

**"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"**

**1 Peter 1:1-2:10**

**Introduction:** Last week we entered into a great privilege which God has placed before us and that is the privilege of studying the letter before us that was written by Peter as he was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Peter was writing to believers who were in the Roman Empire facing tribulation. Last week we learned that believers were not well favored in the Roman Empire for several reasons. When Rome burned it is believed the fire was set by Nero and when he was found to be the arsonist, he needed a scape goat, so he blamed the Christians. This brought the persecution down upon them like a sledgehammer. Because they were not well favored it did not take much to get the population and the state to turn on them. They believers then experienced severe persecution.

Some believe that Peter wrote this letter before the persecution under Nero started and others believe it was written when the persecution started. The exact timing is not as important as the fact that God knew what they were or would be facing and therefore He inspired Peter to write this letter.

Peter begins this letter by reminding the believers of their salvation in Jesus Christ. The words he recorded would have been encouragement to those who were suffering, and they are also words of encouragement to any believer who has or will face suffering.

The theme of Peter's letter is: **"Suffering for the cause of Jesus Christ for a Future Glory"**. Peter will remind his readers that the sufferings of this life are connected with their glory in eternity.

✓ **The Believer's Salvation - 1 Peter 1:1-2:10**

**Part 2**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:2**

Here we see the work of the Trinity in the life of the believer. As believers they were the elect meaning they were God's earthly representatives. From before the foundation of the world God chose to have a church/bride for His Son. Those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior become part of the elect. As believers they were also sanctified by the Holy Spirit unto obedience. This means they were set apart by the Spirit to live in obedience to the Word of God. Not only are all believers set apart to a life of obedience, but we are also equipped to live in obedience.

**2 Peter 1:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

<sup>4</sup> *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Peter also reminds us that we are sprinkled with the blood. This is a daily sprinkling that takes place as we pass through this sin filled world.

**1 John 1:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

<sup>8</sup> *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

<sup>9</sup> *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**Notice 1 Peter 1:3**

Peter starts this verse in a burst of praise. He praises God that believers are BORN AGAIN. In our first birth we were born spiritually dead. When we accepted Jesus Christ as Savior we were then born again. Now we are spiritually alive.

**John 3:3**

<sup>3</sup> *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

In Ephesians 2 we see our past condition and we see what God has done in us.

**Ephesians 2:1-**

*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

<sup>2</sup> *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

<sup>3</sup> *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

<sup>4</sup> *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

<sup>5</sup> *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

Now we have a living Hope which we did not have before. It is based upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. His resurrection was proof that God accepted the sacrifice He made for us. He is alive and He has promised to come back for us. Our Hope is alive in Jesus Christ.

**Titus 2:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

<sup>12</sup> *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

<sup>13</sup> **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**

✓ **The Believer's Inheritance**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:4**

Now Peter points to their spiritual inheritance. This would have been of great encouragement to these people for in the persecution many of them lost much of what they had in this world. But there were riches which were theirs that no one could take away, for they were untouchable.

In his description of the believer's inheritance Peter uses three negatives and one positive. It is interesting that Peter does not tell us what the inheritance is, but he only tells us what cannot happen to it. There is a reason why he does not give us details of our inheritance. There are not words to describe what awaits us in glory when we get there. Let us notice what Paul said about his experience in the third heaven.

**2 Corinthians 12:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

<sup>3</sup> *And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)*

<sup>4</sup> *How that he was caught up into paradise, and **heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.***

Notice what Paul said in 1 Corinthians:

**1 Corinthians 2:9**

<sup>9</sup> But as it is written, *Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

Paul was quoting from Isaiah here in this verse.

**Isaiah 64:4**

<sup>4</sup> *For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.*

We cannot fully comprehend what God has waiting for us when we step into the presence of our Lord. This is why Peter can only tell us what cannot happen to our inheritance and why nothing can happen to our inheritance. Let us look at each point that Peter made.

**1. Our inheritance is incorruptible.**

This means that our inheritance is imperishable. There is nothing that can corrupt, ruin, or dissolve our eternal inheritance. This is the opposite of all we know in this life.

**1 John 2:17**

<sup>17</sup> *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

This is why Jesus instructed His disciple not to lay up treasures here on earth.

**Matthew 6:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where **moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:***

✓ <sup>20</sup> *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

<sup>21</sup> *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Jesus warned that the treasures of this world are in danger of moth, rust, and thieves. Now to understand what He is saying we must understand how the people of Jesus day invested. They invested in three major products. Garments, grain, and gold.

- ✓ Garments would eventually be eaten by moths.
- ✓ Grain would be eaten by mice and insects. The word "rust" means "to eat". So, this was a warning about losing the storehouse of grain.

- ✓ Gold was often stored in the walls of houses or buried in a field. The words "break through" literally mean "to dig through a house".

So what Jesus is telling us here is that nothing in this world is safe. It can be destroyed by moth, by being eaten, and by theft.

## 2. Our inheritance is undefiled.

This means that our inheritance will be pure. At first thought we do not see the importance of this. But after some careful consideration we begin to understand what Peter is saying.

Notice the words of Benson on this thought:

*"How many estates have been got by fraudulent and unjust methods; by poisoning, or in some other way murdering the right heir; by cheating of helpless orphans; by ruining the fatherless and widows; by oppressing their neighbors, or grinding the faces of the poor, and taking their garments or vineyards from them! But this future inheritance of the saints is stained by none of these vices; it is neither got nor detained by any of these methods; nor shall persons polluted with vice have any share in it."*

When we receive our eternal inheritance, it will not stir any feelings of greed. There will be no concern as to how we are going to hold on to it, a concern that often keeps people from fully surrendering over to the Lord.

I am reminded here of what James wrote about the rich.

### James 5:1-5

*Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.*

<sup>2</sup> **Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.**

<sup>3</sup> **Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.**

<sup>4</sup> *Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.*

There is a very alarming statement in what James says. The "rust" or "corruption" of earthly treasures will witness against the one who stores them up. How will this happen. The abundance in the storehouse will testify that they had a means to help but refused to part with what they had, and it eventually corroded away.

**3. Our inheritance will never fade away.**

This means that the believer's inheritance will never grow old. It will always be fresh and new. The things of this life eventually fade and decay but not what we have in heaven. The idea here is that our inheritance is like a flower that will never wither. Everything in heaven will keep its brightness and its beauty.

*Notice the words of Hiebert as he sums up our inheritance by quoting MacDonald who "remarks that those three negative terms picture the inheritance as "death-proof," "sin-proof," and "time-proof." In its internal nature it is free from the germs of destruction; in its outward appearance it is untouched by the stain of sin; in its abiding character it is without diminishing effects of its beauty. The three negative terms indicate that in seeking to describe the heavenly inheritance, Peter could only tell us what it is not like in terms of our present life."*

Now we come to the one positive statement that Peter makes concerning our eternal inheritance.

**1. It is reserved in heaven.**

The word "reserved" means "to be guarded". There is no one, not even Satan, who can get to our eternal inheritance in heaven. It is guarded by God and therefore we can be sure when the day comes for us to receive our inheritance it will all be there.

All that we have in this world we will leave behind or we shall lose it before we die.

**Ecclesiastes 2:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> *Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: **because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.***

<sup>19</sup> *And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.*

**Conclusion:**

Let me give you one more thought about our eternal inheritance. When Peter tells us it will never fade away we can also understand that because it will be bright and new forever, we

will never grow bored with our inheritance from God. It will satisfy us for all eternity. Ten thousand years from now we will still be enjoying our eternal inheritance. This is the opposite of an earthly inheritance. Whatever you may inherit here you can be sure it will not stay new and bright forever. It will never satisfy you for life. There will something else that our flesh desires as time moves on.

So, if we should lose what we have here because we are followers of Jesus Christ, let us rejoice in the Truth that we have an eternal inheritance that we will never lose.