

Easter 2026 – An Important Inheritance – 1 Pet. 1:3-5

Intro:

- 1) Antique Roadshow – inherited items passed down worth a lot of money**
 - a. Business Insider – 23 people who discovered that their junk was actually worth a fortune
 - b. When finding out the items were of great worth, people often respond – “I have had this the whole time and had no idea what it was worth!”

- 2) Reality – When we look into Scripture and see all that God states about a believer’s salvation and destination – many Christians respond in the same manner**
 - a. Christians are in possession of the valuable, life-changing truth of God – Yet many live as though what they have is a common item

- 3) In 1 Peter, Peter is writing a letter to Christians who were facing a tough time – tempted to be filled with despair and defeat**
 - a. One of the 1st things Peter wants these believers to know is about their inheritance in the Gospel – 1:4
 - b. His desire is for these believers to know the value of what they are in possession of in Christ Jesus
 - c. Peter doesn’t want them to simply know that they have a Godly possession, he wants them to understand the value of what they’re in possession of

- 4) Truth – Some believers are living spiritually broke – not because their salvation lacks something – but because they don’t grasp the value of the inheritance they have been given in Jesus**
 - a. Sentence – You don’t grow into this inheritance – but you do grow in your understanding of it

- 5) Today – as we celebrate Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, the fact that “It is finished” and proven to be so, I want us to look into this passage and understand the importance of a believer’s inheritance**
 - a. Sermon – An Important Inheritance
 - b. Text: 1 Peter 1:3-5

A Relationship with a Good God – V3

1) Peter opens with a unique statement in V3 – “Blessed be the God”

- a. It is unique not only based on what is said, but also based on what is not said

2) Context

- a. The main theme of Peter’s letter was a truth-filled encouragement to discouraged believers
 - i. We could say – Peter sought to “encourage the discouraged”
 - ii. “How to make the best of times out of the worst of times” – WWW
- b. Notice what Peter labels these believers – 1:1 – Strangers scattered
 - i. Strangers – sojourners, pilgrims, denotes a person away from their home
 - ii. Scattered – dispersed – Grk – Diaspora
 - 1. In the Jewish world – this was used to refer to Jews who lived outside of the Palestinian region
 - 2. Jews scattered among the gentiles
 - iii. 1 Pet. 2:11 – “strangers and pilgrims”
 - iv. The people he was writing to were citizens of heaven, yet lived as residence on earth
 - 1. You and I
- c. Truth – because these Christians were “strangers” in the world, they are often considered strange to the world
 - i. 1 Pet. 4:4
 - ii. Different values, morals, beliefs, standards
- d. As these believers live out their faith – they faced a multitude of challenges
 - i. At least 15x’s in this epistle Peter makes a reference to suffering
 - ii. Peter uses 8 different Greek words to describe their suffering
 - iii. Some suffered:
 - 1. For living Godly in an ungodly world – 1 Pet. 3:14-18
 - 2. Through criticism of unbelievers – 1 Pet. 3:9-10
 - 3. By facing reproach for the name of Christ – 4:14
 - 4. Peter knew greater struggles were on the way – 4:12
 - 5. In a general sense – these believers faced all kinds of struggles – 1:6,7
- e. Peter wrote to encourage these believers to stay steadfast and faithful as they lived out their faith as pilgrims headed for heaven

3) Now – you would think, faced with such issues and struggles that Peter would open his letter be addressing them

- a. But notice – there is no mention about the difficulty of their circumstance or details on how to face the struggles before them
- b. Rather – Peter opens this letter reminding the believers they have good reason to praise a good God

4) Textual insight

- a. Blessed – eulogetos – good/well + to speak/bless
 - i. Meaning – to speak well of, denotes being worthy of praise
 - ii. In NT usage this word is reserved for God, never man to man

5) Cultural insight

- a. In the Jewish world, this was the opening pattern of blessing used in synagogue worship
 - i. Ps. 103:1
- b. Specifically – the Jewish people would often open their prayers with this very phrase
- c. IOW – This phrase was a phrase of worship

6) What this means – Peter opens his letter calling for these believers, wherever they are and with whatever they are facing – to stop and praise the God of heaven

- a. “Peter assumes it is necessary for believers to bless God.” – J Mac
- b. Notice – “be” is added
 - i. Sentence formally reads – Blessed the God...
 - ii. Conveys the idea of a necessity and expectation
- c. These believers were to remember who their God is and bless His name

7) What we have here in the opening of this letter is an invitation to come before God with praise and blessing – not fear, uncertainty, and defeat

- a. The only way that is possible is through the Lord Jesus Christ
- b. The title that Peter uses here of Jesus expresses His full redemptive name
 - i. Lord – Master, Owner, Ruler, a title of supremacy
 - ii. Jesus – Savior, refers to the incarnate Son of God and His salvation – Matt. 1:21
 - 1. This is the name at which every knee will bow – Phil. 2:10
 - iii. Christ – refers to His Messiahship, He is the Anointed and Appointed One
 - 1. He is the fulfilment of the long-awaited promises of the OT

8) Notice one of the most profound aspect of this phrase – “our”

- a. A word a salvific relationship
- b. He is not just “a Lord” He is our Lord
- c. He is not just “a Savior” He is our Savior
- d. He is not just “A Christ” He is our Christ

9) One of the great blessings a believer has in salvation is that they are brought into the family of God and possess a new relationship with God

- a. 1 Pet. 2:9,10

A Recipient of God's Great Mercy

1) Q – Why is God to be blessed/Praised?

- a. Ans – because of His great mercy

2) In this text Peter is piling up expressions to talk about a believer's relationship with God through salvation

- a. After he opens the sentence, Peter reminds the readers that salvation did not come because of who they are or what they have accomplished
 - i. Rather – salvation comes as a gift of mercy to underserving sinners

3) Q – What is Mercy?

- a. Mercy – to show pity on someone, to have compassion
 - i. “Compassion towards the miserable”
 - ii. God withholding from you and I what we rightly deserve and showing compassion instead
- b. Another way to say it – Rather than pouring out His wrath on you for your sin, He showed you love
- c. Paul expresses it this way – Eph. 2:4,5
- d. “God is kind and compassionate in the face of our sin. We deserve eternal punishment. He could choose to condemn us, and He would be just in doing so, but instead our great God chooses to forgive in mercy.” – D. Akin
- e. Truth – as a believer, I have received the mercy of God rather than His wrath on my sin

4) Notice – Peter gives an adjective to the mercy of God shown in Jesus

- a. Abundant – polys – many, great, large, more than
 - i. 221x's – many
 - ii. 74x's – much
 - iii. 59x's – great
- b. In Jesus Christ, the Father gave you and I an overflowing amount of mercy

5) This truth reminds us that the salvation you and I experience did not originate from our merit, it originated from God's mercy

- a. John 3:16 – loved
- b. According to “His”
 - i. Anchors our salvation to the action of God
- c. According – Kata – term of motion/movement/direction – carries the primary idea of “down” from above or “down” upon
- d. IOW – God's abundant mercy came down – That mercy has a name – Jesus!

6) In Jesus – you are a recipient of God's mercy

A Regeneration of God-given Life

- 1) **What we read next is that God’s abundant mercy produces a change in one’s life – specifically a new birth**
 - a. Begotten again – to regenerate, to be born again, to give new birth
 - b. Jesus told Nicodemus – in order to see the Kingdom of God one must be “born again”

- 2) **The Bible uses the words “born again” or “regeneration” as a statement of what happens in a person’s life at the moment of salvation**
 - a. Every person who has been saved has experienced the new birth in Jesus given by the Holy Spirit
 - i. Titus 3:5
 - ii. John 1:12,13

- 3) **Truth – Without Jesus, you exist in the mode of spiritual death, separated from the God of life, and under His wrath for your sins**
 - a. In order to know God, have access to God, experience salvation – you need new life!
 - b. Bible is clear – reforming you old life does not cut it, you need a regenerated life
 - c. Those who trust on Jesus as their Savior experience the new life which is given to them by God alone
 - i. 1 Pet. 1:23 – anchors this reality to the Word of God
 1. Stated in the perfect tense – an event that happened and has ongoing results

- 4) **In order for a person to receive the eternal inheritance from God, they must first experience His means of spiritual transformation – the new birth**
 - a. 2 Cor. 5:17

- 5) **Notice – Peter links something to this new birth – “a lively hope”**
 - a. Hope – confident expectation – not wishful thinking
 - i. Biblically accurate way to describe biblical hope – the assured, yet unexperienced future reality
 - b. Point out – what kind of hope this text says we have
 - i. Lively – to be warm, living, to be alive
 - ii. Present active participle – ongoing and continuous

- 6) **The unbelieving world only knows of a dead hope**
 - a. Prov. 10:28
 - b. Eph. 2:12
 - c. The reason the unbelieving world’s hope is a dead hope is that it is anchored in a dead people
 - i. Man-based, merit-based, mystical-based

7) Peter gives the reason why believers have a living hope

- a. The resurrection of Jesus
- b. Listen – Peter anchors the reality of our eternity in the fact of a Risen Savior
- c. Paul – 1 Corn. 15:19-22
- d. Jesus – John 14:19, 11:25, Rev. 1:18
- e. The resurrection of Jesus stands as the unmovable declaration of living hope for those who trust in Him
 - i. Rom. 4:25-5:1

8) Christian hope is not a mirage, a myth, or a mysticism

- a. It is an absolute reality seated in the authority of the resurrected Savior
- b. IOW – Our living hope comes from a living Jesus

A Reservation that's Guarded

1) V4-5 explain in detail the great inheritance a believer possesses

- a. Inheritance is the key word in this passage
 - i. Carries the concept of OT land allotment in the Promised Land
- b. In the OT, the word was used to describe the physical inheritance the people of God received, in the NT the word is used to describe the spiritual inheritance the people of God receive

2) Peter gives 4 statements about this reserved inheritance that is given to believers

- a. Incorruptible – not liable to corruption, death, or decay
 - i. Military term referring to a land beyond the reach of enemy armies
 - ii. Environmentally – refers to a land that was unscathed by natural calamities
 - iii. Unlike Israel's inheritance which at times was handed over to an enemy due to their sinfulness, this inheritance can't be touched
- b. Undefiled – free from contamination, does not spoil, denotes something unstained
 - i. What we have in Jesus in heaven is unstained by sin
 - ii. Carries the idea of not able to be touched by evil
 - iii. IOW – our heavenly inheritance always retains it's integrity
- c. Fadeth not away – unfading, everlasting
 - i. Grk – amarantos
 - ii. Secular Greek this was used to refer to the amaranth flower that is said to not fade in color
 - iii. Carries the idea that the beauty of salvation does not wither over time nor lose its majesty
 - iv. The decays of the world affect it not
- d. Reserved in heaven – guarded, kept, preserved
 - i. You and I have a reservation
- e. IOW – your inheritance in heaven is: Death-proof, sin-proof, and time-proof

3) Q – How is it possible that this inheritance is incorruptible, undefiled, fading not, and reserved?

- a. V5 – Kept by God's power
- b. Kept – guarded, shielded, watched over
 - i. Military term – to set a guard, to set a garrison
 - ii. Present tense – emphasizes the constant nature of this guarding
- c. power of God – your inheritance is upheld by God's omnipotence

4) Peter closes this thought by one more word of encouragement

- a. Your relationship with God NOW is a foretaste of the entirety of salvation to be experienced when Christ returns

Closing

- 1) Here's what this text tells us – It pays to know what the inheritance we possess in Jesus is**
 - a. A Relationship with a Good God
 - b. A Reception of His Great Mercy
 - c. A Regeneration through God-given life
 - d. A Reservation that's Guarded