

Treasures of Easter 4.19.20 Text: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Peace be unto you! Shalom in Hebrew.

Read the text: Praise to God for a Living Hope

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Dear friends with a Resurrection living faith in Jesus,

Okay we hit a dead spot in church now. The week after Easter. Everything crashes. Attendance. Excitement. Singing a little softer. No big meals with family around the table. Dead spot. Easter jet lag set in yet. Don't let this get to you.

Every Sunday is a little Easter. I like to call it-Resurrection faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit-I call our faith in Jesus this because it is sure hope and living.

To avoid dead spots, Easter jet lag, let's do this. Get out your metal detector. The spiritual metal detector and let's see what Easter treasures we can find in God's Word in our text.

Living hope. Martin Luther said Everything we do is based on hope. No farmer would sow one grain of corn if he did not think it would grow up and become corn. A store owner would not sell merchandise if they did not think they could earn a living. Ours is a hope is for this life and the next, all because Jesus conquered death and is even now giving his children salvation.

Cure for the dead spots after Easter and the Easter jet lag lies in these treasures. We have LIVING HOPE. The metal detector is buzzing now. The 1st treasure is right here in vs. 4. Along with its description.

AND INTO AN INHERITANCE THAT CAN NEVER PERISH, SPOIL, OR FADE, KEPT IN HEAVEN FOR YOU.

Underline the treasure here from Easter. INHERITANCE. The children of Israel in the Old Testament had one inheritance, the promised land. But they defiled it through idolatry, and it was taken from them, section by section, by one invading army after another. Since we have been reborn as members of God's family, WE ARE HEIRS OF GOD AND CO-HEIRS WITH CHRIST.
Romans 8:17.

First treasure. An inheritance. So, an inheritance is one's birthright or in our case a birthright. It is something you can count on for all eternity. Some worry their inheritance will be eaten up by taxes, considered worthless, or lost in speculation. Not this post Easter inheritance. It will never perish, spoil, or fade. The hymn writer says, Change and decay in all around I see. Everything in this sinful world changes eventually for the worse. But our inheritance is eternal something we can always count on. This is because It comes from the creator of hope, the One who is our hope-Jesus.

Treasure # 2. But as we grasp the great reason for joy, The Lord declares it necessary for us to undergo trials. Peter compares these trials to a test to see if gold is genuine. Peter had tasted the awful bitterness of failing such a test. Remember his failed tests. He claimed to follow Jesus wherever he went and never turn away. Well he failed. He turned away from Jesus and denied Jesus would die. Jesus said, Get behind me, Satan. Peter failed the test in the courtyard on Maundy Thursday when he denied he knew Jesus. Peter knew well of this testing.

Peter also tells of Christ's awesomeness and promise of future help. We are reminded our trials will not be more than we can bear. 1 Corinthians 10:13. Our faith and our salvation are worth far more than perishable gold. And our faith is shown through how we handle the burdens laid on us. The world watches to see if Christians are different. It is in adversity that the difference ought to be more apparent.

What makes the worst tragedy bearable? Peter says it is only temporary. What keeps us going at such times like during a pandemic? God will bring us through the fire. Our praise will ring out most loudly when the Lord himself appears and raises us together with all the believers from death to life that he won for us by his own resurrection.

Suffering. Trials. Tests. For a short time. The treasure. The gold is we have a gold mine of joy in Christ. Another solution for the dead spots after Easter and Easter jet lag.

Treasure #3. The writer to the Hebrews says that the recipe for faith has many of the ingredients as hope. We look forward to something we have not seen and which was promised by someone we have not met. The world calls it foolishness. We call it a miracle. (Read this statement again).

Doesn't Paul use these 3 biggies in the great love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13. Faith, hope, and love. To faith and hope he adds the natural response-love. Our love for the Risen Lord will overflow with an inexpressible and glorious joy. We were on the brink of being eternal fatalities, when he snatched us from disaster, at the cost of his own Son. What can we say, our lives are lives of sacrificial thanksgiving. In our lives we give all glory to him. Glory means to make him famous, not ourselves. Or to throw his weight around. I love this translation for glory. We throw his weight and work around so others can rejoice with us.

Now we enjoy the benefits of our rescue, YOU ARE NOW RECEIVING THE GOAL OF YOUR FAITH, THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS. Those who believe in Him will have everlasting life. There are no more payments which need to be made for sin. The time of payment is over. We have in our living hope the assurance that this life is a gift from God which cannot be taken from us.

No more dead spots after Easter. No more Easter jetlag. Every Sunday is a little Easter. We see the treasures of our never fading inheritance, we have the goldmine of joy, and glory with Christ beyond expression.

Readings for this Sunday:

Psalm 16

Acts 2:14, 22-32

John 20:19-31.

Suggested Hymns:

143 165 160