

1 PETER

Battlefield Christianity

1 Peter 1 – February 18, 2018, Part 3

1 Peter 1:2

- ... *to be obedient and to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ.*
 - Old Testament metaphor for three things.
 1. Cleansing and forgiveness (Leviticus 14:1-7)
 2. Inaugurating the book of the Covenant (Exodus 24:3-8)
 3. Installment into a new position (Exodus 29:20-22)
 - More specifically, this refers to **Exodus 24:3-8**.
 - **Matthew 26:28** | *For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.* (CSB)
 - The blood sprinkled on the **people** symbolizes the people's commitment to obedience.
 - The blood sprinkled on the **altar** symbolizes the promise and provision of God.

1 Peter 1:3

- *Blessed...*
 - From the Greek word where we get the word eulogy.

- What does it mean for God to bless us?
 - We have received a gift from the Lord.
 - **Psalm 32:1-2** | *How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How joyful is a person whom the LORD does not charge with iniquity and in whose spirit is no deceit!* (CSB)
 - **Genesis 32:26** | *Then he said to Jacob, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”* (CSB)
- What does it mean for us to bless God?
 - We recognize the kindness and gifts of the Lord.
 - **Deuteronomy 8:10** | *When you eat and are full, you will bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.* (CSB)
 - **Psalm 100:4** | *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name.* (CSB)
 - **Psalm 96:2-3** | *Sing to the LORD, bless his name; proclaim his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples.* (CSB)
 - **Psalm 34:1** | *I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.* (CSB)
- ... the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...
 - God is not often portrayed as Father in the Old Testament.
 - Father is the primary reference to God in the New Testament.
 - Jesus always addressed God as Father except when the Father forsook him on the cross.
 - We are instructed to address God as Father.
 - **Matthew 6:9** | *“Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.* (CSB)
 - **Romans 8:15** | *You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father!”* (CSB)
- Should we remove references to God as Father to take care not to assign him a gender?

- No!
- It is true that God is not male in the sense of having male sexual parts.
 - **John 4:24** | *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.* (CSB)
- It is true that God is said to relate to us at times as a concerned and caring mother.
 - **Isaiah 49:15** | *“Can a woman forget her nursing child, or lack compassion for the child of her womb? Even if these forget, yet I will not forget you.* (CSB)
 - **Luke 13:34** | *“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”* (CSB)
- Jesus referred to God as Father, on purpose.
- The Bible directs us to call upon God as Father, on purpose.
- When you mess with the symbol or metaphor, you mess with the meaning.
- God is our Father.
- ... *In his great mercy...*
 - What is the difference between grace and mercy?
 - Grace is when you get a blessing you did not deserve.
 - Mercy is when you do not get a consequence you did deserve.
 - **Ephesians 2:4** | *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us,* (CSB)
 - **Titus 3:5** | *he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.* (CSB)
- ... *he has given us new birth*
 - There are many metaphors for salvation in the New Testament.
 - Made alive (quicken)
 - **Colossians 2:13** | *And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision*

of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. (CSB)

— New creation

— **2 Corinthians 5:17** | *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (CSB)*

— **Galatians 6:15** | *For both circumcision and uncircumcision mean nothing; what matters instead is a new creation. (CSB)*

— Sharing in the new nature

— **2 Peter 1:4** | *By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. (CSB)*

— Adoption

— **Galatians 4:5** | *to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (CSB)*

— **Ephesians 1:5** | *He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (CSB)*

— “New birth” or “born again”

— **John 3:3** | *Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (CSB)*

— **1 Peter 1:23** | *because you have been born again—not of perishable seed but of imperishable—through the living and enduring word of God. (CSB)*

— New birth emphasizes...

— Momentary nature of conversion

— The need for a new start

— The need for a new family

— ... into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

— What is hope?

— A firm assurance.

— Unbelievers have a dying hope.

— **Job 8:13** | *Such is the destiny of all who forget God; the hope of the godless will perish. (CSB)*

— **Ephesians 2:12** | *At that time you were without*

Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. (CSB)

- Believers have a living, undying hope.
 - **Romans 5:5** | *This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (CSB)*
 - **Hebrews 6:19** | *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain. (CSB)*
- Where does hope come from?
 - From grace
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:16** | *May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope by grace, (CSB)*
 - From Scripture
 - **Psalms 119:81** | *I long for your salvation; I put my hope in your word. (CSB)*
 - **Romans 15:4** | *For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures. (CSB)*
 - From the Gospel
 - **Colossians 1:23** | *if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it. (CSB)*
 - From suffering and endurance
 - **Romans 5:3-4** | *And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. (CSB)*
- What is the foundation of hope?
- The resurrection is the foundation of hope.