

# Hope for the Hopeless!

## 1 Peter 1:3-5

East Berlin Community Church

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### Introduction

- Hopelessness in America today
- Nine different forms of hopelessness: Alienation, Forsakenness, Uninspired, Powerlessness, Oppression, Limitedness, Doom, Captivity, Helplessness
- Nine forms applied to Peter's readers and to us today.
- Antidote: Take a step back and look at the big picture!
- Our True Identity in Christ
  - 1 Peter 1:1-2-- *"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied."*
  - Pilgrims—not of this world
  - Elect—wanted by God

### Hope for the Hopeless

- 1 Peter 1:3-5-- *"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, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

### A. The Meaning of "Hope"

1. Classic example of hope in action
  - Romans 4:18-21-- *"Who contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, 'So shall your descendants be.' And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, although already dead (since he was about one hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promises of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."*
2. Hope is *"Faith projected to the future"*
3. **Our hope is in GOD, not in man!**

### B. The Reasons for "Hope"

- 1 Peter 1:3-- *"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."*
1. **We have been begotten by God! We are "born again"!**
    - a. **Our condition before salvation—no hope!**
      - Ephesians 2:12-- *"At that time, you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."*
      - Romans 3:10-12-- *"There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have altogether become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."*

b. **God's mercy and compassion**

- Ephesians 2:4-5-- *"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)"*

c. **Work of the Spirit in the new birth**

- John 3:3-- *"Most assuredly I say to you, 'Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"*
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-- *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."*
- 1 Peter 1:23-- *"born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever."*

2. **We have a "living" hope because Jesus is alive**

a. **No resurrection, no hope**

- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19-- *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then, our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 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. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life we have hope only in Christ, we are of all men to be most pitiable!"*

b. **Christ's resurrection, our hope!**

- 1 Corinthians 15:20-- *"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."*

**C. The Inheritance as our "Hope"**

- 1 Peter 1:4-- *"To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,"*

1. **Adopted by God, and thus an heir**

- Romans 8:14-17-- *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry, 'Abba, Father'. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."*

2. **We have received a spiritual inheritance**

- Ephesians 1:11-- *"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."*
- Ephesians 1:18-- *"the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of your calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."*
- Acts 26:18-- *"open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."*

3. **Description of our Inheritance**

- a) Incorruptible—Preserved
- b) Undefiled—Perfect and Pure
- c) Unfading—Perennial

#### 4. **Our inheritance is our Salvation**

- 1 Peter 1:5-- *“who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*
  
- a) **Three tenses of Salvation**
  - 1) Past—Justification—Penalty of Sin
  - 2) Present—Sanctification—Power of sin
  - 3) Future—Glorification—Presence of Sin
    - Revelation 22:3-5-- *“There shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”*
  
- b) **Eternal Perspective on life**
  - Hebrews 12:1-2-- *“lay aside every weight and sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*
  - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18-- *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

#### **D. The Certainty of our “Hope”**

- 1 Peter 1:4-5-- *“To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ”*
1. The Quality: *incorruptible, undefiled, unfading*
  
  2. *“Reserved in heaven for you”*
    - Matthew 6:19-20-- *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*
  
  3. *“Kept by the power of God for salvation to be revealed”*
    - Romans 8:35-39-- *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or the sword? As it is written; ‘For your sake we are killed all day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*