

1 Peter 1:1–7

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

² 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.

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,

A Hope to Live On 1 Peter 1:3-5

INTRO:

Peter wrote his first epistle to believers who were uprooted and scattered all over the Roman Empire. Beside the trauma of being uprooted they also endured much suffering along the way. What do you hold on to in the midst of this kind of confusion in your lives? Peter told them and us in the beginning of his letter. This is the reality that gives stability and strength in the midst of chaos. ***“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”*** (1 Peter 1:3–5).

I. The Reality (verses 3-4)

II. God Reserved Us (verse 5)

I. The Reality (verses 3-4)

1 Peter 1:3-4 ***“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,”***

A. To help these brothers and sisters in the Lord who were uprooted from their homes and cast out to another place, Peter pointed to the basic reality which gives strength and hope. The reality of what God will do for them and us because of the Lord Jesus Christ. He begins by praising God. ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** (v.3) Peter praises God. He focuses in on God the Father because he wants to thank Him for what He accomplished through His Son. We noted there is one God in three persons. Each member of the Trinity has a specific role in redemption. God the Father sent the Son into the world to die for our sins. Jesus came and died, was buried, and rose again. God the Holy Spirit applies the salvation Christ bought to the ones who come to Him by faith.

B. Peter ascribes all blessing to God the Father for two reasons which are the reality that we grasp for our stability in this uncertain world.

1. First, Peter thanks Him because of the events which bought our salvation for all eternity.

v.3 ***“Who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again [into] a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”***

This is history. We were in trouble. Our sin demanded our condemnation, but God had mercy upon us.

a. In **Titus 3:5** Paul wrote:

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

b. We do not begin to merit the least of His favors. All we deserve is hell. But God showed us mercy and Jesus saved us. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of a virgin. Lived a sinless life. Then died on a cross and was made a curse for us in order that we might have salvation. He was buried and rose the third day in triumph over sin, death, and the grave. He now is ascended on high and is seated at the right hand of the Father. When the bottom falls out of life do not forget the price of your salvation

c. We have been begotten again to a living hope. Although the word Peter used differs from the word John used, the idea of a second birth is here. We have a new life anchored in a new certainty. We have a hope that we live in. This world is not our home. We are just passing through. Paul again amplifies this truth in **Titus 2:11-13**.

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

When the bottom falls out of our lives we must remember (1) The cost of our redemption and (2) the hope upon which our lives are lived.

2. Second, He also begotten us again ***“[into] an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”*** (v.4)

Peter fleshed out our “hope” by describing the inheritance we have in Christ. Do you remember the statement Jesus made in **John 14:1-3?**

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

This is the reality waiting for each of us who have by faith taken Christ as our Savior. God the Father has made a reservation for each of us in heaven and the Lord Jesus Christ paid for it through His blood.

C. When the bottom falls out of our lives we must remember (1) The cost of our redemption, and (2) the hope upon which our lives are lived, and (3) the Home reserved for us in heaven with the Lord.

II. God Reserved Us (verse 5)

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. Peter is not done. Not only does this reality mean we have a reservation. We are being reserved for this reservation by Christ. Can you enter into the minds of these folks going through all this upheaval and uncertainty? What if I don’t make it? Peter wanted them to know this hope they were to live on in this difficult time was one that God guaranteed and He also promised to keep them to the end.

B. The simple sentence here says it all. ***“Who are guarded in the power of God through faith.”*** Those whom God saved He keeps. This means He preserves them to the end. Let us consider one passage.

Romans 8:38-39 ***“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.”***

C. Abraham showed us how this is to work in our daily lives.

Hebrews 11:9-10 ***“By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”***

Are we living in view of eternity? We must. We do not know what this year ahead will bring but whatever happens this reality will be our strength and our stronghold. We have a living hope, because Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. We have an inheritance that cannot be taken from us. We are guarded by the power of God through this life. We will persevere because He preserves us.

Hymn #213 ***Because He Lives***