Sermon Notes for October 27, 2013

A Living Hope

I Peter 1:3-5

Introduction

Peter writes to give us hope.

The pain and suffering of this world are temporary, but the joys of heaven are eternal.

We need hope to face the trials of life and that is what we are given in I Peter.

I. We have a living hope. I Peter 1:3

Peter begins his letter with praise to God for our great salvation.

- God is the author of our salvation.
- We are born again by the work of the Holy Spirit.
- And our salvation is made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:6-8

Biblical hope includes three things.

- Expectation – A positive belief about the future.
- Trust – A confidence that what we hope for will happen.
- Patience – We wait patiently for it to come.

It is called a living hope because it is present and continuous.

Our hope is based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

II. We have a lasting inheritance. I Peter 1:4

Peter tells us it is unlike anything we know in this world.

It won’t perish, spoil or fade away.

Death is not the end of the story. We will all be changed.

“I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will
all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” I Corinthians 15:50-54

The world we live in will also be changed.

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.” Romans 8:18-21

This is our inheritance and it is being kept in heaven for you.

III. We have a divine protection. I Peter 1:5

We are shielded by God’s power. It means to be continuously guarded so that you may safely reach your destination.

That doesn’t mean that bad things can’t happen to us as Christians.

But nothing can come into our life except what God allows.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, and have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

Our part is to trust him.

Faith is trusting that God knows what he is doing even when we don’t understand.

We are shielded by God’s power until the day comes when our salvation will be fully revealed in the last time.

Conclusion:

We live with hope waiting for our inheritance and trusting in God’s promises.

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” II Corinthians 4:16-18