

Kept By The Power Of God

Well this evening I will be speaking on the Christians hope and assurance every human being wants hope um it is something that God has planted in all of us as a human race because we can think not just in the past we cannot only just think in the present but we can think into the future right that's where planning comes in and we all plan that it will be better tomorrow than it was today if it was a bad day quote unquote but even if it was a good day you would say "I hope it's a even a better day." Right why is that because also deep in us there is a discontentment god has put in us that we will never truly be satisfied with the things of this world he didn't want us to so when we disobey what God does not want us to do is to plant our roots in this life that's when we're off we are off the second thing that God has planted in us is a sense of security which another way of putting a sense of assurance that in the future things are going to be okay right it could be chaos things can be falling apart in your life or it might just be small minor things but it's still not perfect is it there's not that sense deep inside you that everything is just perfect and all good because you'll be fooling yourself and again God doesn't want you to feel like everything has to be perfect and all good in your life because it's something greater something beyond this life that he wants us to put our hope in to put our assurance in and namely that is Christ Jesus our Lord and so I want to speak to both groups is to Christians as well as to those who are not And I pray and been praying very much on this sermon that God will speak to you both in a profound way where you'll have greater hope that you will have greater assurance where you are right now because God doesn't want you to stay put wherever you are he does want you to see the horizon stretched out even farther than where you are right now he wants you to see greater visions of hope greater visions of assurance and so I want you to now turn to First Peter chapter 1 beginning with verse 5 we're just going to stick to one verse today so reading from verse five first Peter says this who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time what was going on in this particular time

this particular period of Peter writing this letter was a group of Christians that were scattered because persecution because of trials because great pressure put on their lives so their circumstances changed possibly overnight possibly they were you know doing good possibly feeling some sense of security but all that was dashed in a moment's time and all of them were scattered and we see that they were scattered in Pontis Galatia Capidosia Asia and Bethnia these are all particular places that are just different uh sides of uh the country so their circumstances changed and what uh Peter wanted to speak into their lives was although your circumstances have changed the worst thing in that moment when circumstances change is to secure yourself in a false sense of security albeit your possessions what you have to leave from is there anything that you are holding on to could be a possession it could be something in yourself your health right what you possess materially but all of that is not that's what's false security that's what's false security and I mentioned last week that we are like sheep right and what are sheep metaphorically is that we are defenseless look at a sheep do they have fangs do they have strong claws no they are defenseless animals and that's how the Bible depicts us as believers we are defenseless in and of ourselves so we must depend on a defense outside of ourselves namely the Lord Jesus Christ another metaphor that I want to speak on don't have to turn there but Paul speaks on this from Philippians 4:7 he says this when he says that the peace of God shall keep so now I'm going to bring out a nuance phrased militarily okay it's a word uh guard so keep guard another way of putting it it's a it's a military form of defense protection right and who who's protecting it says your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus that's he is our defense he is our defense we have no greater defense than him and then another beautiful and striking point that is made is the connection between the words in my text tonight and those immediately preceding the apostle uh speaks about the inheritance you see the incorruptible and undefiled that fadeth not away and he says it is reserved in heaven for you who are what kept so then the same power is working on both sides of this proverbial veil preserving the inheritance for us as heirs and preserving the heir the inheritance do you see that because often we

say okay we're going to give this is a illustration someone that have great wealth and passes it down and what is the fear of the person giving the money to that individual he's going to squander it away right the prodigal son that's the greatest fear of anyone that's passing down something is they're going to squander it they're going to just ruin it so what inspired by God says I'm not God's not only going to preserve what you're going to inherit but he's going to preserve you as an heir that is so important to grasp uh that's why I drew that analogy from that passage but I'm not going to spend my time on our what we're going to be receiving in our inheritance but that there are this twofold thing that God is giving to us and that the key is that he will not fail in what he is going to give us and what he is going to do for us so he preserves the inheritance for the heir and preserves the heir for the inheritance so don't miss that now if you take just one or the other it's it doesn't have that weight does it but when you put both in together it means great weight doesn't it it it has great value so we must see them hand to hand and so he takes care of us while we are here as heirs ready for the home that's prepared for us in heaven so then continuing the apostle is looking at this keeping in three aspects suggested by three words i want you to see it in the text do you see where it says by do you see where it says through and do you see where it says unto i would underline those prep uh prepositions because we're going to go through each one of them by through unto okay because a real cause of the power power from God and the condition that that power works God's power namely that the end purpose to which it works i'll explain it as we go into the text so let's start off with the context a little bit more of the passage peter writes again to those who are persecuted and despite their suffering he wants to infuse hope and assurance that this message that Peter writes to them is for them so that they can feel the sense of true security the sense of true hope no matter how far they have scattered no matter how many things they have to give uh to lose uh there was waiting for them something of greater importance greater value than what they had so let's focus focus on by so by is the source namely God's power through shows us the means of accessing God's power and that's faith that's your faith my faith and then unto what is

that it's the direct direction of the end goal the end goal and what is the end goal not my goal not your goal but God's goal always remember that you should focus on what is God's goal before anything else and this passage is going to show up beautifully all right so let's look at just that by the power of God by the power of God this phrase is used elsewhere and to give us what uh this meaning is and the condition of it the peace the security is the same found in Christ in Christ remember his very last words prior to his great intercessory prayer in which he spoke about keeping those that were given him in his name and just before he said to them in John 16:33 he said this said "In the world you shall have tribulation but in me ye might have peace." So kept guarded behind enemies battleground just visualize that there is an enemy that's attacking attacking all the walls that God has put the fortress that he has put in your life and he's not going to let those walls come down not a single one so the enemy will not be able to attack and come over and he will keep you in peace do you feel that though enemies attacking on all fronts do you sense uh uh peace in your life because Jesus said in tribulation you might have peace that you might have peace and this is what we have in Christ that you will have peace guarded in the power that God gives to us he sustains us so when you have experienced moments when you felt safe in the midst of life's storms this idea should bring an everyday experience in your life because that is what God's desire is in all of us as Christians that's what you should sense the most when you're in Christ there are other things but Jesus said when you're in tribulation this is what you should find it's a sense of peace another emphasis is God's power is not limited by our circumstances another way of putting it it's a promise that no trial can override no enemy no trial nothing that's taken away can override the promise that God gives to us which is his power to go through it to go through whatever that is and so the security that God gives to us another way of putting his powers in us is omnipotence right ultimate power is given to us as Christians take that as a reminder over and over again you have God's ultimate power people are looking for power that's another thing right but we have a source the source of thee of all power and that's what we can rest in in God so let's look at through now so the channel of our assurance is

found in in the faith aspect of through God's protective power is faith another way expressing it it's trust who we trust in is imperative to receiving the power from God it's an active trust in God and it's a way to connect us to his strength and when we trust him as a person as a person faith always trusts in a person don't let anyone fool you anywhere else is trust in a person and anyone can trust in anybody but as Christians we don't just trust in anybody we trust in the living Christ and we should remind ourselves of that day in and day out because to have a vigorous life of faith you have to be near utter despair near utter despair what is despair at its root it's being hopeless found hopeless in yourself so you have to find there is no hope in yourself that is what the true biblical definition of despair is it's not oh I feel sorry for what I've done or what what what I'm doing i I can get better no it's it's you just have to feel utterly despair in yourself so that you can look up to someone else namely Christ that's what as Christians we've begun right we knew that there was no hope in us no way to save ourselves from the righteousness of sin and God's wrath there was no way that continues on in our Christian life we don't look to ourselves yes we examine ourselves to see if Christ is in us absolutely but it shouldn't go any further than that we shouldn't go beyond Christ in me amen should rest in the living Christ and some of you are in despair don't stay there again God does not want you to stay there it's just an indicator that you need to look up because it is him that we need to trust in now I mentioned faith is active it's vigorous it's it's it's it's it's it's a it's it's looking at self examining see if I'm in Christ look to Christ it's not passive it's not a passive feeling that oh I'm just feeling bad oh just something's wrong no you got to go beyond that and some of us some of us just get stuck there and it's like a a loop that just doesn't doesn't seem to get anywhere that's passive approach that you just let it go and so as Christians we are to actively deliberately affirm God's promises and it's primarily his word and this is a great verse to hold on to as a promise so why must I have faith in order that God's power may keep me you might you may ask why why do I even need faith why is faith even part of what God wants us to have it's another way of putting it why do you feed yourself why do you eat because you don't want to die so we don't

want to die spiritually right you want to constantly feed God's word over and over again because we will rest by default to our old nature by default we will rest in our old nature and so we must be nourished by the word of God we trust him we distrust ourselves this is an ongoing work it's an ongoing battle so if you don't want him you cannot have him if you do not know him then you will not need him if you don't not trust him then he will not come to you and help you and this is the part of faith that is a mystery but it's a simple just a simple thing that God asks just look to him look to his word trust in him keep on trusting in him that's the idea because God will constantly save us from ourselves at the end of the day and he will guard us from our enemy who tries to destroy us and take us to a place where he wants us to have false sense of security he wants us to have a false sense of hope he doesn't have that many tricks but it works doesn't it a lot of people don't get anywhere in their Christian life because they stumble on the very things that they need to rest on so here's Matthew 13:58 now he said this to a group of people uh the multitude said he could there do no mighty works why because of their unbelief see he looks to see if we have believing in him all the way through and through it's not just from the beginning it's through and through in our lives continue to believe because that's where God wants to see in us another one Matthew 8:25 this is Peter and his disciples right they were out in the ocean the violent windstorms were at the sea stretched out for no one else but only Jesus he says with the other disciples "Lord save us or we perish." Because only Jesus can quiet the storms truly not just metaphorically but he is the only one that can truly calm the storms because again he's the only one that gives us peace matthew 9:29 two blind men approached Jesus came to him and what did they what did they receive well Jesus says he touched Jesus touched their eyes and he says this "According to your faith be it unto you." Your faith each one of you has faith to believe and he gives us our answers according to our faith it's a great promise so salvation is here from the beginning and hereafter god doesn't change the way that he did his saving from the beginning in the middle and so on this is the way he looks at our hearts to truly see if we're trusting in him that he'll come through in his timing because ultimately he wants

to see that it's God's work alone that is God's work alone through and through when he saves you from whatever peril that you're going through currently or in the future because he wants us to trust in him as a person that he will come through now consider areas in your life where relying on God's promises has transformed your responses and challenges what I just said have you seen it played out in your life where you you you knew that only God can come through in this moment or in this situation and you saw him come through and you just can only give glory to him like there was nothing that could have been from me may that can be a continual testimony in each and one brothers and sisters in your lives now we're going to transition to unto salvation the ultimate hope unto salvation sets our eyes on the go and I mentioned it's God's goal not ours the complete delivery and revelation of our salvation this phrase indicates the ultimate destiny what is salvation for so now that great sal that word salvation was actually rather new to the people that Peter was writing to they didn't understand what it meant salvation because as you recall in the Old Testament it was animal sacrifices right they didn't understand what this salvation means that God is going to work in them that it wasn't going to be anymore a high priest that did it but it was Christ in them this is all new to them so I just want us to have that understanding let us also reflect brothers and sisters this very important word salvation let no one diminish this word salvation it is a great it's a grandure it's a beautiful word as Christians we should use more often in our lives because let me just tell you salvation has great meaning here's some of them it has one idea is that salvation means to keep us safe or make us safe right we're made safe in who in Jesus Christ right but it also has another meaning to be made sound sound right that's what peace brings there's this soundness in your soul there's no longer this battle um where you're trying to do it yourself do you sense more of that like there's just you give in more it's no longer this this fight that's you know I think of Jacob you know like that breaking of the hip it's not like that drastic anymore there's like this peace about yes I've seen God move in my life in the past i'm going to continue to trust that he's going to bring me through peace in the future right and that's the sense that salvation brings to being made sound that the man needs

to be saved needs to be rescued from danger and needs to be healed from a deadly disease of sin because we acknowledge sin is poisonous it's self-willed self-dependent autonomous selfish at its core doesn't want to depend upon anyone we were there right but now something happened something glorious happened something beautiful happened we saw our sins nailed to the cross that someone vicariously died for our sins because payment had to be done for sure and that no longer is on us that's great peace that's what to be made safe to be made sound is that he's not going to feed us i gave that an illustration of the great shepherd right last last Sunday evening he's going to feed us but we don't want to be fed he's not going to forcefeed us he'll never do that because he wants us to be obedient i really want to be fed do you have that over and over again desire because when he feeds us he feeds us the richest food it's another way I explained it last week he feed us the richest the green you know people say that it's green on their side no when it comes to Jesus and where he puts us it's is the greenest it's the freshest it's the most richest nutrients for our soul that's who our savior is he makes us sound some of the other negative stuff about what salvation means to us um mentioned about sin but he also delivered from evil all evil where they be evils of sorrow you'll never ever sorrow about worldly things again he won't keep you there amen so the evils of sin he won't let you ultimately be crushed by the weight of sin and the effects that it has he doesn't do a half thing with us he does a complete work in our souls think of illustration where there's a widespread flood and the person that's rescuing the victim puts them high up enough the water so that the waters will not reach him and then that person just leaves him there shivering cold starving that's not our God he doesn't just save us and puts us in a high place and just leaves us starving and cold what does he do he begins taking away all the evils around us in order that he'll make a clear path flooding us with good his goodness and his glory that's what he starts doing in your life and so salvation is not merely what some of us may think an escape from hell which is true is not just deliverance from the power of sin which is true but it's God's investment in each and one of our lives for his good for his glory for our purity for our holiness to receive God fully more and more and

more and he gives us a great word in the New Testament and that is in scripture god just doesn't save us from our past experience that all of us have a past he doesn't just begin us on a course and just leaves us on the course to to go by ourselves he doesn't just treat us progressively in sanctification that okay there's growth but what for it's not that's not it and he continues this day in day out day in and day out but he goes he goes above he goes above all of that those are all true yes but laid up us for us is something even greater and that is a love for Christ a love for Christ do you sense more greater love for Jesus because it is a relationship that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ and all that he is doing for us does it point you to having greater affection for him for what he is doing in your life where you are rejoicing where you are praising his name truly from the depths of your soul so that what you see in your life in the past you see in your salvation a germ a seed sprouting up and um a way a plant the way it is it's it opens up doesn't it and that's the way a picture of our hearts it grows more open and open and open to God's goodness and glory and greater love and affection for Christ do you see that more expanding in your spiritual walk with the Lord because he doesn't just want you to do all these things he wants you to feel loved that's what faith is again it's always in a person it's always placed in a person so when you're fully grown we're going to have absolute love for Christ not just this partial love that we have this imperfect love that we have for Christ but a full absolute just amazing love for what Jesus Christ is means to us in our lives may that be your assurance that you're going to have this greater love for him the years that we go on living in this Christian walk no matter how hard the trials are think about the love that's going to continue to grow and continue to grow continue to grow and then share that love there's no greater testimony than sharing your love for somebody isn't it we did that today with our moms but what greater love would that be than what you have the love in Jesus Christ and sharing that above all loves man that's where I look forward to continually through this trials that I'm going through that you're going through that's my prayer for all of us here and if you haven't experienced that if you're still an unbeliever you don't know Jesus like this you never felt this kind of love that we're talking about I hope that

you will come to that place where you're not just stuck in despair
you're not just stuck in discouragement not stuck in discontentment
but that through the experience as I brought out in Romans 5 that
through tribulations work with patience and patience experience and
experience hope and hope make it not ashamed because the Holy
Spirit's in us which is the love of Christ i didn't say it completely right
but you get what I'm saying the Holy Spirit's given to us and the more
we allow him to work the greater the love we have for Christ so let us
close out in prayer father I thank you so much for all the goodness of
you Lord through our trials through our challenges that we face day in
and day out i thank you as believers that we can find rest in the loving
hands of Christ that he truly protects us and gives us the peace that
surpasses all understanding that it is him that we rest in and Lord I
pray that we would experience that more and more because you want
us to experience love we don't want us just to be settled with yes
doing the will of God yes finding peace but resting in Christ love help
us to experience greater greater love for Jesus Christ do this Father in
a mighty way in the way that you do with your gentleness in each and
one of our lives we go off course Lord bringing us gently back Lord to
looking to Christ our author and finish of our faith help us Father to
experience the great course that we are in i pray that those that are
not on the course yet they're just looking spectating observing lord
may they see that whatever they're lacking they can find full
assurance full hope true hope true security in Christ and they don't
have to look any further in this life please bless in this way we ask it in
Jesus name amen any birthdays i forgot how he does it but just kind of
raise your hand all at once i'll kind of look from here