

**An Inheritance**  
**1 Pt 1:3-5**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: To show how the Christian can have heaven as their home.

- Intro:
1. Life on earth is brief and temporary (**James 4:13-14**)
  2. However, life is not confined to existence on earth only.
  3. The possibility of having heaven as our home should encourage the Christian to faithfully serve God (**2 Tim 4:7**)

I. Christians are Heirs of God

- A. One becomes a child of God by a new birth (**1 Pt 1:22-23**)
- B. God's children are heirs of God (**Rom 8:16-17**)
- C. God is giving unto His children that which they could not give themselves. (**1 Pt 4:7**).

II. The Character of this Inheritance

- A. It means salvation (**1 Pt 1:5**)
  1. Salvation, or deliverance, from a world of sin, lust, suffering, and even death (**Rev 21:4b**).
  2. Salvation, or deliverance, into a position of glory & honor (**Rom 2:7**).
- B. The inheritance will be incorruptible (**1 Pt 1:4**)
  1. In contrast to things of earth which are subject to decay, God's things are incorruptible (**1 Pt 1:23**)
  2. This inheritance will have to do with the incorruptible part of man, his spirit
  3. Heaven will be permanent (**Lk 12:33**).
- C. The inheritance will be undefiled
  1. In heaven God's children will be separated from a sinful world (**Rev 21:27**).
    - a. Imagine a place where there is not hate, no greed, no backbiting, no slander, no suffering-physical or mental.
    - b. "There is a land that is fairer than day"
- D. This inheritance is reserved in heaven for God's people.
  1. Earthly things shall ultimately end (**2 Pt 3:10-11**)
  2. Since the Christian's inheritance is in heaven, it can never be touched, tarnished, or destroyed by earthly things.

III. The Assurance of this Inheritance

- A. Hope based on the resurrection of Christ from the dead (**1 Pt 1:3**).
  1. The resurrection was proof that Jesus was no mere man (**Rom 1:4**)
  2. Therefore, what He promises is true and reliable.
- B. The inheritance is "guarded"
  1. By God (**1 Pt 1:5**)
  2. By man's faith (**1 Pt 1:5**)

C. Add Christian graces and insure inheritance (**2 Pt 1:5-11**)

1. These graces are practical, man can translate them into practice.
2. The practice of these things (on the part of the Christian) insures him that the inheritance will be his.

Application & Conclusion:

1. What are you doing for heaven's sake?
2. Missing heaven means life on earth has been a failure.
3. Set your focus on things above.
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9