

I Peter 1:3-25

I remember a very special news when I was young. It was about the death of a famous person. The body was finally decided to be embalmed, and would be displayed in public for viewing “forever”. I was thinking how can it be done perfectly that lasts forever? It would be a high cost to do that, and to maintain and display it. If someone is physical dead, what is the purpose of keeping the body as never perishable? In fact, by embalming, certain part of the body is already not the same as before. Thus, it is not real for someone or something physical be not perishable. However, the Bible in the book of I Peter listed two unperishable, and that is what we all should put our hope and focus on.

The book of I Peter was written by Peter between AD 60 to 65. I Peter 5:13 indicates it was written in Babylon. This book covers many subjects. The purpose of this letter is to encourage the people under persecution dispersed through the region. Peter knew a lot about persecution and how he dealt with it. The teaching was appropriate for Christians that were living in that period as well as it’s applicable to us today. Let us study I Peter chapter one to guide us how to live today.

### **1) The unperishable gift**

Besides God himself, what else is unperishable?

I Peter 1:4 states our heavenly inheritance can never perish, spoil or fade.

#### a) Unperishable gift to us

It is a mercy from God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the death so that each one can have eternal life and heavenly inheritance. It is through faith of each individual in God. That is the only way for receiving it.

#### b) Our Hope

Our eternal life that have heavenly inheritance is what Peter want us to remember. Life is short on earth and it is like a short journey from home (I Peter 1:17 & 2:11). This is our living hope (verse 3).

#### c) Our Difficulties on Earth

Peter clearly stated that we will have difficulties on earth. We will have all kinds of trials and will suffer grief (verse 6). However, it will be short as compared to our eternal life. Verse 6 states it as “for a little while”. These difficult times in life is actually a faith building exercise which will result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed (verse 7). There is no

guarantee your difficulties or trials will end “positively” in your physical life, but the promise is on verse 7.

d) Our Focus

How to deal with difficulties on earth? Hold on the hope of salvation and eternal reward. Focus on the future of the unperishable inheritance. At the same time, believe in Him as stated in verse 8. Continue to love God and believe Him, then we can overcome difficulties through the power of God. (Heb. 13:5b-6, Psalm 46:1-3, Psalm 55:2, Phil. 4:13)

## 2) The unperishable Word

God’s word is unperishable as stated in verse 23 and 25.

a) Unperishable Word for us

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God (I Peter 1:23). A person’s physical body was born of his/her parents. But one’s eternal life is from God.

God’s word endures forever (I Peter 1:25). His word is the truth and light for us (see Psalm 119:105). The whole Bible is for us to know God and follow God’s commands.

b) Our Response

1. Be Holy – I Peter 1:13-16 tell us that we shall not conform to the evil but be holy because God is holy. Verse 15 emphasizes “be holy in all you do”. It is not an easy calling but we need to do our best with the power of God to help us.
2. Love others – I Peter 1:22 tell us to have sincere love for each other from your heart. It is very important to love others. Also read John 13:34-35 and I John 4:11-12.

Are you pursuing physical things like wealth, or fame and power on earth? Do you know these things will not last? I Peter 1:24 states “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall”. There is nothing unperishable on the physical earth including your fame, position and glory. Don’t chase those things. However, the unperishable gift of eternal life with heavenly inheritance has given to us when we, by faith, accepted Jesus as our savior and Lord. This is our hope while on earth. The unperishable word of God is for us to live by during this short duration on earth. Let us all live a holy life with love in action!