

# "Our Hope and Inheritance"

*1 Peter 1:3-5*

## ***Introduction***

-These verses form a great doxology, and we usually rush over them not understanding completely what Peter is saying.

-Consider the state in which these people find themselves: they were Jewish Christians in Asia Minor who were undergoing some "fiery trials", persecution and oppression

-\*\*1 Peter 1:6 & 7

-Despite the circumstances, these verses are a celebration of LIFE!

-Why? Because "he has given us new birth"!

-The theme of this passage is the relation of the resurrection to mercy and life. We'll look at two lines of thought:

1. What the resurrection of Jesus Christ meant to God
2. What the resurrection means to us.

## ***I. WHAT THE RESURRECTION MEANT TO GOD***

-Simply put, the resurrection made possible in the activity of God that which apart from it had not been possible.

-Read what Peter said without the subordinate clauses: "The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...in his great mercy has given us new birth...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".

-By the resurrection God created the possibility for the outflow of His great mercy in the gift of life to needy souls.

-This assumes two things:

1. The mercy of God. It was not created by the resurrection, but the resurrection made a channel through which it could flow.
2. God held back His mercy prior to the resurrection.

-What is mercy? "Compassion struggling and determined to reach out and become active". The root word means "to stoop", "to bow", "to bend low".

-Mercy presupposes a state of need in those toward whom it moves.

-Mercy and love are linked, but are different. Love becomes mercy in the presence of the suffering and sorrow of the person on whom it is set. So, without love there is no mercy.

-The mercy of God, then, is God's desire to heal and help, to deliver and save those who are wounded and in need.

-"Great mercy" -- mercy without comparison, because there is nothing to compare it to!

-No one is beyond the reach of God's mercy: "God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

-But, there is a sense that this "great mercy" has been held back, and the reason is that God cannot give the gifts of His love and mercy to those whose lives are dominated by sin.

-Why? to give eternal life to a life full of sin is to perpetuate that sin! This is mercy.

-What does this have to do with the resurrection of Jesus? It was what Jesus came here to do...He did not come here to die, but to rise again!

-The resurrection was the initiation of a new way of life! A life that is not dominated by this world...a life that makes it possible to experience all that God has.

## ***II. WHAT THE RESURRECTION MEANS TO US***

-It gives us a "living hope"--a hope that is alive, that can see what the human eye cannot see.

-Hope is greater than faith, yet hope is the element of joyful expectation in faith.

-What is the believer hoping for? (a) The resurrection of Jesus is a new interpretation of personality. After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to

Many. He was the same, yet he was different. (2) The death of Jesus was vicarious...He died for us. The resurrection was vicarious...He rose for us!!

-But why "rise for us"...what does that mean? It made it possible for us to receive our inheritance!

-That is...we have a place, a possession in the heavens!

-In the ascension of the Son of Man, we have man's guarantee of place and possession in the life that lies beyond this: where He shall be also.

-That inheritance is reserved by the power of God..."kept" means "secured".

-God is on sentry duty...the power of God watching over us and guarding us, keeping us for the inheritance that is withheld from us, but secured to us in Christ Jesus!

## ***Conclusion***

-For today, we have pain and strife.

-Yet amid all that, we have this living hope. An inheritance is reserved for us in the undying ages and limitless spaces of eternity.

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