

HEIRS of GOD

1 Peter 1:4

Psalm 73:1-26

1 Corinthians 15:35-49



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Author (v. 1)

- Sent by Jesus Christ.
- An **ambassador** who speaks with the same authority of his King. (See 2 Corinthians 5:20; **Luke 10:16**; John 12:48; 13:20; Matt 10:40; 1 Thessalonians 4:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

To Pilgrims (vv. 1-2)

- “Pilgrims, sojourners, strangers” – Hebrews 11:13-16; Philipp 3:20-21)
- Those who were being persecuted because of their TRUST in Jesus of Nazareth as their one and only Lord and Saviour.
- Those who would experience even a greater persecution!

To the Elect, According to the Foreknowledge of God (v. 2)

- **Doctrine of ELECTION:** “By the **decree** of God, the Creator of the entire universe, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and some angels are predestined (before time began) to everlasting life, and others are foreordained to everlasting death.”
- **FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE: Everything** in time proceeds from God choosing “His special people”. (1 Peter 2:9)
 - ✘ Get this doctrine wrong and EVERYTHING else you believe about GOD, grace, sin, salvation, etc. will be wrong!
- “according to the foreknowledge of God” - the ETERNAL GOD.

Born-AGAIN by the Father (v. 3)

- One **must** be “born-from-above” (or born-again) in order to see Heaven. (John 3:3-8)
- One **must** be “born-again” by the will of God – not the will of man. (John 1:13; James 1:18; Romans 8:28-30; 9:15-18; Ephesians 1:11; 2:4-10; Colossians 1:20-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)
- He begot us **again** “according to His **abundant mercy**”!
- He begot us **again** “to a living hope”!

If Children, Then Heirs! (Romans 8:13-17)

- The children of God are led by the Spirit of God! (Romans 8:14)
- The children of God “purify themselves just as He is pure.” (1 John 3:1-3)
- **IF** CHILDREN, then we **HEIRS** of **GOD** and co-**HEIRS** with Christ! (Romans 8:17)
- Being “partakers of the divine nature” the children of God practice a lifestyle of righteousness, godliness, and soberness. (Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 2:29; 3:6, 10) **NATURE DETERMINES:** Appetite (Luke 4:4); Behaviour (1 John 2:29-3:10; 1 Peter 1:13-16); Environment (Colossians 1:13); Association (1 Cor 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-17)

Heirs! (v. 4; Romans 8:13-14)

- You cannot make yourself an heir!

Our Inheritance (v. 4)

- **A City Built By God** (Hebrews 11:13-16)
 - (v. 13) Old Testament saints **embraced** the promises of God (and they had far less than we have) and confessed that this world was not their home! They were “strangers and pilgrims” just passing through.
 - (v. 14) “seek a homeland” – “to crave” – “homeland” is literally “one’s fatherland”; “one’s own country”; “a fixed abode or home”.
 - ★ Our homeland is where our Father is!
 - (v. 16) God “has prepared a city for them.”
 - ★ “them” goes back to verse 13!!
- **A City With Many Mansions** (John 14:1-6)
 - (v. 2) Christ, our Bridegroom, ascended into heaven “to prepare a place for us”.
 - (v. 3) He promised that He would return to take us to this place! (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)
 - (v. 6) No one comes into the city that God has prepared except through Christ!!
- **A Feast/Banquet** (Luke 12:37)
 - Revelation 19:7-9; Matt 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-24; 15:11-32; 25:1-3.
- **No More Pain, Sin, Temptation, Death, Sickness** (Revelation 21:3-5)
- **To Sit with Christ and Reign with Him** (Revelation 3:21)
 - See 2 Timothy 2:11-12-13; Luke 19:11-27; 1 Corinthians 6:3)
- **New Bodies** (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)
 - ❶ Our natural body will be buried in **corruption** but it will be raised in **incorruption**.
 - ★ Our natural bodies are bodies that **are** perishing!
 - ★ “All flesh is grass . . . the grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever.” (Isaiah 40:6-8; 1 Peter 1:24; Psalm 102:11; 103:15-16)

- ★ “For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” (James 4:14; Job 7:6-7; 9:25-26; 14:1-2; Psalm 39:5; 90:5-7; Isaiah 38:12; 1 John 2:17)
- ☆ **BUT** when we are resurrected there will be no more pain, no more decay, no more death!
- ② Our natural body will be buried in **dishonor**, but it will be raised in **glory** and **honor**.
 - ★ Because of sin we **all** fall short in pleasing God and being what we **ought** to be in this world. (ought – Colossians 1:10)
 - ★ We **all** fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23; Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 John 1:8-10)
 - ★ We dishonor God by not using our bodies and its members as “instruments of righteousness to God”. (Romans 6:13)
 - ☆ **BUT** when we are resurrected we will be resurrected with bodies that **cannot** sin! All that we do will be to bring glory to our Creator! **See John 17:22**
- ③ Our natural body will be buried in **weakness**, but it will be raised in **power**.
 - ★ We are **weak** physically and spiritually because of sin.
 - ★ Our natural bodies are likened to “**tents**” and our resurrected bodies to “**buildings**”. (2 Corinthians 5:1, 4; 2 Peter 1:13-14)
 - ☆ **BUT** when we are resurrected we will no longer say, “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)
 - ☆ Our resurrected bodies will be suited for any task in heaven.
- ④ Our natural body will be buried as a **natural** one, but it will be raised a **spiritual** one.
 - ☆ Our resurrected bodies will be “**like**” the angels. (Luke 20:34-36)
 - ☆ They will be suited for heaven.
- ⑤ In our natural body we bear the image of the first man, Adam, but we will be raised in the image of the second man, Christ!
 - (Romans 8:29) God **predestined** that ALL those whom He chose to be His people will be conformed into the image of His Son. The transformation begins at **new birth** and will be completed at the **resurrection**.
 - (1 John 3:2) We will be **like** Him – the second Adam! (**Psalm 17:15**; Roman 8:29; **Philippians 3:21**)

Our Greatest Inheritance (Psalm 73:25-26)

- Heaven is our **HOMELAND** – or Father Land! (Hebrews 11:13-16)
- (Lamentation 3:24) “The LORD is my portion!”
 - Psalm 16:5
- (Psalm 16:11) In **HIS** presence is **fullness of joy** and **pleasures** forevermore!

An Inheritance to Groan For!

- (Romans 8:23-25) Those who are truly God's **groan** to be with Him!
(Philippians 3:20-21)
- (2 Corinthians 5:1-5) In the above passage and this one not only do we have a mansion waiting for us, but we also have a new body! (See 1 Corinthians 15:35-58)
- (Psalm 42:1-2) David **panted** after GOD!
- (Psalm 63:103) While in the "wilderness" **thirsted** for GOD!

Reserved for Us (vv. 4-5)

- Next week's sermon: Assurance/Perseverance/Preservation

IF HEIRS, THEN. . .

- ① We must make our election and calling SURE (2 Peter 1:10). How does one "make every effort to be sure of one's calling election"?
 - FIRST, define sin - 1 John 3:4.
 - Next, define the LAW. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)
 - Next, examine YOURSELF. (2 Corinthians 13:5)
 - Use these tools:
 - ① Use the Word (whole counsel) of God be YOUR mirror. (James)
 - ② Prayerfully meditate through 1 John answering all the "ifs" throughout the book.
 - ③ Prayerfully meditate through Romans 6 (especially vv. 11-22).
 - ★ The verb "make sure" is PRESENT TENSE (something we must *continually do*) and the MIDDLE VOICE (something we must *continually do*) OURSELVES.
- ② As we study 1 & 2 Peter we must know and prepare for the coming persecution. Many will fall away. We must persevere. (Hebrews 10:36; Matthew 10:22; 24:13; 13:20-22; 2 Thess 2:3; 1 Tim 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:1-4)
- ③ We must continually praise God for choosing us to be His special people. (1 Peter 2:9)
- ④ We must live daily as the children of God desiring to be well pleasing in His sight. (1 John 3:6, 10; 2 Cor 5:8-9; Colossians 1:9-11)
- ⑤ We must be watching for and groaning for our inheritance! (Romans 8:17, 23-25; Hebrews 11:13-16)
- ⑥ We must be LONGING to be with GOD! (Psalm 73:25-26)