

A Study of The Epistle of 1st Peter

Theme: “A LIVING HOPE!”

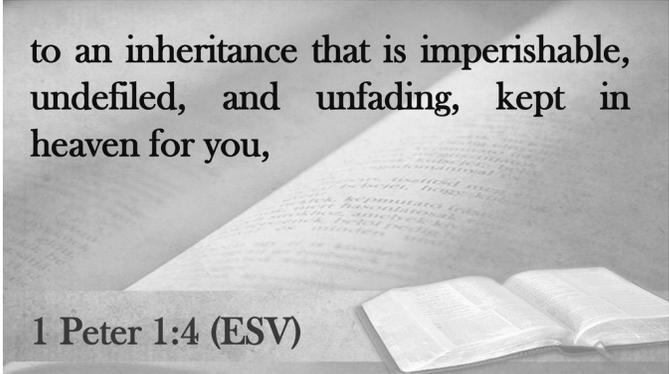
Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.

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Lesson: 3

Chapter 1:4-5

Date: 8-9-20



to an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading, kept in
heaven for you,

1 Peter 1:4 (ESV)

BIBLE TEXT:

(1) *Peter, an apostle of **Jesus Christ**, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,*

(2) *according to **the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:**
May grace and peace be multiplied to you.*

(3) *Blessed be **the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!** According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to **a living hope** through **the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,***

(4) **to an inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled,
and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

(5) who by **God's power** are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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18. *For if **the inheritance** is by the Law, it is no longer by promise.*

So also in Rom. 4:14: “If it is the adherents of the Law who are to be the heirs, faith is null, and the promise is void.” Nor can it come out any other way; for the distinction is altogether clear, that the Law is not the promise. Natural reason, no matter how blind it is, is still forced to admit that it is one thing to promise and another thing to demand, one thing to grant and another to accept. If a horse could speak, it would be forced to say that it is one thing when a stableboy offers it oats to eat and another thing when the stableboy mounts it and rides it. Therefore **the promise** and the Law are as far apart from each other as heaven and earth. For the Law demands: “Do this!” The **promise** grants: “Accept this!”

Therefore Paul concludes as follows: **The blessing is given on the basis of the promise;** therefore it is not given on the basis of the Law. **For the promise** says: “In your Offspring they will be blessed.” Therefore he who has the Law does not have enough, for he does not yet have the blessing and so remains under the curse. Hence the Law cannot justify, because the blessing has not been added to it.

In addition, if **the inheritance** were by the Law, God would be found to be a liar, and the promise would become void. Likewise, if the Law could obtain the blessing, why would **God promise** it, saying, “In your Offspring, etc.”? Why would He not rather say: “Do this, and you will receive the blessing!” or “By keeping the Law you can merit eternal life”? This is an argument from contraries: **The inheritance is given on the basis of the promise;** therefore it is not on the basis of the Law.

STUDY NOTES:

A. - to **an inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

(Acts 20:32; Rom 8:17; Col 1:5; 2 Tim 4:8)

B. - who by **God's power** are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(2 Tim 1:9; Titus 3:5; 1 Cor 1:18; Rom 8:23,30; 13:11)

1:4b *Kept in Heaven for You*

IMPERISHABLE, UNDEFILED, UNFADING.

BEDE: Our inheritance is imperishable because it is a heavenly life which neither age nor illness nor death nor any plague can touch. It is undefiled because no unclean person can enter into it. It is unfading, because the heavenly blessings are such that even after long enjoyment of them the blessed never grow tired, whereas those who live in earthly luxury eventually have their fill of it and turn away from it. **ON 1 PETER.**¹⁰

1:5a *Guarded by Faith*

KEPT BY FAITH. ANDREAS: Peter says that God has blessed us greatly and that he has done so through his Son. Furthermore, he

says that those who receive these things are those who are protected in the power of God, as Christ himself prayed: "Holy Father, protect them."¹¹ If the inheritance is kept in heaven for believers, some grow cold thinking that it has been left for us in the earthly Jerusalem, assuming that the rewards of the kingdom will be acquired by the appearance of luxury every thousand years. They should be asked why they say that this bodily luxury is immortal and unfading but at the same time they limit it to every thousandth year. They need to be told that these words show that the inheritance is in the kingdom of heaven and that it cannot be known by the senses of mortal beings. We have been assured that we shall receive all these great things by the Father himself, who is the one who gives them. For it is certain by other means also that he will bless us with these things through his own Son, and not simply through the Son but through his resurrection. For if everything has been granted to us, what is there left to give? The inheritance is immortal and unfading, and what is even greater, it is not here on earth but in heaven. **CATENA.**¹²

LIFE APPLICATION

1. If you have an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven, then why does this put your daily life into a new perspective?
2. You are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. When does this reality become a vital part of dealing with your weekly struggles?