

## THE CERTAINTY OF OUR INHERITANCE

1Peter 1:3-5

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. In some families, inheritance is very important. It represents the passing along of an immense fortune to the children from the parents Lk 12:13
- B. The apostle Peter teaches us about the inheritance that Christians have awaiting us
- C. He uses the most splendid language with which to give it reality for us
- D. Peter sums up the benefits of this rich inheritance with the phrase, "In this you greatly rejoice." Why?

### DISCUSSION

#### I. THE NATURE OF OUR INHERITANCE.

- A. It is incorruptible
  1. Unlike so many earthly riches the inheritance of the Christian is not liable to corruption or decay"
  2. All the fine homes of people in the time of Peter's epistle have decayed and fallen down. Not one stands today in its glory and beauty Heb 1:10-12
  3. This ought to show us that a home in heaven is far more important and of greater value than a beautiful home here in this world. Every earthly inheritance will decay, but our heavenly house can never decay
- B. It is undefiled.
  1. Our spiritual estate is pure, free from contamination
  2. The future home of a Christian is not defiled by moral and spiritual evils which we often see in this world
  3. No matter how contaminated this earth becomes, environmentally or morally, when the Christian closes his eyes in death, he departs for a country without any form of impurity Rev 21:27
- C. It will not fade away
  1. The word fade comes from a word which means, "an unfading flower"
  2. So many lovely things which we see around us in this world fade away from view. They perish because they are temporal or time-bound
  3. Peter speaks of the Christian's inheritance as being different. It will not fade away because of time
  4. When last trumpet sounds, time will be no more, and all temporal things will end. But eternal things will last, their beauty will never fade 2Cor 4:16-18; Rev 22:2

- D. It is reserved in heaven Jhn 14:2
  1. Jesus prepared a place for us
    - a. Jesus went to heaven & sat down at the Father's right hand
    - b. Where He is, there I can be - in heaven
  2. When we arrive, be it soon or late, we can be assured that our reserved place has not been given to someone else. We may be confident our room will be ready

#### II. OUR INHERITANCE IS GUARDED

- A. Faith assures us we will not lose our inheritance
  1. "The just shall live by faith" Rom 1:17; Heb 10:38
  2. "You stand by faith" Rom 11:20
  3. "For we walk by faith" 2Cor 5:7
  4. "Who are kept by the power of God through faith" 1Pet 1:5
- B. This faith causes us to understand:
  1. There is a God Gen 1:1
  2. A spiritual world Matt 25:46
    - a. Hell for the wicked
    - b. Heaven for the righteous
  3. Many do not share our faith
- C. To keep our inheritance, don't allow faith to be shaken or taken from us
  1. It guards the way to our heavenly home
  2. If we lose it, we will lose heaven

#### III. INHERITANCE TO BE REVEALED IN THE LAST TIME

- A. We should recognize the intangible nature of heaven
  1. It cannot be seen with the eye
  2. It cannot be felt with a touch
- B. Those who rely on their senses to determine the nature of reality can never believe in heaven
  1. Paul said "to die is gain" and that was "far better" than life in this world Phil 1:21,23;
  2. We shall be like Christ 1Jhn 3:1-3

### CONCLUSION

- A. This is our inheritance. It is the wonderful "living hope" to which Peter says we were begotten when we began our new life in Christ
- B. If God can raise Jesus from the dead, then he can provide us with the richest possible inheritance
- C. Don't let go of our inheritance. Gen 25:33; Heb 12:16,17  
(From Randy Cavender revised by jlh)