

**Praise God for His Salvation:
Comforting Truths for Troubled Hearts
1 Peter 1:1-9 (specifically vv. 3-5)**

INTRODUCTION

How did you do this past week? Did you feed your faith or your fear? Did you watch the videos prior to our time together?

Please open your Bible to 1 Peter 1:1-9. (Read)

Sermon in a sentence: Regardless of the difficulties we face, we can praise God for His _____

Peter is writing to troubled Christians. The intended audience of the letter is identified in the opening **2 verses (reread 1:1-2)**. These exiles faced growing religious intolerance because of their faith in Christ. It'll soon become genocidal persecution under Emperor Nero. **These persecuted believers needed real hope for difficult times.**

We need to stop and think about what salvation means. Salvation means that we who justly deserve the eternal wrath of God have been delivered from that wrath through the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf and His subsequent resurrection. If we are not saved, we're lost, under the terrible condemnation of God. **One of our problems today is that we're trying to get people saved who have no concept of how terrible it is to be lost. And we're trying to sweet-talk people who have forgotten what it feels like to be eternally lost into enduring hardship in living the Christian life.** They don't appreciate what God has done in saving them.

In vv. 3-5, we find three benefits of salvation that give blessed assurance when life gets hard. And that's the focus of our time together this morning.

Please note some comforting truths from God's word for our troubled hearts.

**I. Praise God! We have _____
a new birth (1:3)**

Don't miss it...Salvation is a gift from God!

Let's talk new birth for a moment. John Piper gets to the heart of this verse. He states: *"Now what is the main thing that God is doing here? The main thing is that God has caused new birth. His great mercy is the source of it. His raising Jesus from the dead is the historical triumph over death that makes it possible. Our living hope in a great inheritance flows from it. But the main work of God focused on here is the new birth. So let's focus on that: God caused us to be born again. One of the reasons we don't exult in this like Peter is that we don't understand it, or we don't believe it. "God caused us to be born again." God fathered us into second being as children of God. We had no existence as his children. "That which is born of the flesh is [just] flesh," Jesus said in John 3:6. But "that which is born [again] of the Spirit is spirit." We had no living spiritual existence. We were what a human father and mother and common grace could make of us. But then God came on us and caused us to be born again. He awakened a new life — the life of faith and hope in God, the life of the Spirit in us."*

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/gods-great-mercy-and-our-new-birth>

Check out how Peter describes it...check out the dynamics...

A. We are born again by the _____

We need salvation because God is holy. But we receive salvation because God is merciful. What God demands, God provides.

B. We are born again to a _____

WARREN WIERSBE writes: *“Hope is not a sedative; it is a shot of adrenaline, a blood transfusion. Like an anchor, our hope in Christ stabilizes us in the storms of life; but unlike an anchor, our hope moves us forward, it does not hold us back.”*

C. We are born again _____

the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If God had left Jesus in the grave, our salvation would not be complete. In His death on the cross, Jesus bore our sins. But if He had not been raised bodily, He would not have conquered sin and death. As Paul said, *“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins”* (1 Cor. 15:17).

Unlike worldly hope that often fades and grows weaker over time, living hope grows stronger as the day of its realization draws closer. Whatever trials we face, we can praise God because we have a living hope that rests on the sure fact of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.

II. Praise God! We have _____

a guaranteed inheritance (1:4)

Peter goes on to describe our salvation as an inheritance, locked up in the bank vault of heaven, guarded against every intruder who might take it from us. And we are assured that God’s power is guarding us so that someday we will enjoy our inheritance.

In **verse 4** we have three descriptions of our inheritance which we have to look forward to in heaven. **All three of them are in the negative.** Interestingly, on several occasions, this is how Scripture describes heaven: with negatives. In **Revelation 21** we read of how in heaven, *“there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning or crying or pain”* (Rev. 21:4). Regarding the heavenly Jerusalem, *“nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it”* (Rev. 21:27). Regarding the throne the creatures around the throne *“do not cease to say, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come’”* (Rev. 4:8). Regarding the number of people in heaven there will be *“a great multitude which no one could count”* (Rev. 7:9).

Peter says that this inheritance that we can expect to experience in heaven is ...

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Praise God! We have experienced a new birth and we have received a guaranteed inheritance. Lastly,

**III Praise God! We are _____
by God's power through faith (1:5)**

CONCLUSION

There are two remaining questions. **First, do you have this**
_____?

And there is a second question, **“Are you _____
in light of this hope?”**

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis wrote, *“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.”*

I hope you have been reminded that we celebrate Resurrection Sunday not because of our traditions but because this event in history has changed the world. It has changed us. And it has changed us forever.