

**“Rejoicing in Our Great Salvation: Rejoice in God’s Gift” 1 Peter 1:4, Sermon Notes**  
**Pastor Marc Wragg**  
**Saving Grace Bible Church**  
**August 21st, 2016**  
**Evening Worship Service**

“To *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (1Pe 1:4 NAU)

**Sermon Main Idea:**

Reflect on the reasons how our salvation causes us to rejoice in God the Father

**Introduction**

The church has so much to be thankful for and to rejoice in

- Yes there is difficulty around us
  - Bad things happen to good people
  - We face disease and illness
  - There is injustice and ungodliness all around us
- But in the midst of all of this is a realization that we have something more
  - Something greater to work for
  - Something more valuable to hope in
  - Something more significant to lay our hands upon
- Yes what we have here on earth is enjoyable but it is also temporary
  - We can lose it at any moment
    - Houses burn down
    - Get washed away in floods
    - Blow over in storms
    - Get robbed by evil men
  - Cars are crashed
    - Stolen
    - Scratched
    - Dented or run down
  - Clothes wear out
  - Food spoils
  - Worst of all other people fail us

Yes these things happen and they drive us to our knees. But we know these things are temporary

- They are short lived

The Christian lives in a constant state of awareness that he should be ready to lose now so that he can eternally gain rather than trying to gain now what he will eternally lose

- Judgment starts with the household of God and we know this is not the best life. The best is yet to come
- If your best life is now then hell waits around the corner

- There is sadness, pain, grief, and suffering this side of eternity and any one of us are one choice, or one event away from this happening to us

All of life should be pondered from the shadow of eternity

- What are we doing here?
- Why are we working, striving, sacrificing, and agonizing over our earthly labors?

All of our earthly laboring is for our eternal reward

What do we labor for?

It is fun to watch the Olympics right now

- I love the competitiveness
- I love the dedication to skill or discipline
- I'm prompted to work harder in my disciplines to be excellent

But what is amazing is what they labor for

Medals in Rio

- 500 grams each
- 1.1 pounds
- The gold medals go through an extra step called the "bath of gold." The gold medal is actually made of 494 grams of silver and 6 grams of gold
- The melted gold and silver of a gold medal is worth about \$587 in current market prices. The last time Olympic medals were made of pure gold was [during the 1912 Summer Olympics](#) in Stockholm, Sweden.
- They are working so hard for a medal and honor

But we have a far greater prize

What is amazing about our prize is:

- We are told it is there but no one has ever seen it
- We are told it is of unimaginable value. So rich money is meaningless
- But greater than that our prize cannot be
  - Lost
  - Stolen
  - Corrupted
  - Disputed
  - And we get to enjoy it for eternity

In this text we learn of four qualities of our eternal reward which should strengthen our resolve to rejoice in God's Gift.

1. It is Indestructible
2. It is Incorruptible
3. It is Immortal
4. It is Preserved for Us

## Body

First, Peter starts by calling our reward an inheritance

"to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you." (1 Peter 1:4 NAU)

Paul in the Book of Colossians says it is a reward of the inheritance given by Christ to us:

"knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." (Colossians 3:24 NAU)

- We have an inheritance
- An inheritance is the right of family
- It is described as being alive because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- It is preserved by Jesus Christ
- Describe by three negatives and one positive
  - Imperishable
  - Undefiled
  - Will not fade away
    - Reserved in heaven
- Vs 3 emphasizes that God causes us to have the hope of this reward by regeneration
- Since it is an inheritance there must be an heir or heirs

Rom 8:23; Eph 1:5; Gal 4:4-5;

- So our inheritance is a right to the kingdom of God because we are made sons of God
  - We are not just grafted in
  - We are children with the same rights and privileges as God's other children

Inheritance:

In some ways our inheritance comes to us like it did to Zsolt and Geza Peladi. You ask who are they?

- The two men were found living in a cave
  - Destitute
  - To say the least they were very poor
  - No jobs, living on the good deeds of others
- Their mother had a difficult upbringing and fled from her parents

- She abandoned any contact with her parents
- Eventually she died having isolated herself from her parents and her sons
  - She had a mental illness which made her very difficult to be around
- The two brothers faced great difficulties and eventually lived in a cave
- Until one day social workers found them
  - The social workers had been contacted by attorneys
  - Apparently their grandmother was very wealthy and under German law the inheritance was to go to next of kin
  - These two brothers and sister were entitled to part of a 4 billion dollar inheritance

The brothers said, “this makes up for how poorly life treated us.”

That would be a shock to get a large inheritance

I think to some degree this is how we are going to feel when all is said and done

- We are going to be shocked at what we were given in Christ
- We are going to be surprised at the value and worth
  - Not just monetarily but intrinsically
- It will exceed all expectations
- Its brilliance and vividness will be unmatched

It is in this sense that our inheritance is our reward

Now this might be confusing because the Bible also says we are going to be made citizens of God’s Kingdom:

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;<sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21 NAU)

- Heavenly – will consist of having new heavenly bodies when we take possession of it

It is an inheritance:

“And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32 NAU)

“to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.” (Acts 26:18 NAU)

“also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.” (Ephesians 1:11 NAU)

“*I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.” (Ephesians 1:18)

Heavenly vs earthly

- Speaks of allotment
- Like Israel receiving their inheritance in the land of Canaan

“Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”  
(Colossians 1:12 NAU)

“For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.” (Hebrews 9:15 NAU)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18 NAU)

Christians should live now in light of the eternal inheritance we have received

Best Description Rev 21:10-27

- What about the walls? 1500 miles long, wide, high
  - With God nothing is impossible
  - He holds all things together anyways, Col 1
  - Man thinks he is amazing building tall buildings?
  - Trying building one that exceeds
  - Outer Space begins at 62 miles, so God’s Kingdom extends 1,438 miles beyond our atmosphere
    - I guess that takes care of storm clouds
    - Talk about a great view of the stars
- Can you begin to think about what that means for security?
- The wall is 72 yards thick, Rev 21:17

Massive city of God, and this is what is described as our inheritance

- Our right to partake of because we are children of God
- Place where the glory of God dwells
- Place of perfect peace, no sin
- Place where there is no weeping or gnashing of teeth
- Place of total unity – No theological debates, any confusion we can go right to the source
- Perfect knowledge
- Perfect wisdom and understanding on display

There is so much to rejoice in when we consider the gift of salvation:

In this text we learn of four qualities of our eternal reward

1. It cannot be destroyed – Death-Proof – It is Immortal

“to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (1 Peter 1:4 NAU)

## ἄφθαρτος

It cannot be ruined. Nothing can stop it from lasting for eternity

- Where neither moth or rust destroys Matt 6:20

It is like God – it will be consistent with the new bodies we will receive in eternity

... the incorruptible God ... (Romans 1:23 NAU)

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Timothy 1:17 NAU)

Two possible ways to understand this text:

Could mean enemies will not destroy or it could mean it would not decay from within

- Speaks of eternal preservation
- Leave things in the elements and it is destroyed quickly
- Like the sandals of Israel’s feet when they wandered in the wilderness they were not destroyed. They were preserved
- Cannot be stolen like earthly treasures
- Will not burn down
- Will not be taxed and taken away
- Will not be broken
- It will not be damaged

It is not subject to decay

Or if in reference to enemies they cannot oppose it. Too vast, too powerful, too significant to be rivaled

2. It cannot be corrupted – It is incorruptible – Sin-Proof

“To *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and **undefiled** and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (1 Peter 1:4 NAU)

Free from stain

- It will not spoil
- It will not be stained
- Perfectly pure
- Without corruption
- Holy
- Incomparable to anything we see
- Without sin
- Without corruption
- Without injustice
- Without prejudice

- Without bias

Even the greatest cities on Earth are not too far removed from the corruptions of sin

I read a bumper sticker that said “when the power of love rules over the love of power we will have peace.” This is not the case. When a perfect power is operating in perfect love there will be peace.

- That time is coming when the Lord Jesus will reign
- He will reign without sin
- He will have absolute authority
- He will be a benevolent dictator with no rivals and we will live in perfect peace and harmony for eternity

### 3. It will not lose value – Time Proof – It is immortal

- Unfading = imperishable, never withering, never grow cold or stale
- Never lose its luster or shine
- Never be marred by imperfection
- Our delight in it will never lessen or grow stale
- Permanent beauty

Not like a new car

Not like new electronics

- Iphone, computer

Not like a boat

It will not suffer the natural laws of science. The second law of Thermodynamics emphasizes that everything is breaking down. It is the law of entropy

But for heaven it does not entropy

- It cannot decline
- It will not fade away

We see this all the time:

- Classic cars fade away
  - We have to preserve them
- Go to the US capital and see all the work they need to do to keep the government buildings preserved
- They fade away
- Buildings crack, pipes rust, windows break, paint fades, roofs leak, wood rots, flooring creaks, grout stains, doors warp
- But the eternal Kingdom of God will have none of these worries

The use of three negatives: "The glory of our heavenly inheritance is so far beyond direct human conception that the Scriptures must often resort to figures of speech instead of to literal terms or weak comparisons with earth"

"It is easier to describe heaven by what it is not here on earth."

- Basically Peter says look at these problems we face on earth
  - Destruction
  - Defilement
  - Dulling
- None of these things will be a problem in heaven

Death-proof, Sin-Proof, Time-proof

4. It is preserved for you

The reward is preserved and the ones who gain the reward are preserved

- We are caused to have a living hope vs3 the heirs
- The hope is preserved for us vs 4 the inheritance
- The heirs and the inheritance are guarded
- The passive emphasizes God's work in protecting this for us

It is guarded by the power of God

- God cannot lie so it will be nothing less than amazing
- God has no rivals so it cannot be lost
- God is too good to give us something less
- God is too wise to fail at his plans
- God is too powerful to have it take away
- God is too holy to give us something corrupt

It contains the glory of God here on earth

To those on the outside all they will see is this flat glorious wall

- On the inside will be the marvelous mysteries God has preserved for us which will demonstrate and magnify His glory for all eternity
- It will not have a temple as it is like a temple since God will dwell there and we with Him

## **Conclusion**

- We have so much to rejoice in
- God protects us
- God protects our eternal reward

Not like the stock market

Not like any earthly possessions

Not something imaginary – For God has been making it clear that His reward is going to be given to His children

We should rejoice in this great reward because God has kept it for us

**Saving Grace Bible Church © 2016. All rights reserved.  
[www.SavingGraceBibleChurch.org](http://www.SavingGraceBibleChurch.org)**