

## **AN INCORRUPTIBLE INHERITANCE**

**1 Peter 1:3-12**

### **Introduction:**

- 1. Occasionally we hear of someone who inherits a huge fortune.**
  - a. Who hasn't wished he too would inherit a lot of money?**
  - b. Who hasn't dreamed about what he would do with it if he did?**
- 2. Christians are heirs of the greatest fortune anyone could ever have!**
  - a. Our fortune is truly "out of this world!"**
  - b. Every faithful Christian will inherit a home in Heaven!**
- 3. Many of us are so worldly minded that we do not appreciate the Heavenly home the Lord has prepared for us.**
- 4. The apostle Peter describes our Heavenly inheritance in our text.**

### **Discussion:**

- I. OUR INHERITANCE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY GOD THROUGH HIS SON (v. 3).**
  - A. Peter said: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus."**
    - 1. The word "blessed" is "eulogetos" from which we get our word "eulogy," which means "praise for the dead."**
    - 2. A funeral sermon is commonly called a "eulogy."**
    - 3. God is worthy of our highest praise (Psalm 135:3).**
    - 4. All spiritual blessings are found in God's Son (Eph. 1:3).**
  - B. Our Heavenly inheritance was made available by God's abundant mercy (Ephesians 2:4,5).**
    - 1. Mercy is compassion motivated by love for one in need.**
    - 2. Man needed salvation from sin so God provided Christ.**
  - C. God has "begotten us again" to a living hope.**

1. **“Begotten” suggests the idea of birth.**
  - a. **We are begotten the first time physically.**
  - b. **Christians are born again (Jno. 3:1-5; Mk. 16:15,16).**
2. **We have a living hope because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
  - a. **It is the greatest of all miracles for it confirms that Jesus was all He claimed to be (Romans 1:4).**
  - b. **His resurrection is the guarantee of our resurrection also (John 11:25).**

## **II. OUR INHERITANCE IS ETERNAL AND UNCHANGING (v. 4).**

### **A. Everything in this world is in a constant state of change.**

1. **God never changes (Malachi 3:6).**

**“Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou Who changeth not, abide with me!”**

2. **Jesus never changes (Hebrews 13:8).**
3. **God’s Word never changes (Psalm 119:89; Matt. 24:35).**

### **B. Four adjectives describe the permanence of our inheritance.**

1. **It is incorruptible (new things lose their luster).**
2. **It is undefiled (everything in this world gets dirty).**
3. **It does not fade away.**
  - a. **“Fade away” is a translation of “amarantos.**
  - b. **“The amaranth was a fabled flower whose bloom was perpetual, and whose loveliness never failed. The inheritance which awaits the children of God will not deteriorate, nor will passing ages render it less desirable or attractive” (Woods, GA Com. 26).**
4. **It is reserved in Heaven (John 14:2,3).**

- C. Those who are heirs are kept by the power of God (v. 5).**
  - 1. The word “kept” means “guarded.**
  - 2. It describes being surrounded by a military guard for protection.**
  - 3. We are kept through faith (Eph. 6:16; Romans 10:17).**
  - 4. As long as we are faithful no one can take our eternal salvation away from us (1 Corinthians 10:12,13).**

### **III. OUR INHERITANCE IS A REASON TO REJOICE IN TRIALS (v. 6-9).**

**A. First Peter was written to Christians who were being persecuted for their faith (1:6,7; 2:11,12, 18-25; 3:13-18; 4:1-19).**

**B. They could rejoice even in persecution knowing it would make them stronger.**

- 1. Gold is considered the most precious of all metals.**
- 2. When it is mined, the gold is mixed with other elements.**
- 3. It must be melted down to separate the impurities from it.**
- 4. The trials of life and persecution for our faith will either “make or break” us (Matthew 13:20, 21).**
- 5. If we come through trials, we will be stronger and better able to face them when they come again (Luke 4:13).**
- 6. Our sufferings on earth are only for a “little while.”**

**“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17).**

### **IV. OUR INHERITANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO US AT THE COMING OF OUR LORD (v. 7, 9).**

**A. Salvation is spoken of in three tenses in the New Testament.**

- 1. It is past, referring to when we obeyed (Titus 3:5).**
- 2. It is present, as a work in progress (Philippians 2:12).**
- 3. It is future, to be received at the Last Day (1 Pet. 1:9).**

**B. The salvation of our souls is the end of our faith (v. 9).**

- 1. “End” means “consummation” or “fulfillment.”**
- 2. Eternal salvation in Heaven is the result of a life lived in faithful obedience and service to the Lord.**

**“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).**

**V. OUR INHERITANCE WAS OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE PROPHETS AND ANGELS (vv. 10-12).**

**A. The prophets were God’s spokesmen in Old Testament times.**

- 1. They foretold the coming of Christ and His suffering for the sins of mankind (Acts 3:24).**
- 2. They were curious as to the time when God would send the Christ and salvation would be available.**
- 3. They diligently searched the writings of themselves and their fellow prophets for the time of Christ’s coming.**
- 4. In olden times a blind lamplighter used his cane to find his way from light post to light post at dusk, lighting each lamp as he had done for many years, that others could benefit from the light he himself would never see.**

**B. The angels are messengers of God.**

- 1. They were very active in the Old Testament.**
- 2. Angels sinned and were bound in chains in hades to await the Judgment at the Last Day (2 Peter 2:4).**
- 3. There appears to be no plan of redemption for angels.**
- 4. Today, angels minister on behalf of those who are the heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14).**
- 5. They desire to look into matters concerning salvation.**

**Conclusion:**

- 1. Are you an heir of God? Do you have an inheritance in Heaven?**
- 2. If not, you can lay hold on eternal life by obeying the Gospel.**

