

## 1 Peter 1:3-5

**Vs. 3** “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*”

- From the Lord’s human nature, or perspective, God the Father is His God
- From the Lord’s divine perspective as God the Son – God is His Father
- That is, Jesus has the very divine nature with God the Father, as equal deity with God the Father and God the Spirit

*Philippians 1:5-7*, “*Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*”

The word “God” expresses the Lord’s relationship as the Son of Man; the word “Father” expresses the Lord’s relationship as the Son of God. Both our Lord’s humanity and deity are carried forward in this doxology. Without both being true, our salvation would be impossible.

### 1. The first truth that leads us to thanksgiving is – God’s great mercy gives us new life

**Selah** - The mercy of God saved us, not just giving us what we don’t deserve- that’s grace; but in not giving us what we deserve- that’s mercy.

#### The Christian upon conversion to Christ becomes:

- Created in Christ Jesus
- Brought from spiritual death unto spiritual life (*Ephesians 2:10*)
- New creatures and a new creation (*2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15*)
- Begin to participate in a new God-given life

### 2. The second truth that leads us to thank God is – not only for our new life, but our living hope

We have a hope that is alive because Jesus Christ is alive. The concept of hope, is uniquely a Christian concept. The world knows nothing of hope, certainly no hope beyond the grave. The Apostle Paul describes the unbelieving world in *Ephesians 2:12* as “...*having no hope and without God in the world.*”

Biblical hope isn’t a vague wish, or a simple desire, nor is it positive thinking. Biblical hope is defined as an *expectation* that is *certain*, with a sense of anticipation.

*1 Corinthians 15:14-19* “*if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also worthless*” and in verse 17, “*and we are still in our sins.*” Verse 19, “... *and if we have hoped in Christ in this life only we are of all men to be pitied.*” **Selah** – The resurrection is the foundation of our hope and our certain expectation. Our hope isn’t dead because Jesus isn’t dead; our hope is not empty because the tomb is empty! Our hope is a “*living hope*” because Jesus is our Living Lord (vs.3)!

### 3. The third truth that leads us to thanksgiving is our eternal inheritance

**Verse 4**, “*To obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.*” We don’t just have a certain definite expectation, we have an eternal inheritance.

In Acts 20, Galatians 3, and Ephesians 1, the believer is a joint heir with Christ. That is God’s promise!

#### The Scriptures inform us our inheritance includes:

- Eternal life – *Titus 3:7*
- The Kingdom of God – *Matthew 25:34*
- The sealing of the Spirit of God – *Ephesians 1:14*
- We’re told our inheritance includes rewards in *Colossians 3:24*
- Salvation is referred to as our final inheritance- *Hebrews 1:14*
- We’re even told that we will inherit the earth- *Matthew 5:5*

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All the liberals and all the atheists and all the evolutionists and all those who deny our Creator God, who are scrambling to save the earth are not going to save the earth. God is actually saving it for His believers. He will recreate it brand new, as heaven and earth become our inheritance. And earth, one day, will be a part of our inheritance as a child of God.

In verse 4, Peter describes our inheritance with the Greek work “*aphtharton*” meaning it is impossible to experience decay. We can also understand it to mean that it won’t come to ruin, it won’t be destroyed, ever; it’s indestructible.

Peter also calls our inheritance *undefiled* the Greek word “*amianton*” which carries the idea of being unstained or unpolluted. The word also speaks of a life without the stain of sin, crime, defilement, or fear.

Peter adds that our inheritance, “*will not fade away*” using the Greek word “*amarontos*.” It can be rendered, “it will not grow dim.” The word is used to refer to the fading beauty such as with flowers. It also conveys the nuance of never losing freshness or excitement.

This Scripture promises that our inheritance will not fade in beauty, or will not lose its glory or its freshness. The flowers in the new heaven and new earth will never wilt and the colors will never lose their vibrancy and will never lose their beauty or wonder! This has as much to say about our glorified state as it does the glory of our inheritance.

### **4. The fourth truth that leads us to thankfulness is-- God’s personal guarantee of our new life, our living hope, and our eternal inheritance**

Verse 5, “... *who are kept [protected] by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*” Not only is our inheritance reserved in heaven, we also are protected by the power of God for this future salvation when God ushers us into that new heaven and new earth.

#### **Salvation in the New Testament has three characteristics:**

- A *past tense* characteristic – we were saved from the penalty of sin when we placed our faith in Christ – called justification
- A *present tense* characteristic – we are delivered from the power of sin as we submit to the Spirit – called sanctification
- A *future* characteristic to our salvation – in heaven we will be delivered from the very presence of sin – called glorification

How can we be sure we’ll make it all the way from justification to glorification? We have God’s guarantee! In verse 5 the word “*kept/protected*” is in the present tense. It is a military term for someone setting a guard to watch over something important or valuable. Who is protecting us? God!

#### **God is effectively telling the scattered believers and us through Peter:**

- You are wandering and ever sinful – but I am great with mercy, which I am giving to you
- You don’t deserve to live – but I have given you a new birth and a new life, and every day a fresh start
- You are bankrupt and penniless – but I have given you an incredible, imperishable, eternal inheritance
- You are homeless and wandering, scattered throughout the kingdoms of earth – but I am guaranteeing that I will bring you home

#### **Application:**

In what concrete ways should my identity as joint heirs with Christ change the way I live in this present world?

Every day this week articulate at least one reality regarding your identity in Christ for which you can praise God. Write it down and share it with someone who needs the encouragement.