

Text: 1 Pt 1.3-5

Proposition: The new birth grants believers three certain results.

As always, the question as I begin these studies is how much should I say about each point. Sometimes we lose the overall thread of a passage because I linger on exhausting the details.

Here we are in 1 Peter. Last time we talked about “Blessed Be God.” We bless God for the new birth he gave us.

The next few verses start with that foundation, thinking about the new birth and expand on its results. Let’s read the passage:

Read 1 Pt 1.3-5

Peter lists three results:

1. A living hope (“born again to a living hope” – 3)
2. An imperishable inheritance (“born again ... to *obtain* an inheritance *which* is imperishable” – 4)
3. A salvation yet to come (“born again ... for [lit. ‘to’] a salvation ready to be revealed – 5)

Now, whether these topics take three messages or one depends on how long I wax on each one! My outline is short, so I hope to finish tonight, but we shall see.

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I. Result One: Living Hope

A. Living Hope defined

1. Two kinds of hope

OT Synonyms: “The verb *qāwâ* conveys a sense of waiting with expectation, while *yāḥal* may indicate waiting for a period of time with or without expectation. For example, Noah waited (*yāḥal*) seven days before sending the dove out from the ark the second and third times (Gen 8:10, 12), but

the hired worker waits for (*qāwâ*) his wages with the expectation of receiving them (Job 7:2)."¹

- a. The unexpectant wait, the hope for something to turn up
 - b. The certain expectation
2. A living hope looks for something that is sure to come
 - a. Not the worldly view

"Hope is wishing for something you know ain't gonna happen."²

- b. Rather, the biblical view:

Tit 2.13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

B. Living Hope guaranteed: through the resurrection of Christ

1. Confirms that the message he preached was true
2. Proves the immortality of the soul
3. Pledge against the resurrection of all those who find life in him

Because He lives, we, too, will live again.

II. Result Two: Imperishable Inheritance

A. The idea of inheritance

1. In the OT, "the land" was Israel's inheritance
2. In the NT, the Son is the heir, and he inherits when he does all the Father sent him to do
 - a. With redemption accomplished, He can say, "All authority is given to me" (Mt 28.18)

¹ Aaron C. Fenlason, "Hope," Douglas Mangum, ed., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

² Attributed to the proverbial "little boy" under "Hope" in Michael P. Green, *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, Revised edition (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989).

b. By grace, he makes us “joint-heirs” with him as children of God

Rm 8.16-17 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

B. The description of our inheritance

1. Imperishable: not subject to corruption or decay
2. undefiled: pure, without defect, nor tainted by our use

“Here no one can be heir to an inheritance of gold or houses without danger of soon sinking into indolence, effeminacy, or vice; there the inheritance may be enjoyed for ever, and the soul continually advance in knowledge, holiness, and the active service of God.”³

3. Unfading: never loses the glory of its possession – like a cut flower that never withers

When we first bought our house, I can remember the first few weeks enjoying the view. If you visit us, you will probably have the same reaction — breathtaking. However... I’ve now lived their awhile... now I look out the window and barely think of the view. “Oh, yeah, nice view!” For me, the glory faded away. Now in that inheritance, it won’t fade away.

4. Settled (Reserved): in a safe-deposit box... utterly secure

III. Result Three: Ultimate Salvation

A. Slight grammatical change

1. The first phrase modifies “you” in verse 4
2. Then it slips into the next result

B. Future (or, Ultimate) Salvation

1. This doesn’t refer to our salvation now

³ Barnes, *Notes on the New Testament*, 113–14.

2. Rather, it refers to our coming salvation when Jesus comes; final and complete redemption

C. Under guard by the power of God

1. We are kept, under guard, a garrison of angels around us

2. He keeps us for this future salvation

3. When you are born again, this destiny is secure

D. Through faith

1. Not that we are kept through faith (we are kept by the power of God)

2. Rather, we gain that privilege by faith, initial saving faith

Conclusion:

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Remember, Peter writes his epistles with a backdrop of suffering. Yet he writes with a forward look. Paul says in Rm 8.18:

Rm 8.18 ¶ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.