

1 PETER

Battlefield Christianity

1 Peter 1:4-7 – February 25, 2018, Part 4

1 Peter 1:4

A. We have been given an inheritance.

- Inheritance is the key word for this entire passage.
 - We will learn the nature of the inheritance.
 - We will learn the protection of the inheritance.
 - We will learn the preparation for the inheritance.
- God has promised his children a grand inheritance.
 - **Matthew 25:34** | *Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (CSB)*
 - **Ephesians 1:11** | *In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, (CSB)*

— The inheritance highlights our priesthood.

— **Revelation 1:6** | *and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (CSB)*

— In a sense, like the Levites, God is our inheritance.

— **Psalms 16:5-6** | *LORD, you are my portion and my cup of blessing; you hold my future. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. (CSB)*

— Inheritance emphasizes that we are God's children.

— **Romans 8:16-17** | *The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. (CSB)*

— **Galatians 4:7** | *So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then God has made you an heir. (CSB)*

B. Our inheritance is imperishable.

— Same Greek root as found in...

— **Matthew 6:19** | *“Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. (CSB)*

— Our inheritance cannot be attacked, stolen, or destroyed.

C. Our inheritance is undefiled.

— Our inheritance cannot be tainted with sin.

— Same Greek lemma as found in...

— **Hebrews 13:4** | *Marriage is to be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.* (CSB)

D. Our inheritance is unfading.

— Our inheritance will not wilt like a flower or a garland wreath.

— This word is a *hapax legomenon*, but Greek root appears twice in the Septuagint.

— **Job 24:24** | *They are exalted for a moment, then gone; they are brought low and shrivel up like everything else. They wither like heads of grain.* (CSB)

E. Our inheritance is kept in heaven.

— Military word used for something safeguarded in a secure fort.

— Our inheritance (salvation) is secure.

— Heaven is the securest place in all the universe.

— **Revelation 21:27** | *Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Lamb's book of life.* (CSB)

1 Peter 1:5

A. Not only is our salvation protected in heaven, but we are protected in this life.

B. God's dynamite power is the agency of your protection.

C. Faith is the basis for God's promise and protection.

— Faith is the conduit of God's power.

— Faith is the appropriate human response to God's offer of love and mercy.

— **1 John 3:23** | *Now this is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as he commanded us. (CSB)*

— Continued faith is an indicator of God continuing to work in the life of a believer.

D. There is more of our salvation to be revealed.

— **Romans 13:11** | *Besides this, since you know the time, it is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. (CSB)*

— **Philippians 3:20–21** | *but our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself. (CSB)*

— **Hebrews 9:28** | *so also Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. (CSB)*

1 Peter 1:6

A. While happiness may depend on circumstances, joy depends on eternal realities.

— **Matthew 5:12** | *Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (CSB)*

B. Rejoicing and suffering can co-exist.

— **1 Peter 4:13** | *Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is revealed. (CSB)*

C. Joy is a choice.

— **Psalm 32:11** | *Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; shout for joy, all you upright in heart. (CSB)*

— **Philippians 3:1** | *In addition, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write to you again about this is no trouble for me and is a safeguard for you. (CSB)*

D. Suffering is temporary.

— **Romans 8:18** | *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. (CSB)*

E. Suffering is necessary.

— Even Jesus was perfected by the things he suffered.

— **Hebrews 5:8-9** | *Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. After he was perfected, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, (CSB)*

— In some lives there seems to be more need of trials than in others.

F. God uses trials for many purposes (from MacArthur).

1. Humble believers.

— **Deuteronomy 8:3** | *He humbled you by letting you go hungry; then he gave you manna to eat, which you and your fathers had not known, so that you might learn that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. (CSB)*

— **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** | *especially because of the extraordinary revelations. Therefore, so that I would not exalt myself, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to torment me so that I would not exalt myself. Concerning this, I pleaded with the Lord three times that it would leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.” Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* (CSB)

2. Wean believers away from worldly things and point them toward heaven.

— **John 16:33** | *I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.*” (CSB)

— **Revelation 14:13** | *Then I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so they will rest from their labors, since their works follow them.”* (CSB)

3. Teach believers to value God’s blessing as opposed to life’s pain.

— **1 Peter 4:13** | *Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is revealed.* (CSB)

4. Enable believers to help others.

— **2 Corinthians 1:3–7** | *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings that we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that as you share in the sufferings, so you will also share in the comfort.* (CSB)

5. To chasten them for their sins.

— **1 Corinthians 11:30** | *This is why many are sick and ill among you, and many have fallen asleep.* (CSB)

— **Hebrews 12:5–12** | *You have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly or lose heart when you are reprovved by him, for the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives. Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline—which all receive—then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had human fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but he does it for our benefit, so that we can share his holiness. No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your tired hands and weakened knees,* (CSB)

6. Strength believers' spiritual character.

— **Romans 5:3** | *And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance,* (CSB)

1 Peter 1:7

- A. Suffering is a test to help the believer evaluate his own faith.**
- B. Suffering refines faith and character.**