

A Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-5

Introduction

1. In order to be saved one must obey the gospel and when one obeys the gospel they have salvation from the wrath of God in Judgment. Most faithful Christians understand this.
2. A good number of us understand what awaits us when this life is over, if we are faithful.
3. But as we read through our text we are impressed with the affects that this salvation and this hope have (or ought to have) upon the faithful Christian.
 - a. In 1 Peter 1:3-5 Peter tells us that we now have a living hope.
 - b. Let us study to see how that hope is living and how it can be alive in us today.

Discussion

I. Begotten Again (1 Peter 1:3).

A. Being born again:

1. Jesus taught that, “...*unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*” (John 3:3).
2. This new birth is made possible by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead (1 Pet. 1:3).
 - a. Jesus died and rose from the dead so that we may be “*saved by His life*” (Rom. 5:10).
 - b. When we are saved we are “born again” because we are given “*newness of life*” according to Rom. 6:4.
3. This is no ordinary birth. It is one that is spiritual and brings many spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3), victory (1 John 5:4-5), and the love of God into our lives (1 John 4:7ff).

B. Born into the heavenly family:

1. When we are born again, since God is the One who begets us, He becomes our Father (1 John 3:3; Gal. 3:26-27).
2. We become brothers and sisters with all the rest who are being born again; we become a spiritual family (Eph. 3:15).
3. We also have a spiritual home – heaven (1 Pet. 1:4; Col. 1:5). This plays an important role in understanding this text!

II. An Inheritance Incorruptible (1 Peter 1:4).

A. As members of God’s family we have become heirs of His inheritance.

1. When men are born into a physical family they gain an inheritance into that family (money, land, etc.).
2. But we are born into God’s family. We have become heirs with Christ of eternal life (Titus 3:4-7).

3. Paul prayed that we may understand the true nature of this blessing as he wrote, “...*the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*” (Eph. 1:18).
- B. Having our inheritance in heaven with God, we must live as pilgrims in this life (1 Pet. 1:1).
1. One can only attain an inheritance in the family to which he belongs.
 2. If we live as people in the world, we are of the world, therefore only when we live as the people of God can we gain an inheritance that is from God.
 3. Thus the need to live as pilgrims in this life (vs. 1).
 - a. Pilgrims do not make a permanent home where their pilgrimage is, but look forward to their true home.
 - b. Abraham was a pilgrim – He did not set his heart in the Chaldea where his family was from, neither did he set his heart on Canaan, but on a kingdom whose builder and maker was God (Hebrews 11:8-10).
 - c. As pilgrims this earth is not our home and, like Abraham, we must not set our hearts on the things of this life. If we do then we will lose our inheritance.
 4. In order to help us better set our hearts on the inheritance that awaits us in heaven, Peter shows us how “rich” and “glorious” it truly is.
- C. Inheritance greater than all else (vs. 4).
1. Incorruptible: Un-decaying, immortal, never to be destroyed.
 - a. Earth: Whatever we set our hearts on in this life will eventually become old and decay: homes, cars, riches, comfort, etc.
 - b. Heaven: But the treasures that we have in heaven will never be destroyed, they will never grow old, and we will never grow tired of them.
 2. Undeclared: pure, free from contamination, without defect or flaw.
 - a. Earth: Homes get infested with insects, even the best restaurants have some bad food, places of healing often have disease, and even the best schools have bullies and bad teachers. This is life on earth.
 - b. Heaven: There is nothing that can make it defiled. It is not subject to the things of this world. Those who enter in will only be God’s people who walk in righteousness according to love. There will be no tears, no suffering, and no sin.
 3. Not fade away:
 - a. Earth: Things in this life fade (pictures, clothes, homes, cars, etc.). Even our opinions of them fade (a new car after the first year, new shoes after a month, new home after a couple of years, wiping feet for new carpet, etc.). All things lose their appreciation quickly.
 - b. Heaven: Heaven will never fade away, in substance or our opinion. We will never grow tired of it. It will never get old. The glory that will be there at the first will remain eternally. Read Revelation 22:1-5.
 4. This is our hope; this is the inheritance that we are born into.

- a. Out of a life of futility, into a life of meaning, of hope, of love, of everlasting reward.
- b. Out of a life of destruction into a life of salvation...

III. A Living Hope

- A. We see this hope, but what are we doing with it?
 - 1. Our hope can be living in several ways.
 - a. It is living because it is a hope of life; it offers eternal life verses eternal condemnation.
 - b. It is also living because it is alive in those who have it.
 - 2. We will spend the remainder of this lesson discussing this second application of a living hope.
 - a. We are taught that faith is dead for those who do not work (James 1:14-26), but is alive in those who use it to please God in all things (James 2:21-22).
 - b. In this same manner, our hope must be alive in us if we are going to attain it – it must produce eagerness, diligence, courage, endurance and patience as we strive to live in this life.
 - c. The only way that can happen is if we are living now in full expectation of receiving that hope when Jesus comes.
 - 3. People spend years at school in hope of a career, workers spend years doing grunt work in hope of a promotion, people sometimes live in small trailers while their real home is being built.
 - 4. This is the same application Peter makes in his letter.
- B. According to Peter’s letter.
 - 1. Peter uses this inheritance as a focal point or as the motivation for Christians to accomplish the other instructions given throughout the letter.
 - 2. He refers to it in 1 Peter 1:13, “...rest your hope fully...”
 - a. 2:10-11: Referring to our pilgrimage.
 - b. 3:9, 15: That we may inherit the blessing.
 - c. 3:7: the end of all things is at hand, be watchful.
 - d. 5:6: humble yourselves that God might exalt you.
- C. If this hope is truly living in us then we will be able to:
 - 1. 1:6: Rejoice, though we suffer for a short time in this life:
 - a. So often we see Christians who are so caught up in their own suffering and pitfalls in life that they never rejoice in the hope that they have as a child of God.
 - b. Brethren, no matter what we suffer in this life, if we are not rejoicing in our hope then that hope is not alive in us. Read verse 8.
 - 2. 2:1-3: Put off the things of this world and seek the things that are above.
 - 3. 2:9: Proclaim the praises of God
 - 4. 2:11-12: Live as sojourners
 - 5. 2:13-3:7: Be submissive – even when we do not want to.
 - 6. 3:13-14ff: Suffer for doing good. If we truly put our faith in the hope of heaven then we will be able to do this. Christ did it (vs. 18ff).

7. 4:7: Be watchful. See also 5:8.

D. Overcoming Doubts:

1. Most people today are unwilling to accept these things (though they will not admit it).
2. Let us glory in our living hope, and be diligent to show that hope as being alive in us through diligence, patience and our love for righteousness.

Conclusion

1. We have a great treasure that awaits us in heaven.
2. But first we must obey the gospel and live according to its instruction (**1 Peter 1:13-16**).
3. Will you come?

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