

### Spiritual Growth Through Understanding Salvation I Peter 1:3-5

#### Introduction

- A. Peter was trained in the days following his divine call so he could "strengthen his brethren" (Luke 22:32). As we study this epistle we recognize the fulfillment of those words.
- B. Because the Bible is inspired we can apply the truths we find in this epistle to ourselves. God has spoken to us as surely as the Lord Jesus taught Peter and the other Disciples. We can hardly conceive of anyone, in those days, deliberately or even through forgetfulness -- disobeying the Lord. What excuse do we have for our failure to obey the Bible?

#### **I. The Grace of God in the Believer's Salvation, I Peter 1:3-2:10.**

- A. The description of salvation, Vs 3-5.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively (living) hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith, unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. I Peter 1:3-5*

- 1. The believer's past -- he has been "begotten" (born again).

- a. The source of the new birth -- God the Father.

We are here reminded that all the wonderful facets of the new birth must be traced back to our heavenly Father. The word "blessed" (praise) is used to indicate the gratitude which does and should flow from the heart and mind of every person who knows the new birth. No gift (possession) could be greater. This thought is related to election. V2

- b. The basis of the new birth -- His abundant mercy.

Mercy is the basis of our salvation because no one can do anything to merit such a deliverance. It is the result of God's love. No one knows how much we need mercy -- we may have lost this knowledge in the Fall. We need infinite mercy because our sin was against the infinite God!

- c. The explanation of the new birth -- begotten.

This word means "birth." In this verse Peter is speaking of a spiritual birth, that which comes to pass when the Holy Spirit applies the work of the Lord Jesus to the believing sinner (John 3:3,5; Titus 3:5). This new birth is a divine gift, it is instantaneous, and results in a radical change of the person -- he is referred to as a

"new creation" in II Corinthians 5:17. Only those "born again" can go to Heaven.

- d. The content of the new birth -- hope.

The word "hope" in the New Testament is not an expression of doubt, but certainty. It speaks of the content of salvation in the light of God's promises. It is a "living hope" to remind us that through the new birth we have been given spiritual life. We were once dead to God (Ephesians 2:1), but now we have been made spiritually alive (John 10:28).

- e. The power of the new birth -- the Resurrection.

Jesus Christ was born into our nature and world to make an atonement for our sins. This is the central message of His Crucifixion and Resurrection. A spiritual power of infinite proportions was provided by His work -- to reverse the guilt, bondage, and even presence of sin. Every believer has the privilege of living with that resurrection power in the experience of his daily life. Romans 6:4.

2. The believer's future: he has an "inheritance."

- a. The description of this inheritance.

The word refers to a gift given because of a family relationship. For the believer it means all that God has promised. It is spoken of as future to show what is in store for us. Our future is filled with every benefit of God's grace and with none of our present plagues -- sin, sickness, bondage, sorrow, and death.

- b. The characteristics of this inheritance.

The fourfold statement "incorruptible, undefiled, fading not away, reserved in heaven for you" indicate the truth that our inheritance is holy, without blemish, permanent, and being kept for us. As we think about our future these words should fill our mind. In the spiritual realm every believer is a multi-millionaire.

3. The believer's present: he is kept by God's power.

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. V5

- a. The explanation: "Kept" is a military term used to describe keeping a prisoner, or protecting a city. This is not only external -- but refers to our inner life as well. Jude 24
- b. The source: the infinite power of God maintains the saint in the living relationship established in the new birth.
- c. The evidence: the content and experience of our faith. We would not know this faith if we were not Christians.
- d. The goal: the word "salvation" is here used in the future tense -- the believer's glorification. The Lord Jesus said believers "would never perish." John 10:28,29