

Sermon Follow-up — July 19, 2020 — 1 Peter 1:3–12 – “Living the Privileges of the Gospel”

Sermon Recap:

Peter writes a letter to a people in the midst of hard times. His letter does not come with a list of things to do, but instead he describes four of the privileges we have in Christ.

A Living hope – (v.3) Our hope is in Christ who is resurrected and is living forever. This living hope contrasts to dead hopes, hope placed in things that all pass away. Hope is the settled confidence that Jesus is who He says He is, that He did what Scripture said He did, and that He will do what He said He would.

A Lasting Inheritance – (v.4) All worldly inheritances will either be spent or lose their value. In contrast, Peter tells us that we have a lasting inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Many early Christians had been exiled and removed from the inheritance of their families. Through this lasting inheritance we can even rejoice in trials which serve to peel away layers of self-sufficiency so that we may find our sufficiency in God.

An Inexpressible Joy – (v.8) Although we cannot see Jesus physically, our belief in him gives us reason to have overwhelming joy. This is joy that comes from faith in Jesus is the joy of salvation, “a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.”

An Amazing Salvation – (v.9) Salvation that we who are born again experience through Jesus is truly amazing. This salvation was told about from the prophets although they did not understand how it would come. Even angels do not have the experience of this salvation. Our God has such an amazing and expansive love that He would die for our salvation.

How privileged are we who know our Lord?! Peter is writing this letter to tell us to take our eyes off of the world and to focus on Christ and experience the amazing privileges we have.

Application Questions:

1. What do you find yourself hoping for? In our current atmosphere, do you find yourself struggling with hope? If so, how can “we” (as a group or Chapel Body) help?
2. How does the knowledge of your “lasting inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you” influence how you manage your earthly inheritance here and now?
3. How have you seen past trials grow your faith? Or peel away self-sufficiency?
4. Will you commit to sharing the joy you have in Jesus in some way this week? ... If yes, what is one specific way you will attempt to do that?