OCBF
OAK CLIFF
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Unlocked

Discovering Your Future Now

–1 Peter 1:3-6

INTRODUCTION

A scene is often depicted in movies where family members show up to hear the reading of the will belonging to their wealthy relative who just passed away. The family members have no idea what they will receive as an inheritance, and the results are often unexpected in humorous or frustrating ways. Unlike those fictional stories, believers know exactly what kind of inheritance we will receive from God because we are co-heirs with Christ. His inheritance is our inheritance. Our future is secure!

In 1 Peter 1:3-6, Peter is writing to believers who are experiencing persecution. He begins with a doxology, blessing God for His mercy. God's mercy causes believers to be born again to a living hope in Christ. Unless they are born again, they cannot see God's Kingdom or receive the inheritance Christ offers. Peter encourages the believers that, although they experience trials, they also have treasure. This is how the apostle Paul faced shipwrecks, beatings, and imprisonment – he knew these earthly sufferings could not be compared to the indestructible inheritance. Salvation has three parts – justification, sanctification, and glorification. Peter points to glorification, where believers will realize their ultimate destiny of a glorified body and living in God's presence eternally.

As born-again believers, we should not allow the troubles on earth to make us lose sight of our future treasures in heaven. We can keep our eyes focused on this future by declaring God's goodness even when it hurts, shouting His praise when it is hard, and honoring Him even when it costs. Peter offers us encouragement by having an eternal mindset. We need to remember that we are citizens of the New Jerusalem, heirs to an unshakeable Kingdom, followers of a sovereign Savior, and our victory will be absolute!

GETTING STARTED

1. What do people often hope to get in an inheritance?

2. How would life look different if people focused on the eternal rather than the temporal?

LET'S GET PERSONAL

1. What is one trial you are facing that is causing you to take your eyes off God?

2. What does it mean to be born again, and how should it affect your daily life?

3. What encourages you most about having an eternal inheritance?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

1. Blessing God is not a reaction to how good your week was; it is a revelation of how great your God is. What can you bless God for this week?

2. How can God use your current trials to give you greater joy in looking forward to heaven?

3. ***Want to dig deeper?*** Take a look at the following passages: Ephesians 3:20; 1 Peter 2:12; 3:16; 4:14; Ephesians 2:3-5; John 3:3; Hebrews 1:2; Romans 8:1, 17, 21, 29-30; Numbers 18; Joshua 13; Acts 20:32; Ephesians 1:11; John 17:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; Philippians 1:6; 1 Corinthians 1:8; John 10:28-30; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; Revelation 21:3-4, 7, 11, 18, 21-27; 22:1-2, 4-5; 7:16-17; 19:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:1; James 1:12; Matthew 13:43; Isaiah 35:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 Peter 1:7-9; John 3:16; Matthew 25:34; 2 Timothy 2:12; Titus 3:7; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Peter 5:4; Psalm 16:11; Hebrews 4:9-11; Colossians 1:12; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Matthew 6:19-21.

RENEW YOUR MIND

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. – ***2 Timothy 4:7-8***