

Cornerstone Church

October 2, 2016

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for  
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and  
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: A Secure Future Far More Certain  
Than Tomorrow's Sunrise.

Today's Passages: 1 Peter 1:3-4

**[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV)**

Introduction

Main point: For every Christian in every age who is facing persecution (fiery trials) it is essential that they keep their concentration on their certain and permanent future of bliss and reward.

- Happy Christians have to exult in their blessed condition and praise is spontaneous, always.

**[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

How can believers who receive blessings give blessings? For giving a blessing means to add strength and comfort to somebody but you can't add to God's strength. For . . .

**(Hebrews 7:7 ESV) It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.**

Therefore if the Supreme God is the ultimate blesser He is already supremely blessed because He is and has all that he needs (and we need). He must always be in a

perpetual state of happiness because He is perfectly loving, holy, righteous, gracious, forgiving, patient. . .

**(Psalm 145:10 ESV) All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!**

Therefore another way of saying what Peter says is "YOU ARE BLESSED FATHER!!"

- The One we are praising is none other than the *Father* of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - God's title indicates His role, and does not indicate He procreated Jesus since Jesus has always been.

**(John 10:33 ESV) The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."**

- The reason we are praising Him (see the benefits in verses 1-2 as well) is because:
  - Out of His infinite mercy. . .
    1. He has given us new life. Greek *anagennao* (*αναγενναω*) ana = new, gennao (generation) = produce new life.

**he has caused us to be born again** (aorist, active participle, masculine, nominative, singular)

meaning God is the subject doing the action at a certain point in time.

**(James 1:18 ESV) Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**

**(John 1:13 ESV) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

2. That new life has a goal; it is to experience a "living hope".

**to a living hope**

- The joy of a new baby is all about the future, what that baby will become.
- A living hope is a hope that is sure, guaranteed, reliable, definite and uplifting.
- Believers who experience the reality of this hope can face death with ease because death is merely transitional.
- What makes that hope so real is the resurrection of our Lord.

**through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

- o What exactly is that hope?
  - It is an inheritance waiting for us in heaven. **to an inheritance . . . kept in heaven for you.**

**(Mark 10:17 ESV) [17] And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"**

**1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?**

**(Colossians 3:24-25 ESV) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.**

That inheritance is land!!! And rule. And leading others into a relationship with Jesus in eternity!!

**(Luke 19:16-17 ESV) The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'**

Three characteristics of this inheritance:

It is **imperishable** – death cannot destroy it

It is **undefiled** – sin cannot taint it

It is **unfading** – time cannot erode it.

## Application

In our devotional lives, we need to incorporate a segment thinking about our inheritance. If you use an acrostic to pray such as A.C.T.S. why not add another acrostic such as T.S.N.R.C.P.R. which stands for T=Tree of Life, S= No Second Death, N=New Name, R=Ruling over Nations, C=Confession before the Father, P=Pillar or Place in God's household, and R=Reigning with Christ over trillions in His Kingdom.