3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Born Again

to a LIVING HOPE

1 Peter 1:3-5

“While the Cross as an atoning sacrifice is the basis for regeneration, the Resurrection is the basis for eternal life.” (ECB)

1. We have a living hope!

The foundation of our hope is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christ's resurrection is the pledge of our own resurrection.

We have a future to look forward to- a glorious, solid and secure future!

Peter further explains this *living hope* in the passage before us

2. We have an inheritance- “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”

Note how our heavenly inheritance is described-

- “imperishable”- not liable to corruption or decay
- “undefiled”-‘unsoiled’- free from contamination.
- “unfading”-perennial - because it will never wax old
- “reserved in heaven”- this reward isn’t found in the earth, it is in heaven ; this reward isn’t found in this life. It is prepared and waiting!

What is our inheritance?

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co–heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory” (Rom 8:17).

- Everything that is Christ’s is ours!

It is the heavenly reward that those who live for Christ will inherit, as well as the eternal nature of that inheritance.

We will fully experience this inheritance when we see God face to face (1 John 3:2)

3. We are “kept by the power of God through faith.”

- Kept safe in trials
- Kept safe in this sinful world- (Jude 24,25)
- The word *kept (guarded)* is a military word

4. Our coming salvation

Three *phases* of salvation:

- We were saved when we accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior- *justification* (Eph. 2:8)
- We are being saved- *sanctification* (Phil. 2:12-13)
- We will be saved- the coming salvation- *glorification* (1 Jn. 3:2)

We will have resurrected bodies and will no longer have a sin nature. We will be completely saved from sin and temptation. This will happen when we see Christ.

Our *living hope* makes us able to stand firm in this sinful world, knowing that our ultimate reward is reserved in heaven for us!

So, let us today and always praise God for

- This living hope
- This incorruptible inheritance
- This power of God that keeps us and
- This glorious salvation yet to be revealed

“It was Sir Thomas Lipton of England, the multimillionaire, who shortly before dying, said: “I’d give up every trophy in my collection for the one I haven’t got”—that is a hope of Heaven and eternal life.” (He was well-known as a winner in both English and American boat races.)