1 Peter 1:3-5 The Blessings of Being Born Again, part 2

Over the next 20 years, more than 1,000 billionaires are expected to pass a staggering $5.2 trillion on to family members and beneficiaries. The Great Wealth Transfer is an ongoing intergenerational shift where an estimated $124 trillion in assets will pass from Baby Boomers to younger generations (Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z). About $106 trillion of this will go to individual heirs and $18 trillion to charity.[1]

In the opening verses of 1 Peter, the author describes some of the blessings of being born again, and one of those blessings is an inheritance. He's not talking about inheriting money or property but about inheriting eternal life in heaven.

Peter's focus here is that God is worthy to be praised because of the greatness of our salvation. Because of God's mercy, we have a living hope, a permanent inheritance, and a salvation that cannot be lost. When we understand such things, we should be joyful even in the midst of suffering. For Christians, even if their physical conditions are very bad, their spiritual conditions are very good. And for that they should praise the Lord.

Last time, I mentioned in vs. 3 that God caused us to be born again, and that gives us a living hope. Let's look at further blessings of being born again.

C. .4a He provides us an inheritance (εἰς κληρονομίαν).

Part of our living hope is an inheritance.

An inheritance is something of value, like property or money, passed down from one generation to the next.

The grammar here—"to an inheritance" – implies purpose. God's purpose in salvation is to grant us an inheritance. We enjoy salvation here and now, and we look forward to something even more valuable in the future.

Christians are adopted into God's family by faith; we are "joint-heirs" with Jesus (Rom 8:17), and thus we receive an inheritance.

Ac 20:32 *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able … to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

[1] Google search, 23 Oct 2026.

Eph 1:11 *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

Quote: We have a *living* hope in Christ and a *lasting* hope in our inheritance.[2]

.4 Peter uses several words/concepts here to describe the permanence of our spiritual inheritance. Unlike many valuable items here on earth that we might inherit, our spiritual inheritance is perfect, secure, permanent, and eternal.

1. .4 Our inheritance is *incorruptible* (ἄφθαρτος)—it cannot perish or be destroyed or be corrupted; it will not rot or decay. The same word is used in Rom 1:23—"the incorruptible God."

   Jesus said that the treasures of this earth are subject to rot and decay, but treasures in heaven are incorruptible.

2. Our inheritance is *undefiled* (ἀμίαντος)—it cannot spoil; it's incapable of stain. The same word is used of Jesus' sinless purity (Heb 7:26).

3. Our inheritance *unfading* (ἀμάραντος)—it never loses its quality or beauty. It's like gold or valuable jewelry that holds its value and beauty over time.

   Most material things are corruptible, capable of spoiling, and eventually lose their quality or beauty. But that is not true of our heavenly inheritance.

   Those qualities are true because …

4. .4b Our inheritance is reserved for us in heaven.

   a) The word "reserved" (τηρέω) means "kept, guarded, watched over."

      (1) We could translate it as "having been kept/guarded and continuing to do so."

      (2) Someone else is doing the guarding/watching. God is protecting our inheritance.

[2] From Warren Weirsbe's *Expository Outline of the NT*.

From the moment of salvation, God begins to guard and keep our inheritance for us. God made a reservation for us, and now he is keeping it and watching over it for us until we receive it in full. It is safely secured and waiting for us.

Quote: Heaven is the safe-deposit box where God is guarding our inheritance for us.[3]

Illus.: Wealthy parents often set up trust funds for their children; the assets are securely reserved for the child to have later in life.

b) All of this means that our spiritual inheritance is permanent and secure. God keeps our inheritance for us; he guards it and watches over it so that we cannot lose it.

We might lose everything material here and now, but our future inheritance has no risk of loss. This truth should give us hope to endure the darkest times of life.

Quote: Peter emphasized in the strongest possible terms the security and certainty of the reward awaiting believers. … [This] provides a great incentive for those suffering, reminding them that this veil of tears will not last long, that a great reward is laid up for those who are faithful.[4]

5. What is the inheritance? Our inheritance is eternal life itself; life with Jesus in his heavenly home. Our inheritance is the final salvation of our souls in our glorified bodies after the resurrection in the eternal state. Our ultimate inheritance is final, complete, and eternal glorification.

6. Where is our inheritance? "in heaven." We do not receive it until we get to heaven.

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[3] Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*, vol. 11 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 22.

[4] Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 63.

App: That means that our highest hopes/aspirations are not in this world. We are not utopians; we do not expect perfection in this world on this side of heaven. Perfection will come with the new heavens and the new earth, and not until then. All human schemes to perfect life on earth will end in failure.

7. And we get this inheritance because we've been born again by the power of God through faith. We receive the inheritance by virtue of our relationship with God through his son, Jesus Christ. And that is the one and only way to receive this inheritance—you must be rightly related to God through faith in Jesus, the Son of God.

   You have to have the relationship before you can expect an inheritance. If you do not have that relationship, then you should not expect an inheritance. I.e., if you are not born again, your inheritance will be judgment, condemnation, and misery.

   So I urge you to make sure that you are born again by faith in Christ.

   God keeps our inheritance reserved for us. Nothing can spoil it or reduce it. We will eventually receive everything God intends to give to his people. We'll inherit all the benefits of Jesus' work for us, and we'll enjoy all the rewards we've earned by serving the Lord. If we've "laid up" and treasure in heaven, we'll enjoy it for all eternity.
   Another blessing of being born again is…

D. .5 He keeps us saved.

1. Salvation is kept by the power of God. The power of God keeps believers saved.

   App: We don't keep ourselves saved. If we were responsible to keep ourselves saved, all of us would have failed long ago. Thankfully, we are not responsible to keep ourselves saved.

   We can trust God's promise to keep us saved. We should be secure in our salvation because God has promised to keep us saved.

   a) The word "kept" (φρουρουμένους) literally means "guarded, protected, or shielded."

(1) The word is used of a fortress or military encampment. Such places are very secure and well-guarded.

(2) And the grammar here (pres pass ptc) suggests "being kept/guarded." Someone else is doing the work.

(3) The action of the verb is continuous. God watches over us continually to keep us saved.

Believers are inside God's fortress. The world might persecute us, but it cannot touch our inheritance. Song: A Mighty Fortress

b) How great is God's power to keep his people saved? If you can lose your salvation, you are saying that your power to lose it is greater than God's power to keep it. Is that true? No. God's power to keep us saved is far greater than any power we might have to lose it.

c) This is another strong indicator that salvation is permanent and secure. Once you are saved, you cannot be lost.

d) Keeping us saved is God's responsibility. God is guarding or keeping watch over our salvation. God's power guarantees that we will not ever lose our salvation.

We are responsible to *persevere* in faith and good works, and God is responsible *preserves* us. We work out our own salvation in fear and trembling, and God keeps us saved.

2. Salvation is by faith. (διὰ πίστεως εἰς σωτηρίαν) Faith is the means of salvation.

a) Most of what Peter has described thus far is from God's perspective. God elects us, the Spirit sets us apart, and Jesus atones for our sins and rises again for us.

b) We respond to all of that in repentant faith. And the result of that faith is salvation. Faith in Christ grants salvation. All of this happens "through faith," or "because of faith."

Cf. 1:9 – “the salvation of your souls” is the result of personal faith.

c) The condition of receiving the inheritance is faith in Jesus. If you have faith in Jesus, you will receive the promised inheritance—salvation, eternal life.

d) We recognize three elements/parts to saving faith:

(1) Knowing the facts of the Gospel—who Jesus is, what he did, etc.

(2) Affirming those facts personally—I believe the Gospel for *myself*. Each individual must make this personal choice/decision for himself.

(3) Exercising sincere trust/confidence in the person and work of Christ. Faith is belief, trust, or confidence in Jesus.

Saving faith is the knowledge of, personal agreement with, and sincere trust in the person and work of Christ.

If you have that kind of faith in Christ, you have the inheritance. If not, you don’t.

e) One of the ways we know that we are saved is that we continue to exercise faith in Christ.

We know that God keeps us saved when we have faith; the two go together—we have faith and God keeps us saved. We persevere and God preserves. If we don’t retain our faith, then we cannot be confident that God is keeping us saved.

A genuine believer will retain his faith, even through trials and persecutions. A genuine believer will not relinquish his faith in Christ.

f) Without faith in Christ, there is no hope of salvation, no confidence of any eternal inheritance.

3. .5b Salvation will be revealed in the last time. The last time will reveal the full extent of salvation.

a) We find various time frames of salvation in the Bible.

(1) In the *past*, we have been saved. We can speak of salvation in the past tense; it happened at a time in the past when we repented of sin and believed in Christ. We got saved at some point in the past.

(2) In the *present*, we are being saved. Right now, the power of God is keeping us saved.

(3) In the *future*, we will be saved. Eventually, the power, penalty, and presence of sin will all be destroyed. When we get to heaven, we'll inherit all of God's promises to us, and we'll be totally free of sin. The effects of the fall will be reversed; the curse of sin will end; God will restore all things to the way he intends them to be.

b) .5end And the scope of salvation will not be revealed (ἀποκαλύπτω—aor pass inf) in full until "the last time."

(1) The last time (καιρῷ ἐσχάτῳ) is the end of the age, the eschaton, the final scene of this age.

(2) We will not experience the full extent of our salvation until Jesus returns, establishes his kingdom, judges the wicked, and eventually brings in the new heavens and the new earth. Then, in the eternal state, we'll experience the fullness of salvation, the final extent of salvation. God will give his people all things, and we'll spend eternity enjoying our inheritance.

(3) And this is "ready to be revealed." This suggest that all things are now prepared for the last time.

We know that these things will happen, we just don't know the timing. We get the sense of imminence here; it could happen at any time.

The Bible urges us to be prepared for the events of the last times—especially the return of Christ. E.g., Mt 24:44.

Julia Koch inherited about $50.5B in 2019 when her husband died. Her little nest egg is worth about $66B today. That's wonderful for her, but every single believer in Christ has a better inheritance than that. Mrs. Koch will leave behind all of that wealth when her life is over; she'll pass it down to her heirs. Christians will just begin to enjoy their inheritance when their lives come to an end or when Jesus returns. We will enjoy our inheritance throughout all eternity, and our inheritance will be far better than anything money can buy.

Peter wants to remind his readers that it is a great blessing to be born again. If you are born again…

You have a living hope, a confident expectation of eternal life.

You can look forward to a great inheritance—you'll enjoy the rewards that God will give to those who serve him. God is keeping/reserving that reward for you.

You have a secure and permanent salvation. God is keeping you saved through his great power, and only the end of times will fully reveal the extent of your salvation.

As we endure the difficulties of life, we should encourage ourselves with these great truths. God does not necessarily shield us from the trials and tribulations of life, but he does promise us a great inheritance, a place in heaven reserved for us. For these great truths, we should bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and encourage ourselves in the midst of our trials and tribulations.