

## **A Gift of a Lifetime, part 2**

1 Peter 1:3-12

(preached Pine Grove 8/4/19 Sun PM)

### **Introduction**

Take your Bibles and 1 Peter 1..

We have been looking at this letter that God inspired Peter to write in 64 AD.

It was a dark time to be a believer.

The Roman Empire was the major world superpower, and it stood opposed to this relatively new group of people who called themselves Christians.

The main reason for the opposition was because the emperor of the Roman Empire was a mad man.

Nero sought power and prestige and fame, so he decided to burn down his own city so he could rebuild it in his image.

Therefore, on July 19th, 64 AD, Nero set fire to the city.

The only problem is that the fire left some Romans and many Romans homeless, so Nero simply laid the blame on this follower of Jesus.

And that lie led to hatred of Christians, who were seen as murderers at worst and trouble makers at best.

So Peter was inspired by God to write a letter encouraging Christians to endure the suffering and affliction and trouble.

And this letter of 1 Peter has become one of the go-to books in the Bible when Christians face suffering of any kind..

Now I will simply ask you..

What do you do when being attacked?

What do you do when you suffer?

What is your first reaction when trouble comes your way?

How do you cope when people around you give you grief for no apparent reason?

Well, 1 Peter offers help..

Let's read this passage again beginning in verse 1 all the way to verse 12..

*1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,  
 To those who reside as aliens, scattered  
 throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia,  
 and Bithynia, who are chosen 2 according to the  
 foreknowledge of God the Father, by the  
 sanctifying work of the Spirit, [a]to obey Jesus  
 Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace  
 and peace [b]be yours in the fullest measure.  
 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord  
 Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy  
 has caused us to be born again to a living hope  
 through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the  
 dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is  
 imperishable and undefiled and will not fade  
 away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are  
 protected by the power of God through faith for a  
 salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In  
 this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a  
 little while, if necessary, you have been distressed  
 by various [c]trials, 7 so that the [d]proof of your  
 faith, being more precious than gold which [e]is  
 perishable, even though tested by fire, may be  
 found to result in praise and glory and honor at  
 the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you  
 have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you  
 do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you  
 greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and [f]full of*

*glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of [g]your souls.*

*10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 [h]seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories [i]to follow.*

*12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to [j]look.*

Simply put, Peter open this letter by saying..

If you want to endure suffering, enjoy your salvation.

The pain of affliction is eased when the joy of salvation is remembered.

A little girl was going on her very first horseback ride.

She was excited until she saw the massive horse that she would be sitting upon.

To ease her fears, her grandfather offered to ride in front.

As her parents boosted her up on the horse's back,  
her panic got worse..

What do I do? What do I do? she began to cry.

Her grandfather slowly turned around and gently  
said, "Sweetie, don't worry about the horse or the  
height, you hold on to me and you will be fine."

What Peter is essentially saying in these opening 12  
verses of this letter is don't look down, don't look  
around, look to the salvation that you have in  
Christ.

Regardless of what is going around around you,  
hold tight to your salvation.

Hold tight to your faith.

This is the remedy for trouble.

Let the world around us go to pieces.

Let the word around us go after us.

We will simply hold tight to our salvation, to our  
Christ.

Well, that is what Peter is stressing here in these  
opening verses.

There is joy even in suffering if we simply remember all the blessings that come to those who are saved.

So we begin two weeks to fill our minds with the realities of salvation.

### **I. The Realities of Salvation (3-5)**

In verse 3, we were reminded that salvation results in a new birth.

We are born again as a result of trusting alone in Christ.

The reality is that we don't have to fight back against persecution.

WE don't have to return evil for evil when attacked.

WE can turn the other cheek when someone hits at us.

We have been made new.

We also saw that salvation gives us hope.

Evil people will not win.

Affliction will not continue forever.

Trials will stop.

Trouble will cease.

There is hope for us personally because we are saved but there is hope for the entire world because of the gospel.

Peter also reminds us that the world may rob us and cheat us and steal from us, but God will reward us.

We have an inheritance in heaven waiting for us protected by God and not subject to decay or defilement..

On top of that, God is protecting us as well..

True believers may be in danger in the world, but they are not in danger in the spiritual world.

God protects them to the very end..

Those were the realities of salvation.

Last week, we began to look at the results of salvation that being in verse 6..

## **II. The Results of Salvation (6-9)**

Peter writes in verse 6..

***“In this..”***

***This*** is simply all the realities of salvation that Peter talked about through verse 5..

So in verse 6, we saw the result of salvation which is pure joy..

We rejoice in salvation despite the difficulties we face in the world..

Another result of salvation is trouble..

The end of verse 6 says that believers will face as many trials as a leopard has spots..

But this result of the salvation is not a curse but a blessing because trouble proves the genuineness of our faith.

True believers go through trials and their faith grows.

False believers go through trials and their faith collapses.



Jesus told a parable of a wise and foolish builder.

True believers have a faith that endures because it is built on the rock of trust in Christ alone.

False believers have a faith that crumbles because it is built on the sand of human opinion.

So the results of salvations are joy and assurance that comes through trials.

But there is another result of salvation that we didn't get to last week..

The truths of salvation gives us joy.

The trials of salvation give us assurance.

But now, lets see a 3rd result of salvation.

The delay of salvation gives us trust.

There is a weird reality about our lives as believers.

We are saved already, but we are not saved yet.

What I mean by that is this.

Salvation is present reality but it won't be fully experienced and realized until death.

Think of like a lifeboat.

You climb on a cruise and they tell you when you get one that it is going to sink when you get out to sea.

But not to worry because there are more than enough lifeboats for everyone.

You are safe even though the boat is going down.

But the lifeboat isn't actually enjoyed until the cruise ship starts sinking.

Your salvation is real tonight if you are saved.

But it is enjoyed to its fullest until you die.

With that in mind, Peter in reminding his readers in verse 8 that salvation grows our trust..

He writes..

***8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and [f]full of glory***

Salvation, as God designed it, is not meant to be instant gratification.

We don't repent and believe and fly away to heaven.

We repent and believe and keep on repenting and believing until we die.

The thief on the cross is as close as you can get to get saved and then realize your salvation.

For the most part, we believe and we are saved, but we wait to experience the fruit of that belief.

However, that is still a good result of salvation because it grows our trust.

Peter is reminding his readers that most of them had never seen Jesus.

Most had never walked or talked with him, but that didn't put them at a spiritual disadvantage.

Instead, it made their faith that much stronger.

Thomas had to see the believe in the resurrected Christ to believe, but that didn't show his spiritual maturity, it revealed a weak faith.

Look, salvation is a blessing because it builds our trust in the Lord until we see Him face to face..

And that is what Peter says in verse 9..

***9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of [g]your souls.***

We understand that salvation offers blessings in the present but there is also the promise of future blessing.

WE believe today and we are saved, but we also believe today and we will be saved.

The outcome of faith is salvation both here and to come.

The results of salvation are joy, assurance, and trust.

Now, let's move to Peter's final remarks on salvation.

We have seen the realities and results of salvation, but let's end with..

### **III. The Renown of Salvation (10-12)**

Renown means something that is famous or something that is spoken of frequently.

Now, we don't think about salvation being a subject in the coffee shops of the world.

Most people are eating meals and speaking of God's plan of salvation..

But I can assure that there are people who talk about the greatness of salvation.

In fact, verses 10-12 present those who talk about salvation..

We are going to see the prophets, the preachers, and the angels..

The prophets, the preachers, and the angels..

Now before we look at these groups, why does Peter wrap up this section on the glory of salvation in this way?

Well, I think Peter wants his readers to know and every believer after them to know how blessed we are to live in this age of the gospel..

We may not feel blessed at times because of the trouble our faith causes, but we are blessed.

In fact, there are people and creatures who marvel at the salvation we now enjoy.

Let's begin with group 1 in verses 10-12...

***10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 [h]seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories [i]to follow.***

The OT was filled with prophets.

Men who spokesman for God.

They delivered rebuke to Israel but they always ended their prophecy but painting a picture of hope.

Jeremiah wrote of a day where the Spirit of God would fill his people.

Joel wrote of a day when the Spirit would be poured out on the Jews.

Yet, the most fascinating predictions from the prophets were on a Messiah to come.

If you go all the way back to the beginning, God served as a prophet of sorts when he told Adam and Eve that a serpent crusher and sin killer would come.

Eve even wondered if her firstborn son was that promised deliverer.

Sadly, Cain only brought more sin.

But the promise of a deliverer filled the OT.

And as time marched on, more and more information about this Messiah was revealed through the prophets..

Peter says in verse 10 that the Messiah was through of by the prophets “as the grace that would come.”

Well, that coming of a deliver and helper and savior filled their minds.

Peter writes that they made careful searches and inquiries..

What does that mean?

Simply put, they tried to connect the dots of all that God was telling them through their writings.

I am sure that the later prophets who had more information than the earlier prophets were really able to understand more about this coming Messiah.

But ultimately, none of the prophets knew when or where this Messiah would come.

Now to me this is fascinating.

Can you imagine writing about someone that you don't even know?

Yet that is exactly what the prophets did.

They spoke of a future time when Israel would have their sin completely forgiven.

They wrote of a time when their Messiah would give up his life to pay for their sin..

Listen to Isaiah 53..

*3 He was despised and forsaken of men,  
A man of [c]sorrows and acquainted with [d]grief;  
And like one from whom men hide their face  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.  
4 Surely our [e]griefs He Himself bore,  
And our [f]sorrows He carried;  
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,  
[g]Smitten of God, and afflicted.*



***5 But He was [h]pierced through for our  
transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
The chastening for our [i]well-being fell upon  
Him,  
And by His scourging we are healed.***

Think about.

Isaiah wrote this 700 years before the cross.

Surely, he must have wondered what this meant...

Then later in the same chapter, Isaiah wrote this..

**10**

***But the Lord was pleased  
To crush Him, [l]putting Him to grief;  
If [m]He would render Himself as a guilt offering,  
He will see His [n]offspring,  
He will prolong His days,  
And the [o]good pleasure of the Lord will prosper  
in His hand.***

**11**

***As a result of the [p]anguish of His soul,  
He will see [q]it and be satisfied;  
By His knowledge the Righteous One,  
My Servant, will justify the many,  
As He will bear their iniquities.***

**12**

***Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,  
And He will divide the booty with the strong;  
Because He poured out [r]Himself to death,  
And was numbered with the transgressors;***

In the span of one chapter, Isaiah wrote about a person who would suffer under the hand of God and then be glorified by God.

We can look back and see the perfect fulfillment of this chapter, but Isaiah could only wonder what that would look like.

In fact, Peter said that the prophets wrote of the sufferings followed by the glories of this future Messiah..

Now, why is this important to Peter's readers?

Simply put, they were blessed to see the full picture.

They were blessed to live in an age that Isaiah could only search and wonder about.

They were the recipients of a grace unlike any other in the history of the world.

And the point is simple...

You may be suffering now, but you live in an era of grace.

You live in a time where God has revealed his glorious salvation.

You live in a time that the prophets only dreamed of.

So stop complaining and moaning, and hold fast to a salvation that has now been revealed in all its fullness.

But the prophets are not the only group that was consumed by this glorious salvation.

The second group is found in verse 12..

***12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven***

The wonder of salvation also consumed the lives of those preaching salvation in the church age.

The readers of Peter's letter had been saved through the preaching of the gospel to them.

And that preaching had come through these men like Peter who were taking the message of salvation in Christ to the world..

In verse 12, Peter says that the prophets served those in his day by writing about a future salvation.

And what he means is simply.

The gospel of Jesus Christ only makes sense in the context of the OT promises of God.

Jesus coming to die and being raised to life is a fascinating event, but it is a miraculous event when you consider how long ago it had predicted..

Ultimately, this is why men risked their lives and even gave their lives to preach the gospel.

It captivated their hearts because of how all the pieces of the OT pieces were put together in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Look, the prediction and fulfillment of what the Bible says about salvation in Christ captivates my heart to the point that I wanted to spend my life preaching the glory of salvation to the world.

I am not in ministry to get rich, to get famous.

The way things are headed, I am probably simply going to get in trouble for preaching salvation by faith alone in Christ alone..

But so be it.

This message.

The gospel.

This person of Christ captivates my soul.

Peter simply wants to remind his readers that salvation is glorious.

So glorious in this age that men dedicate their lives and even sacrifice their lives to get that message out.

His readers may be suffering but they aren't anymore than those who believe the glory of salvation enough to put their lives on the line to preach it.

A final group fascinated with salvation are an interesting bunch.

Look at the very end of verse 12..

The text simply says..

*things into which angels long to [j]look.*

What does this mean?

Well, it simply means that angels have a fascination with salvation.

Angels are fascinating to us as people.

Well, we are equally fascinating to angels.

We can't see them but they can certainly see us, and what fascinates them are issues like grace and forgiveness and most definitely salvation.

You see, heavenly angels have no need to be saved or forgiven, and fallen angels have no chance to be saved or forgiven.

But that doesn't mean that these creatures aren't interested in people.

And the reason for their fascination is that they have played such a part in the revelation of salvation?

They were there to sing of the Messiah being born.

They even told the shepherds that a Savior had been born in the city of David, but they even lacked the need for a Savior themselves.

They helped Jesus in his temptation.

They were at the tomb.

They have always been around people and the story of God's rescue of them, but even they long to understand the story of salvation.

And why do they want to know?

Well, they have two jobs.

One is follow the commands of God, and the other is to worship God continually.

If they understand salvation, they can add to their worship of Him.

Along those lines, this is really the point of these opening 12 verses.

Salvation is so glorious that we ought to fill our lives worshiping God for it.

The same was true for those Christians reading this letter in the first century.

Yes, salvation in Christ has led to their suffering and persecution.

But, that did mean the God had cursed them.

Just the opposite was true.

They were incredibly blessed to live in time when salvation had been revealed with crystal clearness.

The prophets wondering had stopped.

The preachers preaching had begun.

And the angels fascination with salvation grew.



## **Conclusion**

### ***#1 - Salvation offers present and future blessings.***

To be saved today is to be born again.

To be saved today is to have hope.

To be saved today is to be protected by God.

To be saved today is to have trust and confidence of things we can't see.

To be saved today is to be joyful.

To be saved in the future is to experience rescue at death.

To be saved in the future is to experience an inheritance designed and kept by God for you.

To be saved in the future is to be joyful forever.

We come to Christ in repentance and faith to experience present blessings and future joy.

### ***#2 - Salvation comforts troubled hearts.***

The saved can find peace in ANY situation that life offers simply because we know our future.

Put a sword in our face and we know that death brings us life.

Take our money and we know that an inheritance awaits us.

Throw us into prison and we know that the truth has set us free.

Make us live a country that persecutes our faith and we know our true citizenship is in heaven.

This is the blessing of salvation.

The chaos of world around us and against us only increases the peace in our hearts.

### ***#3 - Salvation brings accountability in this age.***

Though the full picture of salvation is a blessing to us who know Christ, it is a curse to those who reject Him.

Look, all men of all time are doomed if they reject the truth of salvation that God offered to them.

The men in Noah's day are in hell today even though they never heard the name of Jesus Christ.

To refuse to believe God's promise of rescue condemns everyone regardless of how much they knew.

But it is also true that rejection of the full knowledge that we now have is a more serious offense..

Let's end tonight i note book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 11:26-29..

***26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?***

To those who remain in their sin in this age depute having full knowledge of the salvation that God offers in Christ, they live in the most dangerous age ever.

Verse 28 says that OT unbelievers died without mercy.

But verse 29 says that NT unbelievers will face a worse judgment because they knew the whole story of salvation from beginning to end but rejected it.

Look, as believers in Christ, we live in the most blessed of times, but it also the worst of times for those who refuse to believe in Christ.

Salvation is glorious today.

It will give you hope and comfort you in the worst of situations.

Salvation is also dreadful today for those who refuse to believe because it will condemn you to the worst part of hell if you have the whole story and reject it.

Let us pray.