrential downpour – You deserve it – Jesus walks up gives you His Umbrella
Isn't it a wonderful Truth that your hope isn't based on your work but God's mercy?

God's mercy is: Undeserved - Unc caused by us - Overflowing from His nature

he has caused us to be born again – Being ‘Born Again’ has its roots in Jesus & Nicodemus

• It's a Christian phrase you may hear from time-to-time | **Have you been born again?**
Jesus tells Nicodemus, **"No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again,"**
Nicodemus is famously confused, asking if he has to literally re-enter a womb | **horrific**

Physical Birth: physical life in this world - **Spiritual Birth:** spiritual life in the kingdom of God
3 Components: Regeneration – Faith & Repentance – Work of the Holy Spirit = Born Again

Have you been born again? Remember the day...hour...minute...this happened | **Gospel**

he has caused us to be born again to a living hope | **Why is it living?** Grounded in living Savior
Jesus Christ is not in a tomb. He rose from the dead. Our hope breathes because Christ lives

• Earthly Hope Dies: Health Fails – Money Runs Out – Relationships Break – Death Comes
• This Hope Lives: Through Suffering – Persecution – Death | Not Fragile/Fading...Alive

Imagine a tree in winter. Its branches look dead. Leaves are gone. It seems lifeless

Beneath Surface roots...Spring burst forth - Resurrection guarantees winter is never final

Takeaway – Let God's Mercy Shift Your Perspective

His mercy caused new birth, secured future in resurrection, gave you living hope

- When Something goes wrong – Remember God's Mercy has made you Alive
- When you fail – Remember that your salvation has never been about your performance
- Future feels uncertain – Remember there is a secured hope stored up for you heaven

2. Because of God's Mercy We Are: Guaranteed an Inheritance (3b-4)

born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, | Everything Hinge

- Christian Hope is not based on sentiment – optimism – or positive thinking
- It is based on a historical event: the resurrection of Jesus Christ

If Christ is still in the grave, we have no hope - If Christ has risen, hope can never die

⇒ **The resurrection: Defeats sin - Conquers death - Guarantees our future resurrection**

The empty tomb is the birth certificate of our hope - Because He lives, we will live

The direction of your eternity hinges on 'do you believe Christ was raised from the dead'
To all who believe Christ was raised from the dead...you have been given a new inheritance

⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

- Historical context enlightens the meaning of this verse... inheritance. Inherit when die.
- Peter's day: Inheritance = primarily land & property, family estate – gave security, status
- Your inheritance determined where you lived, how you provided, what future looks like

Now remember these Christians are exiles: have no land, home, status. This was big...

No matter what you lose in life...because you belong to Christ you have an inheritance

a. **Imperishable – Cannot be destroyed by outside forces** | **Everything Breaks**

b. **Undefiled - Cannot be stained or corrupted by sin** | **See heaven in this world**

c. **Unfading - Doesn't lose its luster or "newness" over time** | **Get to heaven = Best day**

d. **Kept for you in Heaven - carefully guarded or protected**

Not: Vulnerable to theft - Subject to decay - At risk of being lost | **Safety Deposit Box**

Heaven is the place where God's glory is fully revealed, Christ is fully known,

sin is fully removed, and joy is fully realized

What do we inherit because He rose?

⇒ **Eternal life:** **Titus 3:7** – So that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. - Life, salvation forever and restored with God. New creation ours.

⇒ **Kingdom of God:** **James 2:5** – Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom – Not merely enter – Not guests – Children who share reign

⇒ **Glory w/ Christ:** **Rom8:17** – If children, then heirs - heirs of God & fellow heirs with Christ

What belongs Son, belongs us. Conformed His image – share in victory – dwell in presence

⇒ **God Himself:** **Psalms 16:5** – The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup...

Ultimately greatest inheritance not a place, but a Person. Him forever

Takeaway – Let God's Kingdom Anchor Your Confidence

- Peter's audience needed confidence...they were scattered on mission for the Gospel
- **Do you feel displaced in this world? An Elect Exile – Not belonging? Overlooked?**
- **When that happens, we anchor onto what we are promised in our inheritance**
- **When we feel like we don't belong – we remember we have a place in His kingdom**
- **Feel overlooked – passed up, ignored – I heir of kingdom, worth not decided here**
- **Feel pressure to compromise – to fit in – I don't need to trade what's eternal for temp**

Because of God's Mercy We Are: Guaranteed an Inheritance

4 **Because of God's Mercy We Are: Guarded for Deliverance (5)**

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

Security long for - Alarm systems – Lock Doors – Insure Hoes – Retirement – Guard Value

Greatest question is not: Who guards my house? Greatest question: Who guards my soul?

This verse is one of the strongest assurances of the believer's security in all of Scripture

a. **Power that Guards You:** who by God's power are being guarded

- Your future not protected by your willpower, consistency, discipline, ability hold – God
- Power of God: Created heavens & earth ex nihilo - Split the Red Sea – Holds all – Rise
- **Guarded:** Military term – shielded, surrounded, kept watch over. **City under protection**
Think about the most valuable treasures in the world – Constitution / Crown Jewels

Not just out in a box somewhere - Bullet Proof Glass – Guards – Motion Sensors = Valuable

- God doesn't "garrison" junk. He deploys **infinite power** to guard you proves values
- You are His "treasure,"...security system same power spoke the stars into existence.
- **Means by Which You're Guarded:** through faith. God's power guards u through faith.
- Faith is not the power; faith is the instrument. Faith is like seatbelt on plan

When buckle – seatbelt not what keeps plane in air... connects u to what carries u home

- Strength of your faith is not what saves you, faith is how God keeps u connected Christ

c. **The Purpose of the Guarding:** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- If you believe, you have been saved... but your salvation is not complete.

Day gone when sin gone, suffering end, faith be sight – on day full salvation revealed

Statue under a tarp...every day you walk past it wondering what it will be like...Revealed

Takeaway – Let God's Power Increase Your Trust

- Rest in God's Power, not your own
 - Security does not ultimately depend on your strength, consistency, or performance
- Continue in Faith
 - Faith is the means God uses to preserve His people
- Live with an Eternal Perspective
 - The best is still ahead

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