***Omega: BIB 109***

***1st Peter – Always Be Prepared***

***Lesson 3***

***I. Chapter 1:3-5”Our Living Hope”***

🡪 In our last lesson we saw that Christians have been “born again to a living hope.” Verses 4 and 5 tell us more about the essence of this hope.

***A. The Nature of Hope…***

1. What is hope?

A. Hope is a mental state, an attitude of the heart. What kind of attitude? The Greek term for hope as used in the NT is ***elpis.***

B. Its meaning can be summarized as ***a confident expectation of a future good.***

2. This definition includes 3 Elements…

A. 1st Element – Hope is an attitude of the heart ***directed toward the future.***

1. This is what makes it different from faith. Faith can be directed to something past, present, or future.

2. Hope is only directed to the future; An expectation of something yet to come.

***Romans 8:24-25… “ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”***

B. 2nd Element – ***Confidence:*** Hope is a confident expectation of something in the future.

1. Biblical hope is thus very different from the way we use the term in our everyday jargon.

2. Biblical hope is a feeling of certainty, not uncertainty, and is very similar to what we mean by assurance.

C. 3rd Element – Biblical hope is the confident expectation of a ***Future Good.***

1. It is possible to confidently anticipate something bad to happen in the future, such as the pain expected as the result of a surgical procedure.

A. This is termed ***dread*** and not hope.

2. In contrast to dread… Biblical hope is the confident expectation of something good.

3. Properly understood, Biblical hope is thus a main aspect of what we call assurance of salvation.

A. Assurance of Salvation embraces our confidence of our ***present status*** before God as a forgiven sinner who is under God’s saving grace.

B. Assurance also includes ***our joyful expectation*** of all the future blessings of heaven in all its glory.

***B. A Living Hope…***

1. In verse 3 Peter calls this a ***living*** hope. What does he mean by a ***living*** hope?

2. It simply means that our hope is not in vain and will not be disappointed. What is the basis for this understanding?

3. It is a living hope because of the foundation on which it is grounded… what are some aspects of this foundation?

A. Our living hope is grounded on the one true and ***living*** God.

1. At least 15 times He is called the “living God.”

A. Psalm 42:2 & Matt. 16:16 & 1st Tim. 4:10

2. In contrast to idols and false gods, the God of the Bible is real. Idols are lifeless nothings, but the living God knows, speaks, acts, and saves!

B. Our living hope is grounded upon a ***living*** Savior.

1. The Savior’s resurrection from the dead guarantees that He will keep His promises to us.

2. Our living hope is through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

A. Revelation 1:18 & 2 Tim. 1:10

3. Whatever promises He makes to us, we can cling to them with absolute confidence and joyful expectation because He is the living Savior who has overcome all of His (and our) enemies, including death.

***C. The Object of Our Living Hope…***

1. In verse 4 Peter tells us that as a result of being born again into the family of God, we have a great inheritance awaiting us!

2. We have already received and are already experiencing innumerable aspects of salvation, but there is still to come “an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you”!

A. Acts 20:32 & Col 3:24 & Heb. 9:15

3. Our living hope is focused on a spiritual inheritance that is eternal.

A. 3 Different Greek Adjectives Peter uses to drive this home…

1. Aphthartos 🡪 Imperishable, Incorruptible… contrast to 1st Peter 1:18… “Perishable things like silver and gold.” These are subject to rust and decay.

A. Our inheritance is not subject to decay. It is not fragile or delicate.

2. Amiantos 🡪 Unstained, Undefiled, Unspoiled…. Our inheritance will not be polluted – either physical or spiritual. It will be pristine and sin will have no effect.

3. Amarantos 🡪 Unfading, Unwithering… This applies to our enjoyment of heaven. It will never fade or decrease. We will never get tired of the glories of heaven.

***D. The Security of Our Living Hope…***

1. Peter uses language in this text which emphasizes the security of our hope.

2. In verse 4 the Apostle says that our inheritance is “reserved in heaven” for us.

A. The imagery here is that it is “kept under safeguard” for us in heaven’s vault. It is implied that the One who is keeping it safe for us is God.

3. In verse 5 Peter states that God’s protection covers not just the inheritance as such, but also extends to us, the heirs. We ourselves are “protected by the power of God” for that “salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

A. Peter is saying that even though we are under attack by our enemies, we are protected, guarded, and shielded by God’s power.

1. “Protected” is in the present tense, which means that God is continuing to protect us.

B. It is important to note that this protection will not protect us from all physical harm. Believers must still suffer the pains and weaknesses of a fallen universe.

C. Rather, Peter is saying that God’s power will protect us from our spiritual enemies (Eph 6:12), from all those forces that want to separate us from God and cause us to renounce and lose the marvelous inheritance God is safeguarding for us.

4. Is Peter saying that once we are saved that it is impossible to lose our inheritance?

A. Are Christians… “Once Saved, Always Saved”?

1. NO! This is not what Peter is teaching here. In fact Peter tells us that there is a key to remaining heirs of God.

2. The words “THROUGH FAITH”… clearly indicate that we are protected by the power of God through faith.

B. THROUGH FAITH…

1. God’s power is available to us and offered to us every step of the way along the path to our final salvation; His hand is constantly extended to us to protect us and keep us on that path.

2. We are freewill beings, and we must freely choose to place our hand in His hand, and to keep holding to His hand.

3. From God’s perspective, we are guarded or protected by His power.

4. From our perspective, we are protected through our own faith. Faith is our part in maintaining our secure place as God’s heirs.

A. Our security is conditional. We must continue to trust in and to cling to Him!

***E. The Unveiling of the Inheritance…***

1. In this lifetime, and even after we die and are waiting for the final judgment, our inheritance is like Christmas presents that lie wrapped under the tree. We have a general idea of what is in store for us, but the reality of it all is still hidden from us for a while. (1st Cor. 2:9)

2. When we are finally able to enter our heavenly home, our eyes will at last be able to feast upon the paradise-like vistas of the new heavens and the new earth. It will be like Christmas morning, when you have been led with your eyes shut into the room where the Christmas Tree is surrounded by presents, and your mom or dad finally says… “Open your eyes!”

3. When that last day comes, and our salvation is then fully revealed, we will not only see our “presents,” but will enjoy them forever!

A. In the words of John Newton…

***“When we’ve be there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,***

***We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’ve first begun.”[[1]](#footnote-1)***

1. Entire Lesson pulled from: Studies in 1st Peter – Dr. Jack Cottrell. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)