

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Thanksgiving for Our Salvation 1 Peter 1:3-5 Part Two

Our lives are continually filled with choices. This morning we made a decision to get out of bed. We made a decision to get dressed and to get dressed in a certain way, with certain clothes. We decided to eat or not to eat. And if we decided to eat we had to decide what to eat. We chose to come to church. We chose to sit in a certain seat. We are continually making choices.

Certain choices are more important than other choices. Certain choices will have very little bearing on the quality of our lives. Other choices will have a much greater bearing on the quality of our lives.

One of the more important choices that we will make is found in **Ps. 70:4**, it says, **“Let all who seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee;...”** As those who are seeking the Lord we have a choice to make. We must choose either to rejoice in the Lord or not to rejoice in the Lord. We must choose whether we are going to praise the Lord or not praise the Lord. It is our choice to make. How we choose in respect to praise will dramatically impact the quality of our lives. There is power in praise.

According to Lewis, praise is a natural and necessary response in order to fully enjoy the object which is praised. This concept can be illustrated vividly for sports fans. While watching a football game on television, it is a natural response to praise a tremendous play. To shout WOW! After an acrobatic catch in the end zone is not only natural, but necessary to fully enjoy the spectacular play. If you do not believe that it is necessary, next time watch a football game by yourself, exercising great discipline so as not to express yourself at all. You will quickly find that you do not enjoy the action nearly as much as you do when you have the freedom to express yourself in praise and excitement. Yes, praise is a natural and necessary response in order to fully appreciate the object that is being praised.

There is no greater motivator of praise than our salvation. **Ps. 70:4** goes on to say, **“And let those who love thy salvation say continually ‘let the Lord be magnified.’”** Those who have difficulty praising God typically fail to appreciate the magnificence of their salvation.

Peter certainly is not one of those people. Peter was a man who loved his salvation. And it caused him to magnify the Lord and to encourage others to magnify Him also. Let us once again read **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, (4) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) Who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

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Peter was suffering for his faith. He was writing those who were suffering for their faith. But in the midst of it all Peter was praising the Lord for His salvation and encouraging others to do the same.

Hopefully after examining this passage of scripture we will be led by the Spirit of God to lift our voices to the Lord in praise. Hopefully we will choose to lift our voices to the Lord in thanksgiving for the salvation that He has bestowed on us. Hopefully to help us in this activity we have begun to examine various facets of salvation presented to us in this passage.

Last week we began by examining THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION. We saw that He was identified in two different ways.

1) First of all in terms of His relationship with Savior. He is called the “**God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**” His relationship to Jesus as God emphasized the humanity of Christ. His relationship to Jesus as Father emphasized the deity of Christ.

2) Secondly, the Lord is spoken of in terms of His relationship with us. He is identified as the one who chose to act in mercy toward us in causing us to be born again. (**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has caused us to be born again**)

This morning we will be looking at another aspect of our salvation that hopefully will result in us choosing to praise the Lord.

THE NATURE OF SALVATION

The salvation that we have received has a present as well as a future aspect. Our new life gives us a present hope grounded in Christ’s resurrection (V. 3C)

A LIVING HOPE GROUNDED IN CHRIST’S RESURRECTION

Notice how the verse reads, “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has caused us to be born again to a living hope.** We are born again “**to a.**” Or more literally “**into a**” living hope. HOPE is a byproduct of our salvation. It is not optional equipment, it comes as standard equipment.

What is hope? Hope is “A DESIRE WHOSE FULFILLMENT IS CHERISHED.” A young person may have a desire to go to a particular college and complete an education in a particular field of study. That desire whose fulfillment is cherished we call hope.

When we become a Christian our desires for the future will change. And those desires will be cherished. Before we became a Christian our desires were for the most part very earthly and temporal. We may have hoped to finish school, possibly get married, maybe have children, get established in a rewarding career, buy a home etc. All of these things are things that are realized in the course of a short period of time and will pass in a short period of time. But when we place our faith in Christ in addition to the hopes that are earthly and temporal are added hopes that are heavenly and eternal. And as we mature in Christ our heavenly hopes will ultimately dwarf all our other hopes.

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These new heavenly hopes will add a gloriously positive dimension to our lives..... **Read Psalms 23.** Was David's life enriched by this future heavenly and eternal hope? Would any person's life be enhanced by such a hope? Of course!!! In fact these hopes will in time become so predominate that it becomes difficult for us who enjoy them to understand how people could go through this life without them.

But can we count on these heavenly hopes? Can Peter count on them? Read the verse **“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.”**

The resurrection of Jesus was a life-changing reality for Peter. When Jesus died on the cross, it was the end of all Peter's hopes. He knew only bitter sorrow for his own denials. The dawn could not bring hope; with the crowing of the cock he heard the echo of his curses.

But Jesus did not stay dead. On that Easter morning Peter learned from the women of the empty tomb and the message of the angels. He went running to the tomb and saw its evidence. He left in wonder, but Jesus remembered Peter and appeared to him even before he came to eat with the disciples in the upper room. Hope was reborn in Peter's heart with the sight of his living Lord. HIS LIVING LORD NOW BECOMES HIS LIVING HOPE.

Without the resurrection, there can be no true hope (**1 Cor. 15:12-20**). “Without the resurrection of Jesus,” Hunter remarked “There would have been no Christian Church. Christianity is an Easter religion. Its theism is resurrection theism.” Indeed, His resurrection is our basis for personal assurance as to our past, present and future. Our hope is anchored in the past, Sure Jesus arose! Our hope remains in the present: Jesus lives! Our hope is completed in the future: Jesus is coming!

We are considering the nature of our salvation. And as we are considering the nature of our salvation we have considered the present aspect which is a “living hope.” This is basic equipment to our faith. In addition to a present aspect there is a future aspect.

THE GLORIOUS INHERITANCE AWAITING BELIEVERS

Let us look at **V. 4a** **“To obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”**

We may sometimes envy those whose financial future seems secure because of their birth. Sons or daughters of a wealthy family, they are heirs of a fortune. But as those who have been born again we have nothing to be envious of. **Romans 8:16-17** tells us **“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”** All that Christ enjoys we will enjoy. Why? We are joint heirs.

How confident can we be that our inheritance will be there for us? Peter uses three adjectives to help us be assured that this inheritance can be counted on. The words that Peter uses to describe unchangeable inheritance all relate it appears to the land that was the inheritance of Israel.

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1) First, our inheritance is “IMPERISHABLE,” “**to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable....**” The land of Israel was at times ravaged and destroyed by invading armies. The prophet Isaiah describes the utter destruction of the whole world in God’s judgment. **Is. 24:3-4 “the earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The Lord has spoken this word. The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers ...”** In the Septuagint version of Isaiah, the word-stem for ‘laid waste’ and wither is the same that Peter uses. But Peter uses the word in a negative form. The world will be destroyed, but our inheritance is IMPERISHABLE.

2) Secondly, Peter says that our inheritance is UNDEFILED, “**To abstain an inheritance which is imperishable, and undefiled....**” Isaiah, just quoted, goes on to tell how people have defiled the earth by breaking God’s law. In the prophecy of Jeremiah, too, God declared that He gave Israel a fertile land, “**But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable.**” (Jer. 2:7). The land of Canaan, Israel’s inheritance, was defiled first by heathen inhabitants, then by Israel’s idolatry. In total contrast, the inheritance we have is undefiled and undefilable.

3) Thirdly, our inheritance is UNFADING, “**to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, and undefiled and will not fade away**” Canaan was not only destroyed by invaders and polluted by its inhabitants; it was also parched with drought in God’s judgment. In **Joel 1:9-12 “The grain offering and the libation are cut off from the house of the Lord. The priests mourn, the ministers of the Lord. (10)The field is ruined, the land mourns, for the grain is ruined, the new wine dries up, fresh oil fails. (11) Be ashamed, O farmers, Wail, O vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; because the harvest of the field is destroyed (12) The vine dries up, and the fig tree fails; The pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, All the trees of the field dry up. Indeed, rejoicing dries up from the sons of men.”** The land of Canaan, Israel’s inheritance, was withered under the hand of God’s judgment. Our inheritance is unfading.

Canaan as the inheritance of Israel is contrasted with our inheritance. Israel received the earthly foreshadowing; we receive the heavenly fulfillment. Because our inheritance is in heaven, nothing on earth can alter or destroy it. Peter must use negative terms to describe it “imperishable,” “undefiled,” and “unfading” because its reality surpasses our present comprehension. OUR INHERITANCE IS NOT SIMPLY A LAND, A CITY OR EVEN A NEW EARTH. IT IS ALL THAT GOD WILL GIVE US; IT IS THE TOTALITY OF OUR SALVATION.

CONCLUSION

In this life we have many choices, some choices are less important than other choices. But one of the more important choices that we will make is the choice to BE EXPRESSING THANKSGIVING TO THE LORD FOR OUR SALVATION.

This choice will dramatically change the way we go through this life. It will alter the way we handle the events of this life. Even though we may walk through the valley of shadow of death the confidence of dwelling in the house of the Lord forever is a great source of strength and even joy.

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Ps. 150:1-6 “Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. (2) Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness. (3) Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. (4) Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. (5) Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. (6) Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. PRAISE YE THE LORD.