

Our Scripture reading is from 1Peter 1:3-12

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his **abundant mercy** hath **begotten us again** unto a **lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. A lively hope is confident expectation, Joyful anticipation, Because He is the foundation of our hope...

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ- Some people can't praise God, because they don't know what has been granted, they haven't received any thing. But to those whom its ben granted to see and understand. They realise it's **no minor blessing**. Its **Abundant mercy**. It's not possible to be silent when we see the richness of tis divine mercy and LIVING HOPE so freely given.

We bless God for this blessing, that we **are begotten by the father**. **Our first birth brought us into sorrow and sin, we are born to die**, we all know that no man born of earthly parents will live forever. But the **abundant mercy, Begotten again**. **Our second birth brings us into Joy and purity**. Grants us **life Eternal** we shall never die and live with the Father for evermore. Even our perishing **earthly body shall be made new** at the resurrection.

One commentary pens it - Poor soul what a vile lodging you have on this earth... but soon at the resurrection all shall be mended. You shall receive a body like His. How dull we are now, how cloudy are our lives. But then they shall be as pure and clear as crystal, they shall shine brighter than the Sun. Oh, an incorruptible body, a glorious body, immortal (never dying) body, a blessed body beyond what I ever thought possible.

This is why - I say blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has blessed us with this indiscernible blessing.

A living Christian sees this and rejoices in the sunshine of thankfulness.

It's the ruling principle of those begotten of the Father. Losing sight of This blessedness will cause us to become dull in thanksgiving. When we don't give thanks we lose so much Joy forgetting what Has been granted to us by the

Resurrection of Christ. Forgetting His abundant mercy. While thankfulness causes us to appreciate what has been granted what we poses.

Even when we pray, we must be thankful. Scripture reminds us that we are to make supplication with thanksgiving.

We may have read of the 10 lepers being healed, as they obeyed the Lord and made their way to the priest to show themselves. They were healed on the way. But only 1 comes back to the giver of the blessing. Our Lord asks, **“Where are the nine?”** And what a noticeable **illustration is this of human nature, and of the ingratitude of man!**

So many have recovered from serious sicknesses from what looked like a sure grave, but so few give thanks unto their God for what He has done. This is the sad state of man’s heart. **Only one came back – to give thanks.** Oh Lord may we be that one that thanks you for you Blessing you have bestowed upon us.

The Reason we are so grateful is that this **gift is eternal**, It’s an inheritance incorruptible.

I once was given an iPhone. It was already old when I received it, but I was grateful. But do you know as time went on the battery would no longer charge. The screen got cracked. The phone got old and stopped working. **But Gods Gifts are unchanging**, they are eternal, nobody can steal what He has granted. The Perfect gift of Abundant mercy is Redemption. He has saved us forever. No one is able to pluck us out of His hand.

Look at the next verse 1 Peter 1:4 **To an inheritance incorruptible**, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Joy, floods our hearts, for the glorious inheritance which is prepared for us, unstained, uncorrupted, perfectly pure, and therefore lasts forever, because **it’s made of that which never decays**. It is without sin, and therefore it shall be without end. What a mercy it is to be **“kept by the power of God”!** Can you See, **heaven is kept for us**, and we are **kept for heaven**; heaven is **prepared for us**, and

we are **prepared for heaven**. There is a double action of God's grace working in us, and working for us, resulting in eternal happiness.

Does this not make your **heart swell with Joy**, does it not make us say like the old hymn writer **oh for a thousand tongues to praise thee**. Does His abundant mercy not make us **want to obey and yield to all his precepts**. Does it not exhort us to **go an extra mile** for our Lord.

Does it not cause us to **be merciful to others** which will cause them to also praise the Lord.

When I'm speaking of praise to God- I'm speaking of - Reverent, Loving. Intelligent. Grateful Praise to God.

How can we describe these blessings – A blessing is something that comes from God. **So much**, and **everything comes** from our Lord, but let's just **reduce these blessings to three**. We are Born again (regeneration). It's done its part Who else could give us life, who else could wash away our sin. – **Our lively Hope which is Present**. - and our **inheritance which is to come**. Which is kept for us .

The reason an inheritance comes to us is by relationship. It's not wages or earned. The inheritance comes to those who have been made children and Heirs.

If we are not children of the Most High God **If we are not Born of the Spirit how can we expect to get an inheritance**. No rather The inheritance is for Children that are loved by God and children that love God. There is a relationship.. then we say "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him;"

Have we an inheritance? Have you received the adoption into the family of God? Have you believed the Gospel. Have you a lively hope

1 Peter 1:5 Who are **kept by the power of God** through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Oh we are not in heaven yet, and there are many enemies. **Fear not we are kept by the power of God**. —The idea is that we are being brought through an enemy's country under a strong escort. Many years ago, there were women and children that were escorted through enemy territory with

a double line of soldiers to protect them until they were safe. **We are not yet in heaven, but we are safe. He has promised that we will get there. WE ARE KEPT**

1 Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice - **Or in this** you greatly rejoice in this abundant mercy. That which we have just read that which He has begotten us to a lively hope. **The word greatly rejoice signifies** from what's deep down in your heart, in spite of what you are currently experiencing. We cannot get this rejoicing from the trial of heaviness. It can only spring from the truth embraced and held deep in our heart that enables us to rejoice greatly.

Sailors tell us that on the sea there may be a current of water flowing in one direction while under the surface there may be another current flowing in the opposite direction.

A current on the surface may appear to be gloomy and heavy but under the surface there is another current faithfully taking us heavenward. We can rejoice in the hope of future glory even although on the surface its heavy and gloomy.

The Apostle calls these manifold temptations. Indicating that there will be many and also many different kinds of trials. But why do we have trials?

1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

The trials which come from God are sent to **prove and strengthen** our graces, trials **test the genuineness** of our righteousness, and to add strength.

Our Lord in his never-ending **wisdom** and **His great love**, places such a high value on his people's faith, that he will not shelter, or hide them from trials which will strengthen our faith.

We would have never have the **precious faith** which now strengthens us, if the trial of our faith had not been tested by fire. We are like a tree that would have never would have rooted so well if the wind had not shaken it . and when the

wind shakes us we get firmly rooted, we take a firm hold upon the precious truths of the covenant grace.

Worldly comfort is a great enemy to faith; it doesn't make us strong and fit. loosens the joints of holy bravery and snaps the sinews of consecrated courage.

If an athlete is training for a marathon, Sitting in the comfortable couch eating crisps isn't going to help to win his race. It's the training that strengthens them, if they haven't got strength to even walk around the block how will they run a marathon.

In the same way we must see trials not as a pointless exercise.... There is story I read of a punishment in a prison . A huge pile of heavy rocks is placed on one side of the prison. Then the prisoners must carry them across to the other side. As soon as they get them all across, they have to carry them back again. This pointless exercise breaks their spirits. **If we see the manifest trial like that** we will be discouraged.

Our faith is much more precious than Gold which is purified by fire. No rather the Lord is strengthening me making me fit, causing me to be wholly dependent upon him, placing my confidence and trust on Him alone. using this trial to prove the genuineness of my faith and bringing out the beauty of it.

1 Peter 1:8-10 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: [9] Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. [10] Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

We have not seen with our natural eyes. "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." But we have believed It has been revealed unto us. Other eyes see, the eyes of faith and living hope see. We rejoice- it's the same word as in v6. *Wherein ye greatly rejoice.* A rejoicing that flows from our heart. We say "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift;" **The salvation of our souls.**

Kings and prophets longed to see what we see, the mercy and grace freely given to us. Complete forgiveness of Sin, being made Righteous in Christ Jesus. Being

granted access to the throne of grace. What privilege bestowed upon us. To be adopted and made Children of God, Children of the resurrection. Granted glorious liberty as Children of God.

They saw dimly in the distant future this great gospel age, This age we are now in, where the light is so clear, the mercy so abundant. They longed and wished for what we now have. **Let us rejoice in what has been so abundantly granted unto us.** Let us never despise these mercies but enter the fullness of rejoicing with joy unspeakable.

I draw to a close. Are you ready to depart to your inheritance.... Do you have an inheritance. Are you a child of God. are you “heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.” This is the only worthwhile and lasting inheritance to have.

Even if one received a huge inheritance of wealth, it wouldn't solve our deepest problems. They bring with them many cares. They cannot cure an **aching heart,** or **lighten a heavy and a guilty conscience.** They cannot keep away **family troubles.** It cannot **prevent sicknesses, bereavements,** separations, and deaths.

But there is no disappointment among the “heirs of God.”

The greatest earthly inheritance can't be carried past the grave.. but what the lord grants is eternal and lasts forever. Kept safe in eternity to enjoy forever and ever.

The inheritance I speak of is a free gift offered to “**whosoever will.**” Most people work so hard hoping to get rich and recognized as great. But few obtain it. But Glory and honour and eternal life is offered Freely “**Whosoever will,**” let him that thirsts come and drink. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

We must remember that if we desire this eternal inheritance in heaven the first step is to become a member of the family of true Christians on this earth.

If you are unsure of your salvation come unto Christ today. whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Amen.