

Lesson 3



LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

READING:

1 PETER 1

STUDY TEXT:

1 PETER 1:4-5

THEME:

OUR GREAT SALVATION
(PART 3)

STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God
Promises of God
Principles for Life
Lessons to Learn
Examples to Follow

FURTHER STUDY:

MATTHEW 6:19-21
HEBREWS 11:13-16
HEBREWS 13:12-15

MEMORY VERSE:

1 PETER 1:4

PRAYER & PRAISE:

HEAVEN AWAITS!

Not only are we “*born again to a living hope*” (v.3) in this life, we are also promised an inheritance in the next life!

Remember that the recipients of this letter were facing all manner of persecution. Peter is seeking to lift their vision from the present circumstances to the glorious future that awaits them.

The “*inheritance*” that awaits the Christian in heaven is manifold and includes: eternal life, unrivalled joy, freedom from sin and death, perfect peace, the presence of God, the full, unveiled companionship of Christ, rewards for service, fellowship with the entire household of faith, and the splendour of the new heaven and earth.

Take note of the words used to describe this inheritance: “*imperishable, undefiled and unfading*”. “*Imperishable*” literally means, “not liable to corruption or decay.” “*undefiled*” speaks of “purity, freedom from stains and pollution, and is not acquired through evil means like many inheritances today.” “*Unfading*” refers to “perpetual loveliness”. It does not grow pale with age or exposure. It is eternally magnificent.

Our Secure Inheritance & Salvation

The word “*kept*” (v.4) means to “guard, watch over, and protect.” The believers’ future is personally guarded by the Lord. Nobody can steal, defile, or destroy the inheritance reserved in heaven for you.

The word “*who*” (v.5) refers back to those who have been born again (v. 3). Not only is our inheritance a certainty, but also our salvation in Christ. In theology, this is called “The Believer’s Security” (perseverance of the saints). This biblical doctrine teaches us that it is God who is responsible to “hold, keep and guard” our salvation, and not us. If our position in Christ was reliant upon our faithfulness to God or our good works, we would all certainly lose our salvation.

It is “*faith*” (v.5) that enables conversion at the beginning¹, and faith that will bring us to our final destination in heaven. This faith is a gift of God.

The final phrase, “*for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time*” is referring to the future when every Christian enters into the presence of the Lord, and receives their inheritance. This is the final stage in our journey of faith and it is often referred to as “the state of glorification.”

Summary

This passage reminds us that the Christian is not at home in this world. Instead of being distracted or discouraged by the temporal elements of this life, Peter calls the believer to consider all that lies ahead. Only as we

¹ Ephesians 2:8-9

*“set our minds on things above”*² can we press on in this life, and live in a manner which glorifies the Lord.

Abraham was *“looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and maker is God”*³. We should do the same!

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how looking to the future -our inheritance and all that is ahead- should “inspire” us to serve the Lord faithfully now, despite the trials and tribulations that we face.

2. Read John 14:1-6. List the promises found in this passage. What is the condition of these promises in verse 6?

3. Compare John 1:12 and Romans 8:17. What does it mean to be an heir? Now read Ephesians 1:11-14. How is it that we- lost and unregenerate sinners- could be heirs of God?

4. Read Revelation 21:1-14, 22-27. List the blessings of heaven that the Christian will one day experience.

5. Read Philippians 3:18-21. What contrast do you see between the lost person and the saved? How will this mindset help you today and in the week ahead?

LIST ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE PASTOR ON THE OTHER SIDE.

² Colossians 3:2

³ Hebrews 11:10