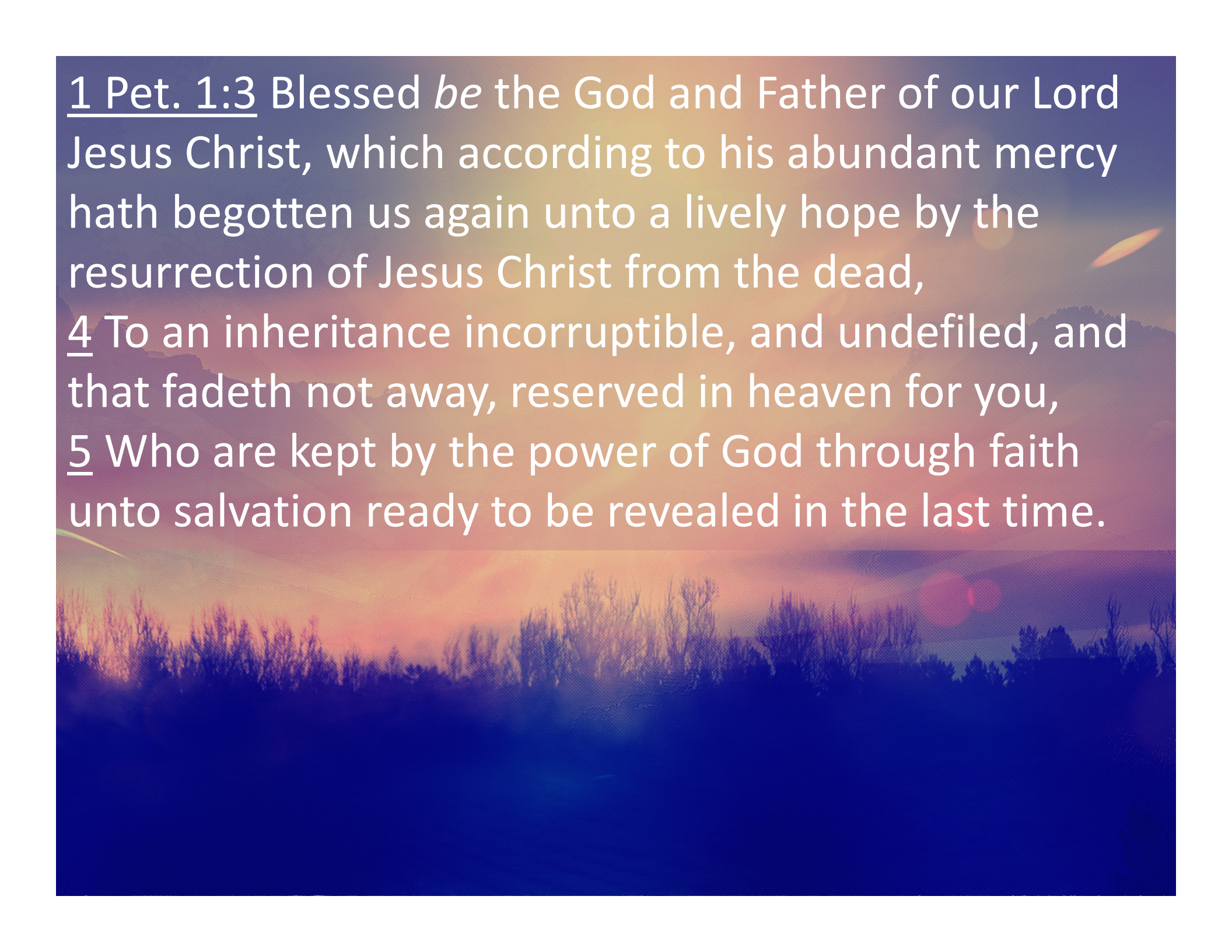


A sunset scene with a large, bright sun partially obscured by a dark, semi-transparent horizontal band. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. Below the band, the silhouettes of trees and a rocky shore are visible against the water.

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

1 Pet. 1:3-5

“Rekindling a Lively Hope”



1 Pet. 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,
4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Review

Our theme this year is...

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

The last year has been a confusing and controversial year. Each of us needs to take a step back and, by God's grace, **renew our strength, rebuild our steadfastness, and rekindle our spirit.**

This morning, we will observe what the Bible says about the benefits of salvation, particularly that we should have “a lively hope.”

1 Pet. 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,

Too often, the challenges of life, like the pandemic, rob us of joy, and our hope is smothered by “extenuating circumstances. This is a message of...

“Rekindling a Lively Hope”

A special emphasis on Scriptural love is found in 1 Cor. 13:13.

1 Cor. 13:13 “And **now abideth** faith, hope, charity, these three...”

Note the emphasis on the present – “And **now abideth**...” followed by three important ingredients of spirituality – “...faith, hope, charity, these three...”

This morning, we will consider how those ingredients should renew, rebuild, and rekindle our hope. We begin with “AN EXPECTANT HOPE.”

I. WE HAVE AN EXPECTANT HOPE

1 Pet. 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,
4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

A. We Have an Expectant Hope of a Triumphant Exit from the Grave, 1:3



1. The Source of our Expectation, 1:3a
“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ...”

- The Greek word used here for “blessed” is different from the word used in the Beatitudes of Mt. 5:3-12:

Original Word: εὐλογητός

Transliteration: eulogétos

Definition: well spoken of, blessed

Usage: (used only of God), blessed (as entitled to receive blessing from man), worthy of praise.

eulogētós (the root of the English terms, "eulogize, eulogy," see *eulogéō*) – **properly, "speak well of"; to celebrate by praising.**

eulogētós ("blessed") is **only used of God the Father and Christ (God the Son), showing the Godhead is worthy of all our commitment.** Indeed, *only God is inherently praiseworthy, deserving every "good acknowledgment"!*

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2128.htm>

Original Word: μακάριος (Mt. 5:3-12 – The Beatitudes)

Transliteration: makarios

Definition: blessed, happy

Usage: happy, blessed, to be envied.

makários (from *mak-*, "become long, large") – properly, when God *extends His benefits (the advantages He confers); blessed.*

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3107.htm>

- The source of our expectant hope, Who is worthy of all our praise...is God.

- In essence, believers should “eulogize” God, the source of our expectation!

2.The Security of our Expectation, 1:3b-c

a.Guaranteed by a Superlative Mercy, 1:3b
“...which according to his abundant mercy...”

- “according” = compelled by His wonderful mercy toward us, the Lord receives the recognition for our redemption.

- “his abundant mercy” = acknowledgement regarding believers’ unworthiness as sinners NOT receiving the judgment of hell deserved.
- Salvation cloaks us in the righteousness of Christ, by faith, NOT according to our works, “...but according to his mercy he saved us...”

Titus 3:5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,** by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

- After salvation, a believer is encouraged to pray, “...that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Heb. 4:16 **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may **obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

b. Guaranteed by a Spiritual Miracle, 1:3c
“...hath begotten us again unto a lively hope...”

- After natural birth, a believer is “born again.”

Jn. 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ...

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

1 Pet. 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

- A consequence of being born again is evidenced in a changed life:

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, ***he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

- One of the attributes of a changed life is evidence of a “lively hope:”

Original Word: ζάω

Transliteration: zaó

Definition: to live

Usage: I live, am alive.

záō – to live, experience God's gift of life.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2198.htm>

- “begotten us again unto a lively hope” = the ultimate “renewal” for mankind!

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I **live**; yet not I, but Christ **liveth** in me: and the life which I **now live** in the flesh I **live** by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- A “lively” hope implies an active principle in a believer that is an energizing and motivating factor for faithful, and fruitful fellowship for God’s glory.
- Biblical hope is an assurance of a promise that will come to pass → a happening yet unhappened that will happen in the future!

- Biblical hope is a confident expectation that God's promises are true and will come to pass.
- The greatest hindrance to hope is unbelief.
- When Jesus was in Nazareth, He marvelled at the unbelief He encountered.

Mark 6:6 And **he marvelled because of their unbelief.**
And he went round about the villages, teaching.

- Jesus told a father of a possessed child that belief opens doors of all possibilities:

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth.**

24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**

Eph. 3:20 **Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,** according to the power that worketh in us,

- Believers must guard against a cool heart of unbelief that leads to spiritual backsliding:

Heb. 3:12 **Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief**, in departing from the living God.

3.The Substance of our Expectation, 1:3d

“...by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

- The Resurrection is verification of the power of God and His involvement in everything pertaining to mankind’s reconciliation to the Creator.

Rom. 1:4 And **declared to be the Son of God with power,** according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead:**

Phil. 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 **That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection,** and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Rom. 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that **like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, **we shall be also *in the likeness of his resurrection:***

Summary

- Believers should praise the Lord for the hope of salvation, “the source of our expectation.”
- Remember that the “security of our expectation” is due to the Lord’s provision of “abundant mercy.”

- A “lively” hope implies an active principle in a believer that is an energizing and motivating factor for faithful, and fruitful fellowship for God’s glory.
- Biblical hope is an assurance of a promise that will come to pass → a happening yet unhappened that will happen in the future!
- “The substance of our expectation” = the Resurrection. The Resurrection is verification of the power of God and His involvement in everything pertaining to mankind’s reconciliation to the Creator.
- The “lively hope” in 1 Pet. 1:3 should renew, rebuild, and rekindle our joy of salvation!

Conclusion

Heb. 6:17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath:

18 That by **two immutable things, in which *it was impossible for God to lie***, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge **to lay hold upon the hope** set before us:

19 **Which *hope we have as an anchor of the soul***, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even Jesus*, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.