



"The Blessings of New Birth"
1 Peter 1:3-5
1 Peter: The Transforming Epistle

Introduction and Review: The Pre-History of Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:1-2)

- We were chosen according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father
- We were made holy by the sanctifying work of God, the Holy Spirit
- We were cleansed by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

This Week: "The Blessings of New Birth" 1 Peter 1:3-5

1 Peter 1:3-5 "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, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

I. The Blessing for Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:3a)

1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

The word *bless* is closely related to word *grace*, receiving from a Holy God that which we do not deserve. The word *blessed* (Greek: *eulogetos*/(in the verb form) *eulogeo*) also means to say good words/to speak well of a person (e.g. English: eulogy)

1 Peter 1:3a "Blessed (i.e. deserving to be spoken well of is) ... the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..."
"Heavenly Father, open my lips of praise and may my life be a doxology for the world to hear."

II. The Author of Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:3b)

1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again..."

Man's Religion and True Christianity

- Religion = Man trying to improve himself and work his way to God.
- Christianity = God reaching man in the person of Jesus Christ.
Jesus Christ "...became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:14)
Revelation 19:1 "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God..."

III. The Basis for Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:3c)

1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."

- We are saved by the grace of God through faith in Christ (Eph. 2:8-9). It is also correct to say we are saved because of the mercy of God. cf. 1 Peter 2:10; Titus 3:5
- Whereas grace is getting what we do not deserve; mercy is not getting what we do deserve. We deserve death (separation from God for eternity) but because of the mercy of God we get life (fellowship with God for eternity). cf. Romans 6:23

IV. The Nature of Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:3d)

1 Peter 1:3 "...according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again..." cf. 1 Peter 1:23

- The Story of Nicodemus (John 3). To be born-again is to experience a radical change from a state of alienation FROM God, a state in which we were born, to a new state of everlasting peace WITH God, made possible by the grace and mercy of God.

V. The Substance of Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:3e)

1 Peter 1:3 "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..."

- Biblical hope has more to do with reality than wishful thinking. When we trust in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation and become born-again, God Almighty guarantees us something better. We are born again to a living hope!

1 Peter 1:4 He guarantees a living hope of "...an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you..." (cf. 1 Peter 1:13 calls us to "fix our hope completely" on the grace to be brought to us when Jesus Christ returns) cf. 1 Peter 3:15 re: "the hope that is in you..."

VI. The Foundation of Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:3f)

1 Peter 1:3 "...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."

- It is not the birth or the death of Jesus that is the basis and foundation of for our faith. The foundation of our faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Christianity is not a Christmas Religion; it is an Easter Reality! cf. 1 Corinthians 15:14-20

VII. The Blessing of Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:4a)

1 Peter 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance..."

- The Son of God became the Son of Man in order that the Sons of Man might become the Sons of God.
- Revelation 21:4 "...and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (cf. 1 Cor. 2:9)

VIII. The Permanence of Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:4b)

1 Peter 1:4 "an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."

- We have an imperishable inheritance (Greek: *aphtharton*)
 - incorruptible and indestructible - not subject to decay - won't dissolve - will never perish - is not influenced by death
 - We have an undefiled inheritance (Greek: *amianton*)
 - unpolluted - won't spoil - unsusceptible to stain - always fresh - not influenced by sin
 - We have an unfading inheritance (Greek: *amaranton*)
 - bright - will never lose its glimmer - will never lose its excitement - not influenced by time
- Our inheritance is death-proof, sin-proof and time-proof!

1 Peter 1:4 "...an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."

- It is a reserved inheritance, guarded by God Himself at a point in time and now for eternity we experience the continuing results of His safe keeping.

IX. The Protection of Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:5a)

1 Peter 1:5 "...who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

- Our Salvation is Protected by the Power of God • Our Salvation is Secured When We Come to Faith in Jesus Christ

The Fiery Missiles of the Evil One

Doubt

Discouragement

Division

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith..."

X. The Future of Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:5b)

1 Peter 1:5 "...a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

- The subject of salvation (soteriology) and the subject of the return of Christ (eschatology) are inextricably linked.

Hebrews 9:28 "...so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him."

The First Advent: Jesus Christ came as the Prince of Peace to save us from the penalty and power of sin

The Second Advent: Jesus Christ will come as the King of Kings to save us from the presence of sin

Romans 13:11 "And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed."

Concluding Challenge:

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5 out loud. What one phrase strikes you the most? " _____ "
2. How does true Christianity differ from the religion of men?
3. What would you say is the greatest blessing of being born-again?
4. How would you describe "the blessing of living hope" to an unbeliever?
5. Why is the resurrection fundamental to our faith? What would have happened if Jesus had not risen from the dead?
6. What did you get most out of this message?