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The Christian's Inheritance

by Heath Rogers

Peter wrote his first epistle to Christians who were suffering for their faith. Such suffering is one of Satan's efforts to get us to give up on the Lord, deny our faith, and lose our souls. The purpose of this epistle is to encourage faithfulness in the face of suffering.

The letter begins with a reminder of one of the greatest blessings found in Christ – we have been born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Pet. 1:3). This living hope is important to us. It is our anchor (Heb. 6:19). It has the power to sustain us in our sufferings.

Peter continues, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you” (v. 4). The object of our living hope is the great inheritance that awaits us if we are faithful. Let's consider the three descriptive phrases used by Peter.

1. Incorruptible. Translated from the Greek word *aphthartos* which means imperishable, not liable to corruption or decay. The treasures we can inherit and lay up for ourselves in this world are subject to decay and corruption – “where moth and rust destroy” (Matt. 6:19-20). Physical items I have inherited from my grandparents show the wear of age. The great monuments of the world, which were built to endure the ages, show the wear and tear of the passing of time.

Heaven is a spiritual existence. It does not consist of atoms

that slow down and break down with the passing of time. It can't wear out or be destroyed.

2. Undefiled. From the Greek word *amiantos* meaning unsoiled or free from contamination. It is taken from a word meaning to dye or stain with another color. We live in a world that places a premium on things that are free from contamination – preferring pure water, air, and food. Our heavenly inheritance contains no pollution or contamination. “It is free of all that would render it undesirable or soiled” (Hamilton 15).

John described the purity of the heavenly city with the following words. “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life” (Rev. 21:27). Heaven doesn't have a city dump. There isn't anything there that needs to be taken out and burned or buried. It may be hard for us to imagine, but we can certainly see the appeal of an existence that is completely undefiled.

3. Does Not Fade Away. From the Greek word *amarantos* meaning unfading or perennial. Things of beauty can lose their attractiveness and appeal over time. A flower is beautiful when it first blooms, but the petals begin to wilt in a matter of days. The smooth skin of a newborn baby eventually becomes coarse and wrinkled with age. Colored photos lose their tint over time. The perfectly glossed finish of a new guitar will become nicked, worn, and dull with use. This is expected here on earth, but this will never happen to the things that make heaven beautiful.

It has been said that familiarity breeds contempt. I grew up in the Ozark Mountains of Northwest Arkansas. It is very beautiful there, but I never thought much of it when I was growing up because I saw it every day. I remember hearing visitors say things like, “You are so lucky to live in such a beautiful place.” Like a typical teenager, I would say to myself, “Whatever.” This will not happen with our heavenly inheritance. Not only is heaven eternal – it is also eternally new. Heaven will never lose its original beauty, brightness, or shine. The awe, wonder, and amazement that we experience when we first enter heaven will never go away! We will never get bored with heaven or take it for granted.

“Imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (ESV). This is what is being reserved for us. Don’t lose faith. Heaven really will be worth it all.
Knollwood Reminder Beaver creek Ohio

A Facebook post

By Russ Bowman

Matt.14:6-7 - “But when Herod’s birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.”

John the Baptist was killed due in great part to Herod’s lust. And Herod’s lust was enflamed in great part by the dancing of the daughter of Herodias. It’s difficult to see this story otherwise.

Yet more and more I see followers of Jesus involved in such activities, or allowing - and even encouraging or facilitating - such in their children. The physical body is attractive to the opposite sex. Movement in the physical body can and often does enhance said attraction. There is absolutely no denying such.

And you would think in a culture that is so obsessed with nudity and sex that Christians would be especially conscious of any appearance or behavior that encourages lasciviousness.

But it is commonplace to see young men and women who profess godliness wearing very revealing clothing (read short shorts & skirts; cropped tops; low cut blouses; clingy, sheer, or tight shirts, dresses, athletic gear). And wearing such shamelessly - almost defiantly - with the idea that anyone who might object is an archaic prude. Then taking their flaunted sexuality to the dance floor so that they might display themselves in the most sensual of ways.

It happens regularly. It happens extensively.

And we’re often scared to address it because of the brazen ridicule that is directed at anyone who would decry such carnality.

I’m saying it. Think what you will. Shame on Herodias’ daughter. Shame on Herod. Shame on us.

Holiness demands more than such animal behavior.