**1 Peter: Hearts of Gratitude for His Eternal Gift**

*1 Peter 1:3*

**Context**

After the introduction Peter gives to the original recipients, he then gives a doxology of praise. He is calling them (and us) to praise God for a gift that has yet to be revealed to them. He wants them to thank God for a future gift. Peter calls it an inheritance, reserved and protected and later to be revealed. The reason he points them to a future inheritance is to comfort them in the difficult hostile world in which they currently reside.

Although they are aliens now, they are residents of a future hope and joy that cannot be taken away. That perspective will allow believers to worship God more fully and more accurately.

**Features of the Believer’s Inheritance**

1. **We bless the One who gives it**

**1 Peter 1:3a***—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

1. It is necessary to bless God
   1. Mindful the blessing here comes after vv1-2 recalling the God who saves
   2. In the Greek, the main verb (be) is not present
   3. “Blessed be the God”
   4. We bless God because He is the source of all spiritual blessings and our inheritance

**1 Chronicles 29:10-13** (LSB*)—So David blessed Yahweh in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, “Blessed are You, O Yahweh, the God of Israel our father, from everlasting to everlasting.****11****Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the kingdom, O Yahweh, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.****12****Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.****13****So now, our God, we are thanking You and praising Your glorious name.*

* 1. Peter blesses God; he tells them to do the same

1. Does it seem odd that we bless God; rather than “He blesses us”
2. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
   1. That phrase identifies God in a distinctly Christian way
   2. Historically, the Jews blessed God as the creator and redeemer of the nation from Egypt
   3. Here Peter is identifying God as the Father of the Lord Jesus
   4. With one exception, Jesus always made reference to God as His Father
      1. The exception being **Matthew 27:46** (“*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”)*
   5. In calling Him “Father,” Jesus was breaking with Jewish tradition
      1. They never called God their Father in a personal sense

**Deuteronomy 32:6***—“Do you thus repay the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.*

**Isaiah 63:16***—For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us And Israel does not recognize us. You, O Lord, are our Father, Our Redeemer from of old is Your name.*

**64:8***—But now, O Lord, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.*

**Jeremiah 3:19***—“Then I said, ‘How I would set you among My sons And give you a pleasant land, The most beautiful inheritance of the nations!’ And I said, ‘You shall call Me, My Father, And not turn away from following Me.’*

* + 1. In calling God His Father, Jesus was claiming the same nature as God

**John 10:30***—“I and the Father are one.”*

**John 14:9***—Jesus \*said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?* (cf, vv**8, 10-13**)

* + 1. One cannot know the Father without knowing the Son

**John 17:1, 5**—*Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You…****5****Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

**Matthew 11:27**—*All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. (*Cf.**Luke 10:22**)

**John 14:6-7**—*Jesus \*said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.* ***7****If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”*

* + 1. Peter is identifying here the same as what Paul does

**2 Corinthians 1:3***—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort*

**Ephesians 1:3, 17***—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ… that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

* + 1. The same as John

**2 John 3***—Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*

* 1. Scripture primarily identifies God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ

(**Matt 7:21; 10:32, 11:25-27; 16:27; 25:34; 26:39,** Et al**.**)

* + 1. God is also the Father of all believers (**Matthew 5:16, 45, 48; 6:1, 9, 10:20;** Et al.)
    2. The reason He is the Father of all believers is that we are in Christ. And if we are in the Son, we are in the Father
    3. We will be fully immersed in the fullness of the Trinity
  1. Peter uses a “concentrated confession” in using Christ’s full name
     1. *Lord* identifies Him as sovereign Ruler
     2. *Jesus* as incarnate son
     3. *Christ* as anointed Messiah-King
  2. Peter also uses the pronoun “our” to personalize Him
     1. The *Lord* of the Universe belongs to all believers
     2. *Jesus* who lived, died, and rose again for believers providing our atonement
     3. *Christ,* the Messiah who God anointed to be our eternal King, will grant to His elect a glorious inheritance

1. **We recognize why He gives it**

**1 Peter 1:3b***—…who according to His great mercy*

1. The motive for the believer’s inheritance is His great mercy

**Ephesians 2:4-5***—But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,****5****even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)*

**Titus 3:5***—He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

1. Mercy (*eleos)*—kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them[[1]](#footnote-2)
   1. The focus is on the sinner’s miserable, pitiful condition
   2. It’s not the same as grace
   3. Grace concerns one’s guilt, which caused that condition requiring mercy
   4. Divine mercy takes the sinner from misery to glory (a change of condition), and divine grace takes him from guilt to acquittal (a change of position)[[2]](#footnote-3)

**Romans 3:24***—being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus*

**Ephesians 1:7***—In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace*

* 1. Our sinful condition:
     1. Dead in our trespasses and sins (**Eph 2:1-3**)
     2. Wretched, helpless (**Gen 6:5; 8:21**)
     3. Deceitful heart (**Jer 17:9**)
     4. Corrupt mind (**Rom 8:7-8; 1 Cor 2:14**)
     5. Wicked desires (**Eph 4:17-19; 5:8; Titus 1:15**)
     6. Slaves of sin (**Rom 6:16**)
     7. Headed for hell (**Matt 10:28; 25:46; 2 Thes 1:9; Rev 21:8**)
  2. Man’s desperate need for mercy and God’s remedy found in the person and work of Christ

1. We see God’s mercy through the incarnation of Christ

**Philippians 2:6-8**—[Jesus] *who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,****7****but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.****8****Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

* 1. During His incarnation, He compassionately healed many
  2. The miracles validated His message
  3. His healings best illustrated His mercy towards sinner’s suffering and temporal misery
  4. God by nature is a merciful God

**Exodus 34:6**—*Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth”*

**Psalm 108:4**—For Your lovingkindness is great above the heavens, And Your truth *reaches* to the skies.

**Lamentations 3:22**—The Lord’s lovingkindness indeed never cease, *For His compassions never fail.*

**Micah 7:18**—*Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.*

**2 Corinthians 1:3**—*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort*

1. Except for His mercy, we would have no capacity to believe

**Romans 9:15-16**—*For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”****16****So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.*

1. His infinite mercy is granted to those He determines, based on His own will

**Romans 9:10-11**—*And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac;****11****for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God’s purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,*

1. **We recognize how He gives it**

**1 Peter 1:3c***—…has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

1. Sinners have no capacity to change their nature

**Jeremiah 13:23a**—“*Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots?”*

**17:9**—“*The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?*”

1. He does the work of regeneration by causing us, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be born again

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**—“*Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,****32****not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.****33****“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.****34****They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”*

**John 3:5-6**—*Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.****6****That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

**3:14-15**—*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;****15****so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.*

*(*Cf.**Num 21:4-9**)

**Acts 2:38-39**—*Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.****39****For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”*

1. The inheritance from God comes only to those who experience the new birth

**2 Corinthians 5:17**—*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

**John 1:12-13**—*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,****13****who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

**James 1:18**—*In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.*

1. *A living hope—*there is incredible hope for the believer because of the new birth, not so for the unbeliever
   1. The unbeliever has only dying hope

**Job 8:13***—*“*So are the paths of all who forget God;  
And the hope of the godless will perish”*

**Proverbs 10:28**—*The hope of the righteous is gladness, But the expectation of the wicked perishes.*

**Ephesians 2:12***—remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

* 1. Believers have a living undying hope

**Psalm 33:18**—*Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, On those who hope for His lovingkindness*

**Romans 5:5***—and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

**Ephesians 4:4***—There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling*

**Romans 5:2**—*through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

**Colossians 1:*27****—to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

* 1. The fulfillment of the hope is in our eternal dwelling

**2 Peter 3:11-13***—Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,****12****looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!****13****But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.*

**Galatians 5:5***—For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.*

1. This is only possible because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

**John 11:25-26***—Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,****26****and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

**1 Corinthians 15:17, 20-27, 54-57***—****17****and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. …* ***20****But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.****21****For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.****22****For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.****23****But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming,****24****then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.****25****For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.****26****The last enemy that will be abolished is death.****27****For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. …* ***54****But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory.****55****O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”****56****The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;****57****but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Conclusion**

Because of our spiritual birth, we now have a living hope and eternal inheritance. The power of these realities is because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Hallelujah what a Savior!

Peter wants them to be constantly living in light of those truths so as not to be discouraged or caught up with temporal things—including the very difficult circumstances from a hostile world.

**Philippians 1:21***—For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

*Homework:* **Memorize 1 Peter 1:1-5**

**NOTES**

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1. Strong’s Lexicon: G1656 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. John MacArthur, The NT Commentary, 1 Peter, p33 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)