

## An Incorruptible Inheritance I Pet. 1:3-12

*Thesis: To give us hope for the great reward that is prepared for us.*

### Introduction:

- A. The greatest day for the Christian will be when Christ returns.
  - 1. It is at that time that our hope will be revealed.
  - 2. It is at that time that we will forever be with the Lord.
  
- B. Today, we will notice that inheritance and the hope that we have from it.

### I. God “has begotten us again to a living hope” (1:3).

#### A. Hope is the greatest asset that we can have.

- 1. A man without hope has nothing to live for.
  - a. They are the kind of people that no one wants to be around.
  - b. They are deprived of joy because there is nothing better for them.
- 2. Today, we do have the hope of something better.
  - a. Hope is an expectation of something greater.
    - 1) It means that we look forward to the future.
    - 2) We expect something greater and better to happen.
  - b. This life is not all that there is.
  - c. Peter refers to us “as sojourners and pilgrims” (2:11).
    - 1) This means that we will not be here forever.
    - 2) At some point, we are going to die.
      - a) **I Pet. 1:24** - All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away,
      - b) If death is all that we had to look forward to, then we are truly without hope.
      - c) **I Cor. 15:19** - If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.
  - d. There is something better waiting for us.
  - e. That something better is a home in heaven.
- 3. Notice that this hope is “a living hope.”
  - a. This means that it is active.
  - b. It is current.
  - c. It is something that we can look forward to.

#### B. The hope that we have in Christ is given to us “according to His abundant mercy...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

- 1. God has an abundance of mercy for us.
  - a. It is His mercy that sent Jesus into this world to die for us.
    - 1) **Titus 3:5** - not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,

- 2) Eph. 2:4-5 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, {5} even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
  - b. God has always had mercy for His people, and today He shows us that mercy through Christ.
2. The hope that we have is through the resurrection of Christ.
  - a. The greatest day in the history of time was the day that Christ rose from the dead.
  - b. That is the day that our hope began.
  - c. I Cor. 15:19-20 - If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. {20} But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

## II. Peter gives us a great description of the eternal nature of heaven (1:4).

### A. Our inheritance is incorruptible.

1. Heaven will never be destroyed.
  - a. There is nothing that will harm it.
  - b. There is nothing that can corrupt it.
2. Incidentally, when we are raised, we will be incorruptible.
  - a. I Cor. 15:52 - For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
  - b. When we enter into heaven, we will not be destroyed.

### B. Our inheritance is undefiled.

1. Nothing that can defile will enter into heaven.
2. There will be no sin in heaven.
  - a. Rev. 21:8 - But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.
  - b. Rev. 21:27 - But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
  - c. Heaven will be a place that is free from sin.
3. In heaven, we will not have to deal with the troubles of this life.

### C. Our inheritance will not fade away.

1. The glory of heaven will not diminish over time.
2. Rev. 21:22-25 - But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. {23} The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. {24} And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. {25} Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

3. **Rev. 22:3-5** - And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. {4} They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. {5} There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

*The point of these first three descriptive terms is that heaven will last forever.*

*It will never be destroyed; it is eternal.*

*As Paul said, “And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (**I Thes. 4:17**).*

#### **D. Our inheritance is reserved for us.**

1. This may be the greatest part of heaven.
2. It is a place that is prepared and reserved for us.
  - a. **Jn. 14:2-3** - In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. {3} 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.
  - b. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.
3. Our names are written in heaven.
  - a. **Lk. 10:20** (Jesus speaking to the seventy) - Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.
  - b. **Phil. 4:3** - Paul refers to his fellow workers “whose names are in the Book of Life.”
  - c. **Rev. 21:27** - But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.
  - d. The point is that if our names are written in heaven, we will a residence there.
    - 1) Heaven is now our home.
    - 2) **Phil. 3:20-21** - For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, {21} who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

### **III. Because of this incorruptible inheritance, we can greatly rejoice (1:6-12).**

#### **A. Because of our inheritance, we can rejoice in persecutions (1:6-8).**

1. Sometimes our faith will be tried.
  - a. Life will not always be easy.
  - b. When our faith is tested, we must respond.
2. We can rejoice in these persecutions.

- a. **Js. 1:2-3** - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, {3} knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.
  - b. **Rom. 5:3-4** (We can use persecutions to build our faith) - And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; {4} and perseverance, character; and character, hope.
3. When we suffer these persecutions, the genuineness (or purity) of our faith is revealed.
- a. Gold is tested by fire.
    - 1) The pure gold remains, but the impurities are burned up.
    - 2) What remains is genuine gold.
  - b. Our faith is tested, just as the gold is tested by fire.
4. Because of the eternal home that has been reserved for us, we can rejoice in the persecutions and sufferings that we face.
5. We rejoice in persecutions because our faith is strengthened.

**B. The end result of our faith is salvation (1:8-12).**

1. Even though we have not seen Christ, we believe in Him, and therefore we have eternal life (1:8-9).
- a. Notice exactly what this belief is.
    - 1) It is not simply acknowledging that Jesus is the Son of God.
      - a) **Js. 2:19** - You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe-- and tremble!
      - b) It takes more than simple knowledge to have faith.
    - 2) It is believing that Jesus is the Son of God, and living your life according to His will.
      - a) The brethren to whom Peter was writing had not seen Jesus, yet they believed in Him and lived according to that belief.
      - b) Remember, we “are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1:5).
      - b) **1 Pet. 1:13-16** - Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; {14} as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; {15} but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, {16} because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”
  - b. The reward for our faith is the salvation of our souls.
    - 1) It is that home that is prepared for us.
    - 2) It is an eternal home in heaven.
2. The prophets longed for this salvation, yet they did not obtain it (1:10-12).

- a. The purpose of the prophets was to prepare us for the time of Christ.
- b. They longed to see the things of which they prophesied, yet it was not time for the Christ to appear.
- c. Instead, they ministered to us.

### Conclusion:

Today, are you prepared for this inheritance?

Just as heaven is eternal, so is hell.

In hell, there is no hope.

There will never be a chance to leave.

Unfortunately, many who hear these words will be in hell for an eternity because of the life they choose to live.