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The Christian's Portfolio

1 Peter 1:3-9

2 **1 Peter 1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, into an inheritance imperishable and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for you who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, in which you rejoice greatly, ...

3 **1 Peter 1:3-9 (continued)**

...although now for a short time, if necessary, you are distressed by various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more valuable than gold that is passing away, but is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom, although you have not seen, you love; in whom now you believe, although you do not see him, and you rejoice greatly with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

4 **What is in our Portfolio?**5 **1. The Lovingkindness of God**6 **The Loving Mercy of God**

- Mercy is God's eternal lovingkindness and forgiveness shown to us and which is given to us without any merit of our own.
- It is CRUCIAL to remember that we are incapable of earning our salvation by our good works or of KEEPING our salvation by our good works.

7 **God's mercy came with our birth**

- A new birth
 - A baby did nothing to bring about its own life
 - A baby only results from the action of two parents

8 **Our new birth**

- Similarly, the Christian can do nothing to effect his new birth.
- Parents: The Word of God and the Spirit of God
 - The new birth is a gift already provided and paid; we can only choose whether to receive this gift
 - *anagennēsas*, from the verb "beget again" or "cause to be born again." It is used only twice in the New Testament, both times in this chapter (1 Peter 1:3, 23)
 - 1 Peter 1:23 -- "*because you have been born again, not from perishable seed but imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*"

9 **2. A Living Hope**10 **A Living Hope**

- Two Categories of People
 - The LOST (spiritually dead)

- The atheists who oppose Christ
- The agnostics who KNOW that you can't know God
- The ones who trust in their religion and deceive themselves
- Matthew 7:21-23 -- *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many miracles in your name?' And then I will say to them plainly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

11 **A Living Hope (continued)**

- The LIVING
 - Carnal
 - Spiritual
 - Characteristics
 - Those with the LIFE of Christ in them
 - It is THIS that makes a Christian
 - Those who may sometimes backslide but who can no longer live in a continual pattern of sin

12 **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Neither sexually immoral people, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor passive homosexual partners, nor dominant homosexual partners, nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, not abusive persons, not swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And some of you were these things, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

13 **A Living Hope (continued)**

- A Living Hope is only found in a Living Savior
 - The "new birth" results in a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The "living hope" is based on the living resurrected Christ (cf. 1 Peter 1:21)
 - 1 Peter 1:21 -- *who through him are believing in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*
- Our hope of living eternally with God is as sure as the resurrection of Christ. His resurrection is the undisputable fact of history. Peter emphasizes this by using the word "living" 6 times in 1 Peter.

14 **1 Peter 2:4-5, 4:5-6**

- *... to whom you are drawing near, a living stone rejected by men but chosen and precious in the sight of God. And you yourselves, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*
- *They will give an account to the one who is ready to judge the living and the dead. Because for this reason also the gospel was preached to those who are dead, so that they were judged by human standards in the flesh, but they may live in the spirit by God's standards.*

15 **3. A Lasting Inheritance**

16 **A Lasting INHERITANCE**

- The "inheritance" -- (*klēronomian*). This same word is used in the Septuagint to refer to Israel's promised possession of the land (cf. Num. 26:54, 56; 34:2; Josh. 11:23); it was her possession, granted to her as a gift from God.
 - Number 26:54,56 -- For the larger group you must increase their inheritance, and for the smaller group you must make smaller their inheritance; each must be given their inheritance according to the number of the ones counted of them. Their inheritance must be divided according to the lot between the larger and smaller groups."

17 **A LASTING Inheritance**

- Peter used three words, each beginning with the same letter and ending with the same syllable, to describe in a cumulative fashion this inheritance's permanence:
 - Can never perish (aphtharton) -- UNDIMINSHING
 - Can never spoil (amianton) -- UNDEFILED
 - Can never fade (amaranton) -- UNDIMMING

18 **It lasts because it is secure**

- For you to pass on an inheritance, it needs to be kept safe.
 - If you are buying silver and gold right now (which you should), you can keep it in a vault but pay for a storage fee. Or you can put it in a safe at home.

19 **Matthew 6:19-21**

- *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*
- Why we lose things
 - Thieves still luxuries
 - Rust decays what we do not care for
 - Moths destroy clothes we do not wear

20 **The protection of heaven**

- Protects riches in a thief-free environment
- Gives us treasures that we will use for an eternity to worship Christ
- Clothes us with a robe of righteousness that lasts for an eternity

21 **4. A Loving Protection**

22 **A Loving Protection**

- You are being protected by the power of God
- You are "garrisoned" -- inside an impenetrable fortress that prevents the Enemy from stealing you away or destroying you.
- "Shielded" (*phrouromenous*) is a military term, used to refer to a garrison within a city (Phil. 4:7 uses the same Gr. word)

23 **5. A Later Realization**

24 **A Later Realization**

- You possess (PRESENTLY) salvation now

- However, you cannot fully appreciate the full significance of that gift until its true worth and value is revealed in glory
- This final step, or ultimate completion of "the salvation of their souls" (1 Peter 1:9), will come "when Jesus Christ is revealed," a clause Peter used twice (vv. 7, 13).

25 **6. A Lifting Joy**26 **A Lifting Joy**

- The Living Hope results in a present joy
- Christ's resurrection provides our hope. But by faith we must choose to experience the joy. We must lay hold on the spiritual truth to experience its benefits.
 - Knowledge alone cannot produce the great joy of experiential security and freedom from fear in the face of persecution.
 - God's omnipotent sovereignty needs to be coupled with human responsibility. Christians are responsible to respond in faith.

27 **Trials = peraismos**

- Word used of a bird trying out its wings on the edge of a nest
- Peter stressed that a Christian's joy is independent of his circumstances. James used the same two Greek words (poikilois peirasmois, trans. here "all kinds of trials"). The trials themselves are seen as occasions for joy (James 1:2). Though trials may cause temporary grief, they cannot diminish that deep, abiding joy which is rooted in one's living hope in Christ Jesus.
- Trials are not meant to destroy us, but to strengthen us for flight

28 **7. A Lucrative Experience**29 **A Lucrative Experience -- Refining**

- None of us like trials. And we seldom think of them as being rewarding.
- But when we trust a sovereign God and His Word that tells us to give thanks in every situation, we realize -- as Joseph did in Genesis 50:20 -- that God can derive rich benefits in our lives from the trials we encounter.
- They REFINED our faith.
 - "Thy Dross to Consume"
 - "Thy Gold to Refine"

30 **A Lucrative Experience -- Reality**

- Word used of "sterling coinage" -- tested to show that is pure.
- Trials dealt with properly result in praise and honor and glory to the Lord
- The increase of our faith that results from praising God in the midst of our trials is more precious than gold.

31 **Gold**

- Gold has been real money for more than 5000 years.
- It has important characteristics that separate it from currency.
 - Portable
 - Durable
 - Divisible

- Rare.
- Fungible
- Non-essential for consumption.
- Easily identifiable

32 **Currency has no real value**

- The money of the world
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-
-
-
-
-
- \$10,000,000,000,000 Zimbabwe note – Won't buy a thing....
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33 **But what about faith?**

- Portable -- goes wherever you do
- Durable -- While our "faithfulness" may wane, and our "faith" feels small, the object of our faith, Jesus Christ, is never diminished. He forever remains faithful. Lamentations 3:22,23
- Rare -- definitely
- Not consumed
- Identifiable through trials. Trials make the faithless wither, but strengthen the faithful.
- Valuable -- and increases in value throughout life.
- BUT: Only faith -- not gold -- can we take from this life into the next. It is our currency in the commerce of heaven.

34 **8. A Longed-for Revelation**35 **A Longed-for Revelation**

- It will be worth it all when we see Jesus
- Life will finally make sense when He appears.
- John 20:29 -- *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*
- Paul saw Christ and communed with him for 3 years. But he never saw Christ with his earthly eyes. But we will!

36 **9. The LORD – our real prize**37 **The LORD -- our final prize**

- We finally receive the fullness of our salvation.
 - Justification -- happened when I received Christ
 - Sanctification
 - POSITIONAL -- I am already forever sanctified in the eyes of God
 - EXPERIENTIAL -- I am a work in progress striving to cooperate with the Spirit of God to become more like Christ daily.
 - Glorification -- When I see Him, I shall be like Him, for I will see Him as He is.