

LIVING AS PILGRIMS

Our Inheritance

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:3-12

INTRODUCTION: How would you feel if suddenly someone you did not even know notified you that he wanted to legally adopt you, making you the heir to an indescribable fortune? Would you be grateful, exuberant even?

We'll consider what Peter says has happened to us.

1 Peter 1:3–12 3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the *grace that would come* to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

I. WE SHOULD PRAISE GOD

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

Literally “God the Father be praised”

Why should we praise God?

Because we got a raise? Because for once there was not too much month at the end of the money? Because all is well with our world?

It is good to praise God in the good times.

But is there cause to praise Him when times are tough, money is tight, problems are far too abundant?

Peter knew more difficult days than easy ones. He said, fellow sojourners, chosen by God, we should praise God because God has

- **begotten us again** – caused us to be born again into His family, making us His children and heirs
- **to a living hope** – not just to a day of hope or month of hope but a life of hope, and even an eternal life of hope!
- **who according to His abundant mercy** – and not because we deserve it, have earned it, will earn it by faithful service, but just because of the grace and mercy of God.
- **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead** – We have the certain hope of being raised from the dead because Jesus was raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:14–19 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

- **to an inheritance** – what we have received from the Father, not because we earned it but because we are His children.
 - **incorruptible** – It cannot be ruined, spoiled, or lost.
 - **undefiled** – It cannot be corrupted by us or by others.

- **that does not fade away** – Time will not lessen it; the Father will not diminish its value.
- **reserved in heaven for you** – Kept in heaven’s vault, forever protected.
- **kept by the power of God through faith** – not just is our inheritance protected, we are protected, and that by the very power of God. Nothing can touch us without the permission of God.
- **for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** – kept by the power of God for salvation. Not only to go to heaven when we die, but in the consummation of the world and the re-creation of the heavens and the earth.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

WE SHOULD PRAISE GOD FOR THE INHERITANCE HE HAS GIVEN US!

II. WE SHOULD GREATLY REJOICE!

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

- **In this you greatly rejoice** – We get “greatly rejoice” from a single Greek word which means to exult or be extremely glad.

though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials

- **We are to be exceedingly glad because of our salvation.**
- **Even if we are in times of trial.**
- **that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,**
 - **Trials prove that our faith is genuine.**
 - **Genuine faith is more precious than gold because gold perishes and faith does not.**

- **Genuine faith honors Jesus Christ.**
- **Genuine faith brings glory to Christ.**

Folks, when in tough times, times of trial and difficulty, we still hold firm to our belief in and trust in Christ, He is honored.

When we, by word, deed, and attitude show that our faith in Christ is real when the going is difficult, Jesus is glorified.

- **Genuine faith shows you love Christ even though you have not seen Him.**
- *whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.*

III. WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE BLESSING WE HAVE.

Often times in the midst of

- our trials,
- our busyness,
- even our ministries,

we can forget what a special blessing it is to live

- after Christ has made His sacrifice,
- the gospel is fully explained,
- and salvation is readily available to all who will trust in Jesus.

1 Peter 1:10–12 10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

1. The prophets foretold this time realizing that they, themselves would not see it come to pass.

- *the grace that would come to you*
- *the sufferings of Christ*
- *the glories that would follow*

2. Even the angels marvel at God's wonderful provision of salvation by grace through faith.

CONCLUSION: This salvation which we have, if we will simply trust in Jesus.

Romans 10:9–10 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.