

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

### **Thanksgiving for Our Salvation 1 Peter 1:3-5 Part Three**

We have choices to make. One of those choices is whether we will choose to praise the Lord. There is no greater motivator to our praise of the Lord than the contemplation of our salvation.

This is what moved John Newton to pen the words of “Amazing Grace.”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost but now I'm found  
was blind but now I see

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear. And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace  
appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers toils and snares I have already come; Tis grace hath brought me safe thus  
far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun , we've no less days to sing  
God's praise than when we'd first begun.

We have been reflecting on our salvation over the past several weeks. We have considered:

1. The author of our salvation, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again.**
2. The nature of our salvation, **“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.** There is a (present and future aspect: we have been born again into a living hope (present) to obtain an inheritance which is.... (future).

This morning we will consider the certainty of our salvation. Hopefully again as we have noted in the past this contemplation of our salvation will lead us to be filled with praise to the Lord.

#### THE CERTAINTY OF SALVATION

Peter added two passive participles to indicate the certainty of salvation. The first of these two participles is found at the end of V. 4.... **“reserved.”** Our inheritance is **“reserved.”** **“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.**

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### INHERITANCE RESERVED

Peter is assuring his readers of the certainty of their glorious inheritance. The inheritance which has been described as “**imperishable, undefiled and unfading**” has been reserved.

We are familiar with the concept of reservation. We are calling all the time to make reservations for something. It might be that we call ahead to get a table at a restaurant. It might be that we call ahead to get a camping spot at a state park, it might be that we call ahead to get a seat on particular airline flight. It is reassuring for us when we want to do something very badly that it has been reserved for us, that it has been set apart for us, that it has been designated for us alone and for no other.

However I must confess that even when I have reserved something ahead of time there is always this lingering question in the back of my mind, whether or not I will in fact actually find whatever I reserved waiting for me when I arrive. I believe that this question comes from the fact that no matter how well we may plan, as long as we are dealing with people there is always room for error.

But the comforting thing for us to note in regard to the fact that our “inheritance” has been reserved, is the fact that it has nothing to do with the work of men but rather the work of God. It is not us who has made the reservation, but it is the Lord who has made the reservation. That is clear from the fact that this participle is not in the active voice but in the passive voice. All the work of reserving our inheritance has totally been taken out of our hands.

The Christians that Peter was writing to were presently going through a persecution. It was a very severe persecution. These individuals because of their profession of faith in Christ were willingly putting at risk all that was theirs. All of their possessions, their families, and their very lives. Everything that this world values they were putting at risk. When people have invested so much into something or someone sometimes they want assurances.

This is very human. In **Matthew 19:27-30** immediately following Christ’s discussion with the “rich young ruler” Peter makes a statement and then asks a question, “**Behold, we have left everything** (which the rich young ruler had just refused to do) **and followed you**(they had left their livelihoods, their homes and their families, everything that the world pursues they had left in order to follow Jesus) so Peter asks the question “**what then will there be for us?**” They had made real sacrifices, and were following him in worldly destitution with dismal worldly prospects, for they were now near Jerusalem, where he would be rejected and put to death. The situation was very serious. Jesus responds, “**Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (29) And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or fathers and mothers or children or farms for My name’s sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life.**” He is telling them in effect that they will enter into their inheritance. He is telling them don’t worry all of what I have told you will be RESERVED for you.

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Peter in this passage does not wait for his readers to ask the question that he had asked of Jesus many years before. He anticipates it in light of all that they are suffering, in light of all that they are giving up and he assures them **THAT THEY HAVE AN INHERITANCE IN HEAVEN THAT THE LORD HAS RESERVED FOR THEM.**

We still need these assurances even today. There is a cost in following Jesus. I have not been beaten, imprisoned or have had my property taken from me. But I have chosen a way of life that has cut off to me much of the pleasures of this world, because of my pursuit of service to the Lord. I have not been able to enjoy the abundance of the things that I might have enjoyed if I had pursued a life committed to enjoying the things of this world. I have not been able to enjoy the abundance of leisure that I might have been able to enjoy if I had pursued a life committed to enjoying the leisure of this world. I have given these things up, real genuine pleasures, for the sake of serving the Lord. I think of the many servants that are giving themselves to this fellowship. Who are choosing the very same things. They are giving up the easy life in order to work with people in the ministry to the body of Christ.....But for all of you who are giving yourself up to the Lord in ministry **BE ASSURED OF THIS, THAT ALL THAT BELONGS TO CHRIST BELONGS TO YOU AS A JOINT HEIR WITH HIM AND THAT THIS INHERITANCE, BY THE CONTINUING ACTION OF THE LORD HIMSELF, IS BEING RESERVED FOR YOU.**

This is all well and good but there is another problem. There are times when people make reservations. And those reservations are honored. Those seats, those tables, those campsites are actually held for them awaiting their arrival. But guess what happens? **THEY DON'T SHOW UP.** Not only do we need to be assured that our inheritance is reserved but we also need to know that we will be protected.

### HEIRS PROTECTED

This leads us to the second passive participle that Peter uses to assure us of the certainty of our salvation and of entering into the joy of our inheritance and that word is found at the beginning of **V. 5 “protected.”** Not only is the inheritance reserved but the heirs are protected. What good is an inheritance if somehow the heir is attacked and destroyed?

Let us read **V. 5 “who are protected by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”** If the inheritance is being vigilantly guarded, so are those predestined to receive it.

The word translated “protected” is a military term and is found also in **2 Cor. 11:32 & Phil. 4:7.** The use of this term implies that we have an enemy. That enemy of course is Satan. Satan is described in **1 Peter 5:8 “as a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.”** How successful will he be? Oh, he may score some hits but one thing that we can be assured of, Satan will never be able to keep us from going to glory to claim our inheritance. Why? Because we are **PROTECTED** by the power of God.

The word translated “power” is the greek word **DUNAMIE**. This is the word from which we get the English word dynamite. This is a very strong word. Hopefully the use of this word will conjure up some very graphic pictures.

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If I told you that the whole of the U.S. military would be guarding your house tonight. Would you feel secure? Of course you would!

### **God keeps His finished salvation for us and just as importantly God protects us for our salvation.**

He does not do this against our wills. It is not as if he will be dragging us to glory and forcing us to take possession of our inheritance. We see this very clearly by the very next phrase “**through faith.**” Faith clearly communicates a positive participation in the salvation process. As we continue to exercise faith in the Lord and in His power to deliver us from our sins no matter what circumstances we may be facing, as we continue to positively participate in the salvation process, we will be kept by His power.

Someone might ask, “Well, what would happen if our faith failed? What would happen if we stopped trusting the Lord for our deliverance?” Would we be able to be saved and the answer is NO! We cannot be saved apart from faith. THE BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES US THAT WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH WHAT? “THROUGH FAITH.”

But let me quickly add that though this may be true it is also equally true that those who have come to Christ through faith will continue to trust in Christ. THE REASON FOR THIS IS QUITE SIMPLE, FAITH IS NOT OUR WORK IT IS GOD’S WORK (John 6:26-29). Just as the Lord produced the faith in my heart the day I first believed. He is the one who continues to produce faith in my heart today and He will be the one who will produce faith in the my heart tomorrow. And it is through faith that we are saved; Initially from the penalty of sin (**Rom. 5:1**); then from the power of sin (**1 John 5:4**) and finally from the very presence of sin when we enter into our future inheritance.

Notice the last phrase, “**for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**” This salvation is synonymous with the inheritance already described in **V. 4**. It is something that is ours in Christ, but we have not as yet taken possession of it.

Peter portrayed our future salvation as something “**ready to be revealed in the last time.**” “**Ready**” indicates that all that was needed for the realization of salvation has been accomplished. Nothing needs to be added to God’s preparation. The salvation that God has got ready does not need a few final touches from us or from the Lord. God’s salvation, finished, perfect, and unchangeable, is kept for us by God Himself. It is now ready and waiting to be revealed at the proper moment.

That proper moment is referred to as “**in the last time.**” Peter is addressing the church and this reference would be addressed to the conclusion of God’s program for the church, and the conclusion of God’s program for the church will occur at what we call the “rapture.” It is at this time that the dead in Christ will be raised to receive their glorified bodies and then almost instantaneously with that those who are in Christ who remain will be caught up with the Lord to receive their glorified bodies.

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### CONCLUSION

Our inheritance has been reserved in heaven. But it is equally as important for us to know that we as heirs are being protected by the power of God through faith. This knowledge should lead us to do what Jude did in **VV. 24- 25**.

**Jude 24-25 “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with real joy, (25) to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever.”**