

Building the Foundation: Faith
1 Peter 1:3-5

I. Introduction

A. 64 AD Rome burns to the ground:

1. July 18th fire breaks out among wooden ships in the South-eastern end of the Great Circus near Palatine hill.
2. Whipped up by winds it defies all human efforts to contain it.
3. NINE full days of fire!

Philip Schaff: "The calamity was incalculable. Only four of the fourteen regions into which the city was divided, remained uninjured; three, including the whole interior city from the Circus to the Esquiline hill, were a shapeless mass of ruins; the remaining seven were more or less destroyed; venerable temples, monumental buildings of the royal, republican, and imperial times, the richest creations of Greek art which had been collected for centuries, were turned into dust and ashes; men and beasts perished in the flames, and the metropolis of the world assumed the aspect of a graveyard with a million mourning over the loss of irreparable treasures."

4. Romans believed emperor Nero set the city on fire,
 - a) Because of his incredible lust to build.
 - b) To build more, he had to destroy what already existed.
5. Romans totally devastated.
 - a) culture went down with city.
 - b) All religious elements were destroyed—
 - (1) great temples,
 - (2) Shrines,
 - (3) Their deities had been unable to deal with this disaster and were also victims of it.
 - (4) People homeless and hopeless.
 - (5) Many killed.
 - (6) Bitter resentment
 - (7) Nero had to redirect the hostility.
6. Nero's chosen scapegoat: the Christians,
 - a) already hated because were
 - (1) associated with Jews,
 - (2) seen as hostile to Roman culture.
 - b) Nero spread word quickly that Christians had set fires.
 - c) Vicious persecution began
 - d) Schaff: A "vast multitude" of Christians was put to death in the most shocking manner. Some were crucified, ...some sewed up in the skins of wild beasts and exposed to the voracity of mad dogs in the arena. The satanic tragedy reached its climax at night in the imperial gardens... Christian men and

women, covered with pitch or oil or resin, and nailed to posts of pine, were lighted and burned as torches for the amusement of the mob...

- e) spread throughout the Roman Empire, - places N of the Taurus mountains, like Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (1Pet 1:1),
- f) Christians EVERYWHERE needed spiritual strengthening because of the persecution.
- g) 1Peter written just after city burned = 64–65.
- h) **Purpose of 1 Peter is to understand how Christians can live victoriously under persecution and in trials**
- i) KEEP THIS CONTEXT IN MIND as we study 1 Peter...

B. Foundations...

1. Bible often uses the metaphor of BUILDINGS, especially their FOUNDATIONS in teaching and illustrating Doctrine.
2. Jesus Christ in Sermon on the Mount: Mt 7:24f
24 ...wise man who built his house on the rock... “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.
3. SEEMINGLY OBVIOUS – FOUNDATION NECESSARY.
4. 1 Peter 2 – Jesus Christ as the CORNER STONE – Which the BUILDERS REJECTED
 - a) whole section talks about living stones, choice stones,
 - b) Believers being built into a spiritual house...
5. BEGIN STUDY in THIS BOOK of 1PETER
6. 1 Peter is a HOUSE BUILDING MANUAL – PRACTICAL BOOK
7. TELLS THESE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS HOW to BUILD A SPIRITUAL HOUSE
 - a) To LIVE VICTORIOUSLY in during life’s TRIALS & PERSECUTIONS
 - b) PRACTICAL BOOK – CHALLENGING BOOK

C. 1 Peter 1 (=v.1-25) gives that foundation.

1. **PURPOSE 1Peter 1: foundational aspects to understanding how Christians can live victoriously under persecution and in trials. – THE FOUNDATION to put UNDER your SPIRITUAL HOUSE!**
2. **4 walls just like a house’s foundation.**
 - a) **Last time: Author & Chosen Audience (v.1-2)**
 - b) **Beginning today: FAITH (v.3-12)**
 - c) **HOPE (v.13-21)**
 - d) **LOVE (v.22-25)**

II. FIRST WALL of the FOUNDATION had 2 STONES:

A. THE AUTHOR V.1: Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ.

1. SPOKESMAN for the 12, articulating their thoughts and questions as well as his own.

2. Peter's life experiences behind this book

a) Submission of Jesus Christ –

(1) Peter tried to stop Jesus Christ from going to Jerusalem to die and here so boldly sets forth Jesus Christ as our example of submission

b) Suffering and Humility-

1 Peter 4:12-16 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, ... to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; ... If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, ...

(1) YET Peter denied Christ 3 times

c) Peter part of the HEBREWS 11 CLOUD OF WITNESSES (named so in 12:1) that has GONE BEFORE YOU that you can draw upon!

B. THE CHOSEN AUDIENCE: Elect Gentile Christians

LOOK AS READ V.1-2... To those who reside as aliens scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia”, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

1. **EARTHLY identification: ALIENS SCATTERED:** aliens scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia2. **HEAVENLY identification: CHOSEN**

chosen according to the foreknowledge of God, etc. in V.2

3. **EARTHLY Identification: ALIENS SCATTERED**

a) Gentiles - not Jews

(1) Scriptural References

(a) 1 Peter 2:10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

(b) 4:3-4 For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, ...

(2) Conclusion: Peter is writing to a Gentile audience as if they were Jewish –

b) residing as aliens scattered...

(1) “Aliens”

(a) it means “spiritual aliens” to Peter

(b) In the context of PERSECUTION here EMPHASIZES this is not our home

(c) Our Citizenship is in heaven – we are aliens here

(2) “Scattered” = dispersed

(3) NOT Jas 1:1 used for Jews “**The** dispersion”

- (a) Just means a people scattered.
- (4) they reside scattered throughout
 - (a) Provinces of the Roman Empire
 - (b) Today: Turkey

4. HEAVENLY Identification: CHOSEN

V.1 ..., who are chosen

- a) PETER: Heavenly identification: CHOSEN
 - (1) Elect = called out ones
 - (a) “You may not be the choice of the world, but you are the choice of God!
 - (b) CHOSEN FOR ETERNITY
 - (c) TEMPORARY ALIENS ON EARTH
 - (2) V.2 Describes / expands on this word “chosen” and the doctrine we call “election”
- b) “according to foreknowledge of God the Father”
 - (1) God’s predetermined choice/plan/act of establishing relationship
- c) “by the sanctifying work of the Spirit” -
 - (1) PROCESS in which election goes from a plan to reality is salvation
 - (2) New birth, regeneration, faith, repentance – **ALL WORK OF HOLY SPIRIT**
- d) **PURPOSE of our election** “To obedience and sprinkling of blood of Jesus Christ” -
 - (1) “To obedience...of Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Set apart to obey – result of salvation
 - (2) “and sprinkling of blood of Jesus Christ”
 - (a) Ex 24:3-8
 - (b) When people saved – making past election a reality, They were brought into a covenant with God that was sealed in blood - In death of Christ
 - (c) BOUND IN THAT - A COVENANT OF OBEDIENCE
 - (d) Peter’s point: you are set apart to God for a life of obedience sealed in the blood of Christ.
- e) **BENEFITS of our Election:** May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure”
 - (1) TWO BENEFITS of Election!
 - (2) “MAY” MEANS we can LIVE that THESE ARE NOT OURS TO ENJOY!

III. 2nd Wall of our Foundation

A. Proposition: Begin to study the 2nd WALL of our FOUNDATION = foundational aspects to understanding how Christians can live victoriously under persecution and in trials. – THE FOUNDATION to put UNDER your SPIRITUAL HOUSE!

1. **4 walls just like a house's foundation.**
 - a) **Last time: Author & Chosen Audience (v.1-2)**
 - b) **Beginning today: FAITH (v.3-12)**
2. **Specifically, V.3-5 = The 5 parts of the SALVATION INHERITANCE we put our FAITH in**

B. Verse 3-5 = Verse 3-5 Doxology -

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

C. FAITH- said section was about faith.

1. Notice v.5 :who are protected by the power of God through faith
2. **EVERY section in v.3-12 shows that FAITH is our side of this FOUNDATION.**
 - a) THROUGH FAITH we recognize the reality of our future inheritance
 - b) We are ALWAYS protected and kept physically / spiritually for our inheritance
 - c) BUT we are ONLY kept **EMOTIONALLY** to the extent we have FAITH
 - d) V.3 MAY grace and peace be yours in fullest measure
 - (1) THEY ARE WITH FAITH.

D. WHAT IS THE INHERITANCE WE PUT OUR FAITH IN?

V.3: "a living hope"

v.4: "to obtain an inheritance" =

v.5 "a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"

1. v.4: Peter shows us how to live looking past earthly troubles to eternal inheritance
 - a) Look at word inheritance
 - (1) Passed down as gift from father – from family born into
 - (2) Word means not just title to inheritance but a realized inheritance – possession in present HELD for FUTURE
 - (3) Jewish origin – would trigger OT concept
 - (a) Appointed portion of Land of Canaan

Deut 15:4, 19:10 – land given to each family – earthly inheritance : land : Canaan
 - (b) Us: spiritual inheritance – heaven

Even though being persecuted – you can wait patiently for the inheritance He has promised you in heaven
Sing like Psalmists did
They needed that reminder
 - (4) Echoes Paul – Col 3:1, Jesus Matt 6:30; John – Love not the world

- (5) Peter – adore God for eternal inheritance and get your eyes off the world you're in
- b) What is our inheritance?
 - (1) V.5 salvation ready to be revealed in the last time
 - (a) Fullness of eternal salvation in consummate form
 - (b) Peter – why don't you just look away from your trouble and bless God for the inheritance He has promised.
 - (2) Then we too know we inherit God!
 - (a) Joshua 13:33 – to Levi no inheritance
 - (b) The Lord, the God of Israel is their inheritance
 - (c) 1 Peter – we are a kingdom of Priests – a royal priesthood
 - (d) Therefore we inherit God!
 - (i) Ps 16:5 – Lord is the portion of my inheritance
 - (ii) Lam 3:24 Lord is my portion therefore I have hope
 - (3) Also inherit Jesus Christ likeness
 - (a) 1 John – we will be like Him
 - (b) Romans 8 - Joint heirs
 - (4) Eph 1:14 – Holy Spirit reside guarantee of our inheritance – the Engagement right, down payment

E. SOURCE OF OUR INHERITANCE “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”-

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. “Blessed be”

- a) “Blessed be” – bless God – meaning “worthy of blessing, blessed!”
- b) “Blessed by the God who provides such an inheritance” – Blessed
- c) call for praise
- d) Why do we bless God? BECAUSE He had everything to do with our salvation and we nothing to do with it!

2. **SOURCE OF OUR INHERITANCE** = the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”

- a) Jesus brings us view of God as Father
 - (1) Jesus Christ breaks with tradition in calling Him Father
 - (2) Jews worshiped Him as Creator / Redeemer
 - (3) Peter says, No – bless God AS the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - (4) Jesus first to call God Father
 - (a) John 4:23-24 true worshipers shall worship the FATHER in spirit and in truth
 - (b) Jn 5:17 – My Father
 - (c) Jn 5:18 – I and the Father are one

- (d) Jn 14 – seen Me, seen Father
- (e) ONLY time Jesus did not use the name Father - on the cross- MY GOD why have you forsaken...
- (f) WE can only say God is our Father because He has put His life in us!

(5) Peter uses full redemptive name Lord (savior) Jesus (incarnation) Christ (Messiah, king)

(6) Peter personalizes everything with “our”

b) ILLUSTRATION : High School – “this is not it”

c) TRANSITION

(1) So, the Source of our Inheritance is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2) The 2nd part of the SALVATION INHERITANCE we put our FAITH in is the MOTIVE of our Inheritance.

F. MOTIVE OF OUR INHERITANCE – V.3 *Who according to His great mercy*

Tit 3:5 – by His mercy – same

Eph 2:4 – God being rich in mercy – same

1. Mercy – references a person’s miserable, pitiful condition – focuses on condition
 - a) Sinners need mercy – we’re wretched
 - b) Gospel all about Mercy – to us dead in transgressions and unable to do anything
 - c) Grace has reference to man’s guilt which has caused man’s condition – changes our position: guilt -> acquittal
 - d) Mercy changes our condition misery -> glory
 - e) Behind salvation is mercy
 - f) Nothing in us is good
 - g) What motivated God to provide salvation? - MERCY
2. Rom 9 – mercy on whom I have mercy
3. 2Cor 1:3 – “Father of mercies”
4. APPL: USE FULL NAMES OF GOD as Bible does!
- EMPHASIS is IMPORTANT.

5. TRANSITION

a) 1st part: Source of our Inheritance: God the Father

b) 2nd part: Motive of our Inheritance: Mercy

c) 3rd part of the SALVATION: INHERITANCE we put our FAITH in is the MEANS ...

G. MEANS OF OUR INHERITANCE: *“has caused us to be born again to a living hope through resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”*

1. Mercy had to have a means – God chose new birth to give us a new condition

2. New creation
3. Become heirs of God by new birth- spiritual birth (vs. Eph 2:3 – heirs of wrath)
4. 1 Peter 1:22-23 (Notice salvation in v. 22)
 - a) v 23 – born again not of seed that is perishable – but imperishable
 - b) v. 25 describes new birth
5. Jn 3 – clear discussion of this
 - a) 3:14 – how to receive new birth?
 - b) look to Son of God who was lifted up (Num 21) for salvation
 - c) turn from sin and look to means God as provided for your deliverance
6. Result of new birth – born to a living hope
 - a) versus dead hope for all others in world
 - b) 2 Peter 3:13 for new heaven and earth

That is why to die is gain – get inheritance
Hope is the saint's shroud!
 - c) MEANS is new birth which gives this living hope in the coming of that inheritance – hope built on Jesus Christ rising from the dead.
 - d) Jn 14:19 – Because I live you shall live also.
 - e) 1 Cor 15 – if Jesus Christ has not been raised that faith is worthless.
7. LEARN from Peter – end of Life – CROSS PRIMARY! (Like Paul) – deepest doctrine
8. **TRANSITION**
 - a) **1st part: Source of our Inheritance: God the Father**
 - b) **2nd part: Motive of our Inheritance: Mercy**
 - c) **3rd part: MEANS = resurrection**
 - d) **4th part of the SALVATION INHERITANCE we put our FAITH in is the NATURE...**

H. **NATURE OF OUR INHERITANCE:**

✠ V.4 to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away,

1. Nature of our inheritance: “imperishable, and undefiled, and will not fade away”
 - a) **Imperishable** (Incorruptible) – not subject to decay - Substance of the inheritance
 - (1) Other view: unravaged by an invading army
 - (2) **OT: Israel's inheritance : Land of Canaan – earthly inheritance – many times plundered – Jerusalem was leveled (devastated) at least 17 times – that enriches our understanding**
 - (3) **Both reach same ends.**
 - b) **Undefiled** – “incapable of pollution” – the PURITY of our inheritance
 - (1) unstained (with sin, evil, decay)

(2) Whole creation groans (Rom 8) under defilement

c) “will not fade away” (unfading) – used of flowers that decay – therefore never lose supernatural beauty – The BEAUTY of our inheritance

2. KEY: SO GREAT – we don’t have WORDS to describe – ONLY in ANTITHESIS can we say it!

3. TRANSITION

a) 1st Source of our Inheritance: God the Father

b) 2nd part: Motive of our Inheritance: Mercy

c) 3rd part: MEANS = resurrection

d) 4th part: NATURE = imperishable, undefiled, unfading

e) The 5 part of the SALVATION INHERITANCE we put our FAITH in = SECURITY

I. **SECURITY OF OUR INHERITANCE:** “reserved in heaven for you” -

1 Peter 1:4b-5 reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1. Reserved = guarded - RPP – already existing inheritance is under guard in heaven

a) Safest place there is

b) Jesus: Where moth and rust do not corrupt and thieves don’t break in and steal –

2. Rev 21:27 – heaven...nobody getting in

3. Rev 22:14 – outside are dogs...

4. “who are protected”

a) literally – locked up as a prisoner

5. “by the power of God”

a) Emphasis due to position (actually first in Greek)

b) “by” – the instrument of protection is power of God

6. “through faith”

a) Notice v.5 :who are protected by the power of God **through faith**

b) We are ONLY kept **EMOTIONALLY / SPIRITUALLY STRONG IN TRIALS** to the extent we have FAITH

7. “for a Salvation”

a) salvation = “deliverance, preservation”

b) here = last part of salvation

c) = actual possession of the inheritance of v.4

8. “ready to be revealed in the last time”

a) means we haven’t got it all yet!

b) **in the last times**

(1) = return of Christ and onward.

(2) last redemptive epic

9. WONDER if we get persecuted enough to HAVE to think about the SECURITY of our inheritance.
 - a) When healthy, you think about feeling great
 - b) When sick, the greatest feeling would be just feeling healthy!
 - c) When extremely persecuted, the mere existence and security of salvation is a great thought!

IV. Conclusion

A. Seemingly, we have everything.

1. God is so merciful to us we don't DEPEND on Him moment-by-moment as many of these Christians did.

B. How often has your life been sooooo tough, that ONE OF THE ONLY COMFORTS was the profundity of your future inheritance of salvation?

C. Where you sat in utter earthly hopelessness and CONTEMPLATED THE DEPTHS of each part of your inheritance

D. situation brought you face-to-face with the SOURCE OF YOUR INHERITANCE – God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

E. recognized the depth and breadth of the MERCY OF GOD extended to you for all eternity as Sin surrounded you?

F. could not comprehend the price God paid and Jesus Paid to provide this inheritance for you?

G. Where the corrupted, defiled, fading world stood in stark contrast to something you could only describe in antithesis because we don't have words for such perfection?

H. And where your greatest security wasn't necessary days on golden streets basking in the light of God's glory BUT just the reality that it is there RESERVED for you who are PROTECTED.

I. MANY SAINTS HAVE DIED with these words deeply ingrained from days and weeks of agony before their depths.

J. BY SHEER MERCY ALONE we haven't face this, yet probably for that reason, we haven't come to depend on God enough to let a passage like this truly be as important a foundation stone as it should be in our wall of faith.