

1 Peter 1:3-5

Outline of 1 Peter:

Grace means **Security** – 1:3 - 12

Grace means *Sobriety* – 1:12 - 2:10

Grace means *Submission* – 2:11 – 3:12

Grace means *Suffering* – 3:13 – 4:19

Grace means *Service* – 5:1 – 11

Verse 3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ – Blessing to God is a frequent Old Testament phrase (Genesis 14:20, 24:27, Psalm 41:13, 66:20, 68:19).

God is never named as Father of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. Denoting God as “Father” and Jesus as His “Son” emphasizes the different roles of the members of the Godhead.

According to His great mercy – God demonstrates His mercy by offering us salvation through His Son.

Has caused us to be born again to a living hope – When we put our faith in Jesus Christ we are born again and we become alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-9)

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead – Our hope is “living” because it is grounded in Christ and His resurrection from the dead (Colossians 3:1, Ephesians 2:6, Romans 6:4, 11). Just as He was raised from the dead we also will be raised to be like Him (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

Verse 4

To obtain an inheritance – Inheritance is not the same as “*heaven*”. The OT spoke of the promised land of Canaan as Israel’s inheritance. The NT uses *inheritance* to refer to the believer’s share in the heavenly kingdom, and their future heavenly *and* earthly reward.

Notice the parallel in Matthew 6:19-20 where we are told to lay up treasures *in* heaven.

ALL believers are heirs of God through faith alone in Christ.

EVERY believer may be a joint heir with Christ by faithfulness.

An inheritance which is:

Imperishable – (*aphtharton*) – The word means “not liable to corruption or decay”.

Undefiled – (*amianton*) – Unsoiled or unstained by sin (Heb. 7:26, 13:4, James 1:27).

Will not fade away – (*amaranton*) – Literally, “unfading”. It will never grow dim or lose its beauty or glory.

Our inheritance is:

-Untouched by death! *aphtharton*

-Unstained by evil! *amianton*

-Unimpaired by time! *amaranton*

Reserved in Heaven for you – The word means “to guard”, to “attend to carefully”, to “reserve”.

The form of the verb indicates a completed past action (by God) with results that are still continuing in the present. Peter makes it very personal by using the plural pronoun “*you*”.

Verse 5

Who are protected by the power of God – *Protected or guarded* is a term frequently used in military contexts. God protects us and therefore our inheritance by His power!

Through faith – Our faith is the means by which we receive salvation initially and, therefore, our inheritance. While we are justified the moment we place our faith in Christ (*heirs of God*) we are also called to a life of faithfulness to obtain our inheritance/reward (*joint heirs with Christ*), Romans 8:17.

“Peter was not saying our faith keeps us saved. God’s power keeps us saved... Scripture does not teach that Christians will inevitably continue to persevere in the faith... it does teach that God will persevere in His commitment to bring all who have trusted in Him to heaven.”¹
Thomas Constable

For a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time – Salvation in the NT exists in three phases: Justification – Sanctification- Glorification. Peter primarily refers to the future aspect of our salvation, namely, our glorification. However, our *present salvation*, our sanctification, plays into our *final salvation*, our glorification.

Ready to be revealed in the last time – This glorification will occur either at the rapture or at death (1 Thess. 4:16-18, Philippians 3:20-21).

Verse 3 - A living hope! The resurrected Christ!

Verse 4 - A permanent inheritance! Imperishable, Undefiled, Unfading!

Verse 5 - A divine protection! The power of God!

¹ Constable, T. (2003). *Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible* (1 Pe 1:5). Galaxie Software.