



The Epistles of Peter
1 Peter 1:3-5
From Sermon 9.21.25

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5

Overview from Sunday's sermon: If the opening verses of 1st Peter are words of praise (a doxology), then the next set reveals the reason for the believer's praise—namely a promised inheritance. His first century audience was experiencing all the cost of claiming Jesus Christ as the exclusive Life and the promised Messiah (therefore facing persecution from the Jews and Gentiles). They would have also been rejecting worshipping Caesar as god. For them, and many believers around the world today, the price was forfeiture of home and possessions, estrangement from family and friends, inability to find work, imprisonment and horrific deaths. God the Holy Spirit has Peter encourage them with the living hope that is secure.

1. How easy is it to get discouraged in this life by things like setbacks, injustice, the evil of men, and trials? Various Personal Answers. For most, very easy. We take our eyes off of Jesus and focus instead on the storm.

2. What did those 1st Century Christians face that you and I likely never will? Illegal faith, underground Church, imprisonment and death, lack of complete Bible, ancient means of information, seeking food daily, lack of medical care/medicine, monarchies that could be good or evil...

2a. Do you think living in a (mostly/moderately) safe environment diminishes our anticipation of heaven and our promised reward? Various Personal Answers. Likely so. The prevailing view of many modern Christians is that heaven is far better than hell, but only slightly better than here.

3. Rather than begin with practical disciplines to endure this hostile world as a believer, God the Holy Spirit has Peter begin with the prize that awaits. Read each passage and note the details and descriptions of the prize.

- 1 Corinthians 2:9—_____
- Romans 8:16-17—_____
- Re-read 1 Peter 1:4—Incorruptible, Undefined, & Unfading_____
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18—_____
- 2 Timothy 4:8—_____
- Revelation 21:3-7—_____

4. Define Mercy and Grace and discuss how they are siblings, but not identical twins.

Mercy = Not receiving what we fully deserve: wrath, judgment, death, hell. See Romans 6:23

Grace = Is receiving what we do not deserve: peace, life, reward, eternity.

[Imputation: The transferring of all my sin (past, present, & future) into Christ's account (which He fully paid at Calvary), then simultaneously transferring all of Christ's righteousness to my account as if I lived His life.]

4a. How should this truth affect our worship, even in seasons and times we feel we don't have much to praise Him for? God has done and secured so much for us. We are never alone. Jesus faced all we face.

5. What parts of Reformed Theology have we already seen in Peter's first letter? Unconditional Election & Perseverance of the Saints (Spirit)