

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. [1 Peter 1:3-5]

We live in a world that necessitates guarding our valuables. Whether it is things or people, we go to great lengths to ensure they are safe. You might keep a lockbox in your house for valuable papers or even a safety deposit box at the bank. Many people have home security systems and/or cameras on their homes. Nowadays you can even buy a doorbell that has a built-in, motion sensitive camera. This allows you to use your smart phone to monitor your home or even talk to and see the person ringing your doorbell. We are obsessed with security and safety as we fear losing that which has value to us.

We may obsess about guarding our valuables in this world, but there is something we possess, through faith in Jesus Christ, that surpasses the value of anything we can imagine. Through faith in Jesus we have an inheritance from God; resurrection to New Life. This inheritance is *imperishable, undefiled, and unfading*. Basically, this inheritance is something that will last forever, and it is yours. So, considering all of that and considering we are obsessed with protecting our valuables, how do we safeguard this inheritance?

We don't.

This inheritance, this gift beyond value, is ***kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*** Hmmm, that seems pretty secure to me. No lock box, safety deposit box, security system or some fancy high-tech door bell required. Your inheritance, which comes through faith in Jesus Christ as a gift, is held secure by the power of God. This means you can rest assured, but not lazy. Yes, God holds your salvation secure, but it doesn't mean you are to live complacent lives.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [1 Peter 2:9] If this inheritance is of supreme value to you (and I hope that it is) then proclaim the excellencies

of Jesus. Shout from the mountain tops that Jesus lives. See to it people hear about this inheritance that they, too, may rest assured; safe and secure in the loving arms of God. Normally, you would guard your valuables, but this valuable is one that you can freely share with joy. All praise be to God our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.