

Easter Sunday morning 4/04/10

God's Mercies Through the Resurrection

1 Peter 1:1-4

***Theme: God is merciful to His
children through the
Resurrection of His Son.***

Background to Epistle

- **Audience:** Jewish and Gentile Christians scattered across Roman provinces in Asia Minor.
- **Situation:** Christians facing persecution.
- **Need:** pastoral support and comfort.

Key Truths for Encouragement

1. God is to be Praised (1:3).

Praising God does two things:

- glorifies the Lord.
- takes the Christian's eyes off circumstance.

*Child of God, are you in a tight
spot? Need encouragement?
Focus on the Lord.
See Hebrews 12:1-2.*

2. God is Merciful (1:4a).

Christian, God has given you:

- ***new birth**, cf. 1:3c; 2 Cor. 5:17.*
- ***living hope**, cf. 1:3d. Complete salvation!*
- ***guaranteed inheritance**, cf. 1:4. This can never perish, spoil or fade.*

At the end of 1:4 Peter anticipates
a question from readers:

*A certain inheritance is waiting for
me but what if these tribulations
overwhelm me and I do not get to
heaven to receive it?*

Paul responds with 1:5!

Also *cf.* Phil. 1:6; 2:13; Jn. 10:28-29.

Saints by the power of God are kept.

[Paraphrase 61—from 1 Peter 1:3-5]

Christian, can you see how God has been merciful and gracious to you? Rejoice!

Unbeliever, the only inheritance you have guaranteed at the minute is exposure to the wrath of God in Hell. Do not now ignore the offer of salvation!

3. The Resurrection of Jesus.

The ground/basis of the three aspects of God's mercy!

The cross is the central event in world history.

But it is redundant without the resurrection!

Why?

The resurrection showed God's acceptance of Jesus' work.

It is through the resurrection that the mercy/grace of God concerning new birth, living hope and a guaranteed inheritance is possible.

Conclusion—Gripped by the Facts

Do these truths grip you?

Child of God, let them lift you in praise to God this 2010 Easter Sunday morning!

Unbeliever, by the power of the Spirit may these truths draw you to the Lord this 2010 Easter Sunday morning.