

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 3

1 Peter 1.3-5 Peter begins with the theme of the entire paragraph. God is to be blessed... εὐλογητός (*eulogētos*)... “To be praised” “Worthy of commendation.”

This was a common Jewish prayer/blessings... A *berakah*... “Praise be to God.”

Peter calls for the blessing of God the Father... καὶ (*kei*)... “Even” ... The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(v.3): The reason God is to be praised is now explained... We are given a “new birth.”

ἀναγεννάω (*anagennao*)... Lit., “To begat again” ... “Born anew.”

To a... “Living hope.” ... ζῶω (*zao*)... “Life” (Quality) ... ἐλπίς (*elpis*)... “Expectation”

(v.4): “Inheritance.” ... κληρονομία (*klēronomia*)... “To possess (Something)” That is eternal!

(v.5): “Guarded.” ... φρουρέω (*phroureo*)... “To guard against.”

This is our Salvation ... σωτηρία (*sōtēria*)... “To (be) saved, rescued.”

The security of our salvation...*past...present...and future...*are all based on God’s faithfulness *through Christ*

...To be fully revealed at the end of history! *John 6.39-40; 12.48.*

“Prepared to be revealed.” ... ἀποκαλύπτω (*apokalupto*)... “To disclose.”

This is a “divine passive” and infers that everything is *already prepared*... Similar to a meal before being called to eat!

Jesus uses this imagery in *Matthew 22.8* (The same Greek term is used).

In this hope and assurance...Believers are to move forward through faith.

“Through Christ, God has promised us the riches of heaven....Our true home...Nothing in this world can take our inheritance from us. Luther: ‘This blessing is ours forever and ever, even though we do not see it now. . . . On earth no pleasure is so great that it does not become unpleasant as time goes on. We see that one becomes weary of everything. But this blessing is different. All this is ours in Christ, by God’s mercy, if we believe’ (AE 30:13)....(We are promised)....Deliverance from sin and death to live with God forever....God’s promised salvation will be fully revealed on Judgment Day.”¹

1 Peter 1.6-9 The “living hope” that believers possess can even provide joy...

The contrast of present trials (or tests) with joy is a common theme in the New Testament.

¹ Ibid.

Both Scripture and biblical tradition understood that God sovereignly used trials to strengthen His people's commitment.

Consequently,...God's people can trust that God has a greater outcome in their trials.

(v.7): As an example...*gold ... refined by fire*. Like precious metals purified in a furnace, impurities are removed.

Job 23.10...Psalm 12.6...Isaiah 48.10...Purity is the result!

(vs.8-9): The focus of a believer's faith is not on abstract religious principles but on the person of Jesus Christ!

While Peter *physically* saw Jesus...Peter knew many would not (us).

Perhaps Peter remembered Jesus' words recorded in *John 20.29.... Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

All of a believer's life...joys and trials...bring us closer to the "outcome of our faith" ...

"The picture of the Christian life presented by Peter in these opening verses is characterized by hope in what God will do in the future. Christians, he says, look forward to salvation in the world to come. Their lives ought to have a forward-looking and other-worldly dimension that is often lacking among contemporary Christians."²

Once again, we see the "timeless" quality of our faith.

A salvation given through the past work of Jesus Christ...A present, triumphant faith in the unseen Jesus, which gives an inexpressible joy in the midst of trials and challenges.... And...

A future expectation of a fulfilled salvation in the presence of Jesus!

"As the true character of gold is seen in a refiner's fire, so faith's true character is revealed when tested....All earthly treasures will eventually be destroyed, but through faith, we will live with our Savior forever. Luther: 'All Scripture compares temptation to fire. Thus here St. Peter also likens the gold that is tested by fire to the testing of faith by temptation and suffering. Fire does not impair the quality of gold, but it purifies it, so that all alloy is removed....so that one adheres to the Word alone and relies on nothing else. For we really need such purging and affliction every day because of the coarse old Adam' (AE 30:17)."³

² I.H. Marshall. *1 Peter* (InterVarsity Press, 1991).

³ *The Lutheran Study Bible* (Concordia Publishing House, 2002).