

## 1 Peter 1:2-5

*<sup>1</sup>...who are chosen <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

There is a game that I like to play the Wednesday night Bible study group. I call it what does this word actually mean? So often, we throw around words like grace, joy, bond-servant, sanctification, temptation, testing, and many more like these. What I have come to realize is that many of us, myself included, have not taken the time to really find out what these words really mean. So to begin this session, we are going to play a little "What Does This Word Actually Mean". Listed below are words that you have just read in the passage for this session. Without cheating and looking ahead, take some time to think about these words and what you think they mean.

- Sanctify
- Grace
- Mercy
- Hope

Here are my best definitions for these words according to the research I have done.

- Sanctify: to be set apart or made holy
- Grace: free unmerited favor; getting what one does not deserve
- Mercy: a compassionate response that moves a person to help one who is helpless; not getting what one deserves
- Hope: favorable and confident expectation; anticipation of something good; a desire for something to happen

With those definitions in mind, re-read the passage above and see if that changes your perspective a bit.

As we start to interact with the text, it is evident that it is jam-packed with things to talk about. First, I want to address the "foreknowledge of God". To foreknow is to know ahead of time or before something happens. The idea of foreknowledge is, in my opinion, a human concept that we have used in an attempt to describe God. As an omniscient, all-knowing being, God knows

all things from past to present to future. He knows all of this simultaneously. There is no moment in time where God suddenly has more knowledge of the future or things to come. God's knowledge is all encompassing (see Psalm 147:4-5, 1 John 3:20) and He outside our human concept of time (see 2 Peter 3:8). God just knows.

God knows who "His chosen" will be well before we ever have any clue. He knows who will make a profession of faith and will be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. As mentioned above, to sanctify is to set apart or make holy. As I see it, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us in a couple of ways. The first is that it sets us apart as believers. No one who has not made a profession of faith has the Holy Spirit living within them. We are set apart by the very presence of the Spirit in our lives. Secondly, the Spirit continually sanctifies us as it convicts us of our sins and leads us to repentance. There is this aspect of present (indwelling) and future (conviction) which will come into play later as well.

Now that we have finally gotten through the introduction, we can move to the rest of the passage for this session. Starting in verse 3, we encounter the concept of being born again. Being born again or being a new creation is not a concept specific to Peter's writing. In John 3:3, Jesus says that no one will see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. Second Corinthians 5:17 says that those who are in Christ are a new creature, one whose old self has passed away. Romans 6:4 says that we will walk in newness of life with Christ. All of these point to a new being that we become upon salvation, and we are born into a living hope. This living hope is Christ. This also has a present and future aspect to it. In the present, we have a hope for salvation through Christ's resurrection. We have a future hope in that one day Christ will return and make all things right bringing a new heaven and earth.

Next, we have an inheritance that is undefiled and unfading. What is our inheritance? Check out Hebrews 9:15 and see! This also has a present and future aspect to it. In the present, as believers our inheritance is salvation. For the future our inheritance is eternal life and a place in the kingdom of God to be revealed in the last time (or the coming of Christ).

This passage also tells us that our salvation is protected and secure with God. So long as we have faith in the work of Jesus and profess Him as Savior, we are held secure in God's hand (see John 28-29).

#### Some Questions to Consider

- Does God's foreknowledge give us a hall pass when it comes to telling others the Gospel?
- How has the Holy Spirit been active in your life? Have you felt its direction? If so, did you follow or have you ignored it?
- What have you put your hope in lately? The stockers at HEB to stock the things you need? The news anchors to tell you the things you want to hear? Or have you fully relied on God and put your hope in Him?

- Where has your focus been lately? On the situations and trials of life or on God and the glory to come?
- Who do you know that needs to hear the good news of the gospel and the hope within it?

\*As a side note, for those who are going through this study with your young ones now is a great time to talk with them about what Jesus has done for them.