



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Incorruptible Inheritance

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Bob Bradley

- 1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
- 1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.
- 1 Peter 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,
- 1 Peter 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
- 1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Tonight, I want to talk about our inheritance. We have an inheritance. Christian people; we have an inheritance. The Bible is going to tell us that we have an inheritance reserved in heaven. One of these days, we are going to inherit everything that God has purposed and planned for us; we are going to inherit that. That is the thought tonight.

Before we get there, I want to talk just a little bit about Peter. If you read the Bible, you will find out that before Peter was called Peter, his actual name was Simon. If you read the gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 42; we know that Jesus, He gives him an Aramaic name. Aramaic not Arabic but Aramaic. He calls him Cephas. When you look and read that verse, Cephas, Jesus said this is going to be your name, which its interpretation is "stone." Do you remember reading that? That is how he got the name.

If you read Matthew, chapter 16, you will find out that Jesus asked him, "Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" He asked Peter, "Who do they say that I am?" Peter said, "Some say that thou art John the Baptist, or Elijah or one of the prophets." He said, "Peter, who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Do you remember that? He said, "Peter, upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." That is true. Do you know that?

When you look at what Peter's name is in the Greek, it is spelled Petros. When you look that word up in the Greek, it means this: a detached but large fragment of stone. Petros means a large, detached fragment of stone. What that means is a huge piece of

stone that has been broken off from a greater piece of stone. When you read that and go on down through there; we know that Jesus is talking to Peter and giving this Peter this name because of what Peter was going to be. Peter was going to grow into someone that was going to have a rock-like mentality. He was going to be someone that was going to be firm. He was going to be someone that was going to stand for his convictions. He was not going to allow the world, or the devil, or the people to intimidate him. If that cost him his life or being put in jail or whatever; that was going to be fine. Peter was going to stand because he was the rock.

When you look down a little bit further, you are going to find out here that the rock that Jesus said He would build the church upon is spelled a little different. It is spelled Petra. It means this. It means that I will build my church but it is something here that it is a massive, living stone. Jesus Christ did not say He was going to build the church upon Petros. He said He was going to build the church upon Petra, which means a huge living stone.

Listen. Jesus Christ is the living stone, my friend. That is what our church is built upon today. The church of Jesus Christ is built upon Jesus Christ. Upon a foundation that cannot ever...be moved. People may move. People may give up. People may throw in the towel, but the church of Jesus Christ is going to stand forever and ever because it is built upon this huge living stone. You might say, "What does that mean? Why is that important to us?" Well, if you go on over a little bit in the book you will find out that Peter compares us unto living stones, or lively stones. That we are and we build and we are building and Jesus is taking living stones and lively stones and building a church. He is building a building. He is building His church today out of people that are alive; not dead people.

In the visible church, there may be all kinds of people sitting in the pews worldwide that has never been saved, but everyone that is built upon Jesus Christ is a living stone. They have been born again. Every stone that Jesus Christ is living, to build His church, is someone that has been born again. Amen! No dead stones are in this building. They might be in the visible. They might be sitting in the pews. But they are not part of the living church of Jesus Christ. Does everybody get that?

That is why it is so important unto us. You hear so much today, "Well, I belong to this church or I belong to that church." You can belong to all of them and still yet be lost. You can belong to every church in the world and still yet be lost. You can do all kinds of stuff and still yet be lost. Amen! However, if you want to be part of the church that is alive, you must be born again. You must be born again. Peter wants us and the people he is writing unto here to understand that.

I thought about what has been said here tonight a little bit. There are some words here that I want to look at. The Bible is made up of words. Now we read sentences, paragraphs, and chapters and that is all good, great and fine; however, every sentence is made up of words. Every word that is in these sentences means something. You will

be surprised sometimes, if you will take time to look at some of these words and what they mean. It gives us a greater understanding on why some of these writers used the words they used to say what was said; it will make a lot more sense to us.

Peter says in verse 1, that he was an apostle. The word apostle means someone that has been sent forth by someone on a journey, or on a commission with credentials.

The Lord called Peter one day—remember? He was down there fishing. They had been fishing...anyway, when you read the whole story we know that Jesus called Peter to be an apostle. Not only that but when He sent him forth, do you know what He did? He sent him forth with some credentials. Do you know what that was? When Pentecost came, Peter preached and thousands of people got saved. Peter had some credentials. Peter had the hand of God and the blessing of God upon his life and since that was the case, God used him in a great way to lead many people to Christ. Amen! God did that. Therefore, Peter not only was someone that God sent but he was someone that God used. He was an apostle.

The word strangers mean this. In verse 1, it says...

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

...to the strangers. The word strangers mean—get this, this will be good for us tonight if you remember this—the word stranger means alongside of.

The people that Peter is writing to here are people that have left and probably been scattered over the known world at that time. I don't know exactly when this book was written, but we know that in 70 AD, we know that Titus, the Roman came. We know that he came to Jerusalem and we know that people were scattered everywhere. We know that they tore down the temple. We know that they overrun the place. We know that happened just like Jesus said, when He was standing there looking out from the Mount of Olives one day. Do you remember? He told them, "There is not going to be one stone left upon another that shall not be torn down..." when they were bragging on the temple and things like that. We know that in 70 AD that happened.

However, the people then were scattered. They were scattered all over the known world. Do you know what they did? They went and settled down alongside of—get this—people that were unsaved. They had been born again, the people that were scattered but they went out and settled down alongside of people that are unsaved.

You and I today, on every side that we live on; we have people that are unsaved. People on every side of us that we have...people that we work with, people that we see everywhere, people that we wave at when we come out of our houses sometimes. We have people all around us that are unsaved. We have settled down alongside here of the unsaved and these people were Christian people that were scattered and then settled down. Peter wants them to understand some things here that has happened.

The next word I want to look at here is the word scattered. It brings out the idea of a farmer sowing seed. He would go out and sow seed and seed would fall. These people here; they had been sowed, they had been planted all over the known world. They had been planted and sown in a world alongside of people that are unsaved.

Get this. I know and you know the world hates us. The world hates Christian people. Everywhere you look, this world hates Christian people. If you—I'm not talking about just people that goes to church—but if you have a testimony and the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ is shining forth through you and you are doing works that are bringing glory to Almighty God then people are going to hate you. Amen! That is the Bible. We know that. We know that people are going to hate us and we understand that. Do you know what happens here? Even in our world today, we know that is true. Can you imagine if you and I were in...and we all just lived together around one another, and we lived in a place, in a part of the world where there was no unsaved at all—everyone was saved. What kind of influence would we have? We would not have any influence on anybody. If we lived and our neighbors and everyone we worked around and everybody we saw at the grocery store and we lived in a little colony like that then we couldn't have any affect on the lost world.

However, do you know what God does? God scatters us. he puts us in places so that He can use us to be a blessing unto other people even though sometimes they may aggravate the snot out of us. amen! That is truth! Not everybody that you work with likes you. You might think that you are the best thing down there wherever you go wherever you work at; but I will guarantee you that some of the talk in the back sometimes is about you. Amen! They don't like you. Now they may tell you they do. They don't like me. Here is the thing. God places us there. Not to get involved in things like that, but so that our light can shine. These people that Peter was writing unto were people that had been scattered. They had come and moved in alongside of the unsaved, but they had been sown there. God had placed them there. Peter wants them to understand that.

Listen. The greatest place that we will ever be in life is the place that God puts us. The only place that God will ever bless your life is the place that God puts you. Now, you can go all around the world—I thought about this today—you can go everywhere up and down the road. You can go from one side of the world to the other and you say, "I'm looking for the will of God. I'm trying to find what the will of God is."

Listen. Do you know what we need to do? You don't need to run up and down the road. The Word of God will tell us what God's will is for our lives. When we read it and study it and we know what that is and we are where God wants us at then God will bless us. We will be happy people. We won't be mad all the time. We won't be mad at the mailperson... We won't be mad at the mail guy, or the garbage fellow, or whoever it is at the gas station, or the grocery store, or the people you work with. You won't be mad all the time. Do you know why? It is because when you get to where God wants

you at, when you will listen to His voice and you are listening to Him and not just going on your own—God will use you. God will bless you in a great way.

Do you know what God has done? God knows there is a whole world full of people out there that needs to hear something from somebody just like you. Just like you. Someone that has been born again. Someone that knows the power of God. Someone that knows the power of prayer. God knows there is somebody out there in your space that needs to hear something from somebody just like you.

When we look at what we are doing, and when we look at the space that God has placed us in; are we doing that? Are we living lives so that God can bless our lives and be a blessing to other people, or are we driving people away? Is our behavior—does it drive people away from Christianity? Does our behavior drive people away from church? Amen!

Do you know why a lot of people won't come to church? It is because of how church people act sometimes. That's true. Amen, or ouch! That's true. They watch us.

People alongside of these people that were scattered throughout the known world; they had neighbors that were watching them. Peter is going to tell them here that they have something that the unsaved that is all around them did not have. Peter wants them to understand that the blessing they have and what it will do in their lives. Peter understood that if these people would understand what they had in Christ then the people that lived around them would also be able to see how great it was in Christ, and how great it was to live for Jesus Christ. We say it is the greatest thing in the world.

We get up in church and testify that it is the greatest thing that ever happened to me. The day I got saved. It was the greatest day of our life. However, when we leave here we don't act like it. A lot of times when we leave here we don't act like it. A lot of time when we leave here it is the last thing on our minds.

However, Peter understood if he could get these people to understand what the inheritance they had and how great it was then it would be something that would shine forth through their lives that could not be hid. That is the same thing with you and me today.

1 Peter 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,

Blessed is a word—get this, I did not know this until today—the word *blessed*, if I would give you ten chances to think about the Greek word for *blessed*, you would never guess it. Do you know what the word is? We have a word in our English that comes from the Greek word that means eulogy. When you hear a eulogy at a funeral, do you know what you are usually hearing? You are hearing someone talk about and speak good words about the one that has died. Truth! I never did hear a eulogy at a funeral where someone bashed somebody. Although I am sure that it has happened. Eulogy has to

do with talking and talking about and praising people for what they have done and so forth. It also means to praise, to celebrate, to celebrate with praise, to be spiritually prosperous; which is one of the greatest definitions I think, about the word *blessed*. When you read the book of Psalms, you will read that word a whole bunch of times.

He said...*blessed*, spiritually prosperous, praise. He is talking here about how great and how wonderful God is.

1 Peter 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,

Do you know what he is telling them? Listen. The God that you are serving is a great God. The God that you are serving, you need to praise Him. The God that you are serving is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. Does everybody get that? He says here we need to praise Him. He is a great God.

1 Peter 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,

“...which according to his abundant mercy...” the word *according* means abundant mercy. When you look at *abundant mercy*, it means a whole lot of mercy. Are you glad that God had a whole lot of mercy and has a whole lot of mercy?

Listen. If you and I got what was coming to us, we would be burning in hell tonight. Because of the grace and mercy of Almighty God, His abundant mercy—boat loads and boat loads of mercy—that God has bestowed upon man.

1 Peter 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,

The word *begotten* means to beget us, to be begotten again, to be born again.

It is because of God’s abundant mercy that you and I have been born again. Again, it is because of God’s wonderful, Almighty grace and mercy that you and I are saved tonight. It is not because of our good works. It is not because we are good people. It is not because of anything we can offer God. The reason that we are saved tonight is because of God’s abundant mercy. Hallelujah! That ought to make us all shout. Do you know that? What do you have to offer God? We don’t have anything to offer God. When He looks at us, we don’t have anything. We don’t have anything to offer Him.

“Born us again, by a lively hope...” Get this. We have a living hope. Christian individuals have a living hope. It says we have that by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ got up from the dead, He got up from the dead by the power of Almighty God. It is the power of God that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. That is the Bible.

Listen. When you and I were saved, when we were begotten, when you and I were born into the family of Almighty God, by His wonderful mercy; we became living people, living, alive. We were dead in our trespasses and sins. Thank God, that moment that we asked Jesus Christ to come into our life and we said yes to Him. Remember this. Do you know what happened? The Lord came in. Do you know what he does? He takes the strong man that has been in control of our lives, satan, that has been sitting upon the throne of our hearts; do you know what Jesus does? He casts him out. We are born into His family. We became living individuals.

I am glad tonight that I am alive. I am glad tonight that I am never ever going to die. They may put me in the ground and I know that they will one day, if we live long enough; but thank God I am not going to be there. Why? Because my Savior got up from the dead and since He lives, we live also. Because He is in here. That is why we are alive. Not because we are good people. Not because we have anything to offer. We are alive tonight because Jesus Christ occupies this body. He sits on the throne of our hearts. He leads us. He guides us. He feeds us. He blesses us. He encourages us. Every now and then, do you know what He does?

I have said this here before. I may be going down the road on a Harley, listening to CCR in my ear. Do you know what? God just shows up. Amen! It might be Vern Gosdin. Do you remember him? That was a long time ago.

Listen. We serve a God that is alive... God is alive.

Johnny Cash—do you remember Johnny? Folsom Prison Blues do you remember that one? Merle Haggard—do you remember him? Good ole people, are they? That is a different message for a different time.

1 Peter 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,

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

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Get this. The inheritance that you and I have is not decaying. Amen! If you are saved tonight, you are not decaying. If you are living in the will of God tonight, your inheritance is not decaying. It is not diminishing, not one bit. If you have been saved one day, or 40 years, or 150 years; the inheritance that you have is not diminishing not one bit. Your 401K may be losing ground today. Amen! Your property may be losing value today. Your car may be getting old and decaying. These bodies are decaying every day. Thank God the inheritance that a child of God; is in a place called heaven and it will never ever decay. Whether it is today when we get to go, or 50 years when we get to go. What we inherited will be just a real then as it is today. It is not going to

lose any of its value. It is not going to lose any of its shine, its glory. It not going to lose any of that. It is incorruptible.

Not only that but also it says, *undefiled*. It will tell us some things about ourselves. The word *undefiled* means to be clean.

Listen. The inheritance that we have—get this—the inheritance that a child of God has got is not dirty. Amen! It is not filthy. It is undefiled. Not only that but also, it is pure. The inheritance is pure. It not mangled with a bunch of junk. It is not corrupted with a bunch of other stuff. It is pure. It is perfect. Do you know why? Because the God that has given it to us; He is perfect.

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revealed in the last time.

It will never fade. It will never lose its color. Your clothes, they fade. I love old shirts that are faded. I usually cut the arms out of them, and cut the neck out of them, and wear them with the good side out for a while then when it gets real dirty; I will wash them and turn it around and wear it on the other side for a while.

Listen. Shirts may fade. Our hair may fade. However, the inheritance that we have in Jesus Christ will never fade. The bright shining glory that it has today will be just as real when you and I step off of the cloud on that day in heaven. Amen! It will never fade.

Get this.

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

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be
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“...reserved in heaven for you...” Do you know what that means? You are going to go on vacation and do you know what you will do? Most people will do. They will get on the phone and make a reservation. They will call some motel. They will call here and there. Do you know what they will say? We have got you here. We will need your credit card number. We are going to reserve this room for you. When you get here the room will be ready and we will be waiting on you.

Get this. You and I have been promised and we have possession of today is reserved. It is there waiting on us in heaven. Do you know what it did not cost me? I did not have to give my Visa number. Did you? No. Do you know what you had to do? Say yes to Jesus Christ. Save me, Lord. Please forgive me Lord. Do you know what? You gained an inheritance. It is reserved for you today in heaven.

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

This is my whole thought. "Who are kept by the power of God through faith..." I don't know whether you know this or not. You can't keep yourself. I don't care if you are saved. I don't care how much you read your Bible every day. That helps. I don't care how much you pray. That helps. However, you cannot keep yourself. You cannot do it. We are kept by the power of God.

Get this. Through faith. I hear this all the time. I am just going to let loose and let God. Well, that does not work friend. You can let loose and you may... (*makes a sound*). Amen! Because the power that will keep us—we will get a hold of and we will experience in our life according to the faith that we have in Him. We are kept by the power of God through faith. That is what that says. I did not make that up. If you want to be kept. If you want God to bless you, if you want God to use you; we have to have faith in Him. We have to put faith in Him. We "...are kept by the power of God through faith..."

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Are you glad today? We can't go out here and live any way we want to. We cannot live in sin. We cannot live like that. If you are a living stone today, living in the will of God; you don't want to live that way anyhow. You don't want to go out here and sin. You don't want to go out here and get drunk and commit adultery. You don't want to do that stuff. If you want to do that stuff then I worry about you. Amen!

Even at that, we have to have His power. His power keeps us. it restrains us. it keeps us under control. It keeps us. We cannot keep ourselves.

Listen. Satan is a lot stronger than you are. He knows a lot more than we know. He is cunning. He is clever. He is sneaky. He will use anybody he can to lead you astray. Amen!

Listen. We are kept by the power of God unto salvation.

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Come and pray—