

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY

Houses of Light Church • February 19-20, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 1:3-5

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. ***"Praise"*** Peter begins this letter with true praise because it arises from the knowledge of God and Father of our Lord Jesus and His work. This is how praise should flow from our hearts when we see what the Father of Jesus and ours has done; this expression of praise is a natural response to how glorious He is and what He does. Daily exposure to the truths of the Word should produce this in our lives.
- B. ***"be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!"*** When Peter mentions God as the Father of Jesus he is speaking of His equality with God (**Jn. 5:18**). He is not a generic 'god' as the religions of the world speak of, but rather the true God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. THE REASON FOR PETER'S PRAISE

- A. ***"Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth"*** It was His mercy that made us the miracle of the new birth; we could not have earned or deserved it. The Christian is just as incapable of being initiated into the new life as he was of conceiving himself in his first life. All this began in God who is merciful.
- B. This being born again describes the spiritual regeneration that we experience when we have our encounter with Jesus (**Jn. 3:3**). The phrase emphasizes the great change that takes place at conversion and that enables us to receive God's life. The Father has been most merciful in giving us this blessing (**Rom. 15:9; Eph. 2:1-7; Tit. 3:5**).

1 Pet. 1:23-25 "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever."

- C. Then we are born again through the gospel message that we have heard which is the Word of God. The Word of God lives, it is not like any other book no matter how notorious its author or his ideas. There is a power that comes from God that produces the new birth.

III. THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST WE HAVE:

- A. **"living hope"**: One of the fruits of the new birth is that God creates hope in the human heart. This is not a mere wish that things will simply get better, it is not the hope of money or a successful career, but **an assurance and expectation that good (glorious) things are to come through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**. A child of God has no right to stare at the dark side of things and expect the worst to happen. As those of us who are the objects of God's care and love, our expectation is to expect the best from Him and see the best side of things that happen from the Father's perspective (**Prov. 4:18**). Lack of hope leads to frustration and even anger. Then through the resurrection of Jesus we can have a life in which hope is the principle that vitalizes us. Hope is faith in what is to come in the future (**Heb. 11:1**). Our hope is alive because Jesus Christ is alive and so are we and we will be forever with Him.
- B. As people who are born again, **the inheritance we receive is a type of inheritance that is reserved in heaven for us**, that is, it is future. Just as the Israelites anticipated their "inheritance" the Promised Land, **we Christians must anticipate ours, when Jesus returns or it is our turn to depart from this world**. Our heritage is not subject to destruction of any kind, to external contamination or internal deterioration, it is a heritage:
- Indestructible** (gr. *aphtharton*): The inheritance has not been touched by mortality. No one can loot it or ruin it.
 - undefiled** (gr. *amianton*) The inheritance we have is not tainted by any evil of any kind, because it is pure.
 - does not fade away** (gr. *amaranton*): The beauty of this heritage does not fade, that is, it has not been and will not be damaged by time; will not wear out or consume.
 - God himself is the one who is preserving this inheritance, that is why it is so safe and remains so intact even though centuries and centuries pass, just as Jesus said:
Mat. 6:19-20 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."
- C. What exactly is the Christian heritage? It is Jesus Christ Himself plus all the blessings He has promised us (**1 Jn. 3:2; Col. 3:4; Eph. 1:14; Rom. 8:11, 18-23**). Not all Christians will get the same amount of inheritance (**2 Tim. 2:12; Matt. 25:14-30**), but all Christians will get a glorious inheritance in the sense that heaven will be everyone's portion, but the Rewards will vary according to faithfulness and dedication (**1 Cor. 3:14-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Jn. 8**).
- D. The idea of faithfully serving Jesus Christ in order to receive a reward can be disconcerting for some Christians at the end of the age, because service can flow from selfish motives, without love (**1 Cor. 13:1-4**). For example, two students might study hard to finish the seminar with good grades. One of

them might do it to get a diploma with a "highest honor" stamp on it, so they can hang it on his wall for all to see and admire. The other might do it to prepare to serve his Savior more effectively after graduation, without thinking of spreading his own achievement.

- E. The Christian who faithfully serves Jesus Christ now, so that the Lord may entrust him with important opportunities of service in his coming kingdom, is not necessarily trying to earn rewards for his own glory. He might be serving now so that he can better glorify his Lord in the future. The present life is a training period designed to prepare us for future service in the eternal heavenly kingdom beginning with Jesus' return to earth during the millennium and in eternity (**Matt. 25:14-30; Lk. 16:1 -13; 19:11-27; Rom. 8:16-18**).

IV. WE ARE KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD

- A. **v.5 "who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."** God is not only protecting our inheritance, but He is also protecting us with His "power" (**Phil. 1:6; 1 Cor 1:8**). Our faith in Christ for salvation is, on the human side, that which shows the final realization of the fullness of our "salvation" ("*prepared to be revealed in the end time*", that is, our glorification).

Phil. 1:6 "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

- B. Peter was not saying that our faith keeps us saved. He said that the power of God keeps us saved. What he sustains us in the first place is not our faith, but the power of God, because our faith often wavers but the power of God is firm. Peter does not mean so much that the elect will continue to believe the truths of the gospel. Paul warned that Christians can stop believing the truth (**1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 2:17-18**). Rather, Peter meant that the "power" of God keeps believers saved in spite of their sins, because they have put their saving faith in Christ in the past. In this sense, those of us who are believers do not lose faith because the power of God keeps us so that our faith fails us not.

Lk. 22:32 "But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail..."

- C. The fullness of our salvation "***is to be revealed in end last times***" means that what we have seen of our salvation is only a small part, but we will see it in its fullness at the return of Jesus, in His millennial kingdom and even after.

Col. 3:4 "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

V. CONCLUSION

- A. The mercy of God produces the new birth, which produces a living hope in an inheritance that does not deteriorate, and we are kept by the power of God and therefore we bless God with all our hearts and that is a praise that pleases God because it comes from the truth.

- B. If the realities and truths expressed in this section do not produce an expression of praise, it is that they did not really impact our being.
- C. **When Peter wrote about "salvation" in this epistle, the particular aspect he had in mind was glorification. Salvation may be considered the main theme of this epistle.** In this first letter Peter teaches about how salvation is applied by emphasizing the initial and ongoing process of living as a Christian, but the actual words for 'salvation' are **primarily future oriented, meaning that we experience it in terms of salvation in this life is just a small part.**

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How often does praise spring from your heart as you are exposed to the glorious truths of Scripture? Explain
2. According to this text, how can someone experience the new birth and what does it consist of?
3. Why can we say that we have a living hope?
4. How do you feel knowing that you are kept by the power of God to receive the glorious inheritance that he has reserved for you?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **YOUTH SERVICE: This Wednesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.** All Junior High and High School youth are welcome.
- **INNER HEALING RETREATS: Women March 18-19 and 25-26 • Men April 29-30.** They will take place at the Houses of Light facilities. Register today at the bookstore or online www.housesoflight.org