

Introduction

How many times have you asked Jesus into your heart? Once, twice, 3X, or more. How many more?

This is evidence of two things;

- **First**, it reveals a struggle to be assured or confident of your salvation
 - A salvation that is not secured will ultimately true struggle with joy and praise to God
- **Second**, it reveals that you don't believe your salvation from God by yourself.
 - Ultimately to do not trust yourself, you know you make mistakes and screw things up, how in times of difficulty, stress and temptation you sin, and fail, breaking your promise to God.

Tonight, the Apostle Peter has a very special word of encouragement for you to turn your fear and doubt into daily joy and praise to God from a confident heart!

READ: 1 Peter 1:3-5

Peter begins with a blessing of praise to God. BUT WHY?

- The reason for praise is the great mercy of God that causes us to be born anew.
- That mercy & grace **comes only** from God's predestining and electing his people before creation.
- If God doesn't predestine and elect his people, then our salvation is not of mercy and grace.
 - Rather it is God giving you something you deserve. That's not what the bible teaches,
 - As Christians, we are command to believe the Word over what we want.

Peter praises God for being the initiator and sustainer of his people's salvation guaranteeing his promises of eternity.

- **Called by God, given a new heart by God, & converted by God according to his promise to you before creation. He loved you first, more, and for all eternity.**
 - *READ: Romans 8:29-30 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined...*
- SO, BE ASSURED AND CONFIDENT that even in the face of faithlessness, your salvation and sanctification, eternity and inheritance stand firm and immovable as God's character.
- This is why Peter stresses God's predestination & election... to give Christians encouragement, comfort and peace that will lead to joy in all circumstances.

What does this new birth give to us?

1. A Living Hope

- Peter's hope completely died when Jesus die on the cross.... b/c of this earlier denial
- But then Jesus rose from the dead, and Peter was now given a living hope in a living Lord who he saw ascend into heaven alive & glorified. Your faith is in the living not dead.
- ILL - Young people are immature in life and spirit. Love this life over heaven.
 - B/c you are just entering the toy store of life. Haven't been burned yet by empty promises.
 - Imagine living in Toys R Us & never leaving. Longer you are there more you long for more.
 - As Christians mature spiritually, you lose confidence in this world & long for more, heaven.

2. A Heavenly Inheritance

What is meant by this inheritance? It means a portion. For Christians, it is a portion of heaven for you. This inheritance is different than here on earth:

Imperishable: it cannot be destroyed or taken (stock market, scams, identity theft)

Undefined: polluted or corrupted by sin like rotting food

Unfading: cannot be reduced (like wealth that can be spent and gone)

Kept in heaven under God's guard

Not only is this inheritance kept for you, but you too are safeguarded by God for your inheritance.

This goes back to God's sovereign predestining your... making sure you get what he promised.

Your promised inheritance rest on God not you... SO REJOICE!! BE GLAD!! You can't lose it!

Conclusion

1. Ask yourself, who is your hope in salvation? *You or God – only God saves by mercy and grace.*
2. What is your hope in this life? Is it perishable, defiled and polluted, and fading or safeguarded.

Peter calls Christians everywhere to a life of praise that wells up from our resting on God's salvation through Jesus Christ. That salvation give you an unshakable living hope beyond this world.

- Romans 8:38-39 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.