

1 Peter

Part 3 – God’s Gift of Salvation

1 Peter 1:8-12

At the end of John’s Gospel, we find Thomas with serious doubts about whether Jesus was truly risen from the grave. He said he needed to see and touch Jesus before believing. Jesus graciously comes to the disciples with Thomas there and said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:27-29)



Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:27-29)

Peter saw Jesus. He knew Jesus. He was friends with Jesus and a firsthand, eye witness of Jesus’ miracles, but he doesn’t lord that over the believers who had not seen Him. Instead, he seems to delight all the more in their faith. He seems to have taken Jesus’ words to Thomas to heart as he writes to encourage the “elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” (1 Peter 1:1). He affirms their joy in the Lord in the midst of suffering by reminding them of the gift of salvation that God prepared for them.

Main Idea: God’s gift of salvation is precious, strengthening believers who face trials and suffering.

1. The gift of our salvation is a present help because it is a future reality (vv. 8-10a).

The salvation that is the outcome of their faith and its object is not seen but must be believed. (2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 10:17).

- There are no second class Christians because they only heard the gospel instead of seeing Jesus.

Their faith that has inexpressible joy and is filled with future glory. (Hebrews 11:1,7,8,13,27,39,40)

- True joy comes from God Himself and is closely tied with believing in Him for salvation. Peter is certainly not talking about circumstantial happiness because he is writing to “elect exiles.” Joy in the Lord is rooted in the gospel and anchored in the Word of God.
- “Glory” is both now and not yet.
- Illustration: A good dessert makes a bad meal bearable.

- Application: We have this same salvation, this same faith, this same hope.

2. The gift of our salvation was prophesied (vv. 10b-11).

The prophets and the elect exiles to whom Peter wrote were in a similar situation. Through great suffering and trial, they endured because of their hope in Christ’s first coming.

Prophecy (2 Peter 1:19-21, Luke 24:25-27, Luke 24:44-47)

- Prophecies foretell events but they don’t simply do that, they foretell the solution to the issues and brokenness. They foretell the salvation.
- “The OT as a whole, through its promises, its symbols, and its pictures of salvation, looks forward to the actual accomplishment of salvation that took place once for all in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (Vern Poythress, *Overview of the Bible: A Survey of the History of Salvation, ESV Study Bible*)

Grace, God’s unmerited favor, is not a New Testament invention. The Old Testament prophets prophesied about grace.

The prophets of old actively pursued the knowledge of Christ in the Old Testament.

- *the Spirit of Christ* indicates the preexistence of Christ. Here we find the mystery of the eternal nature of Christ. He was indicating, leading, and guiding the prophets of old to the knowledge of what would be His own suffering and glory.

- Application: Be people who study the Word. If the men who wrote the Word, studied the Word, then so should we. Even if Christ were to speak to you directly, still study the Word and search it intently to know who God is, the salvation He has wrought, and how we then live for Him.

The prophets wanted to know the timing and circumstances of the coming of the Messiah. Certainly there were some details that were given. For example, He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), but the timing and the name of the Messiah were not given in the Old Testament. Why? Because the more important information was given to them by the Spirit of Christ. They prophesied and wrote about the suffering and the glory of Christ which is why as Jesus approached the cross He could say, "The Son of Man goes as it is written of him" (Matthew 26:24a).

- Application: We do not know the timing of Christ's Second Coming any more than the prophets knew the timing of His first. However, we do know what we need to know. He will come back and He will judge. For those who believe, there is eternal glory. For those who have not believed in Christ for their salvation, there is eternal damnation under the wrath of God.

In this life, suffering is not a surprise to God. The sufferings and glory of Christ were predicted/prophesied about. They were purposed in the mind of God. He planned for them to happen. Therefore, suffering is part of His will. Those who suffer can find encouragement in the fact that for Christ, first there was suffering and then came the glories. Suffering comes before glory. That is the Biblical pattern. We know this from all of Scripture, but especially through the person and work of Christ. This is what the Gospels predominantly record for us: "the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories." (Luke 24:26; Acts 3:18)

- We find the suffering of Christ and the subsequent glory all over Scripture. The book of Isaiah is a great example of this. (Isaiah 9:6, 25:6-9, 52:13-53:12, 53:3-5 60:1-3)
- Application: Be encouraged as God's elect, God planned all of this; the suffering and the glory. Be students of the word because that is where we find hope and joy.

3. The gift of our salvation was prepared for us (vv. 12a).

The prophets knew they were serving the generations to come. Peter is being specific in saying that the prophets served the Petrine believers. (Romans 15:4)

- Application: Serve the next generation. VBS, Children's Ministry, Through the Roof, Youth Ministry, Backyard Bible Club, After School Program...

4. The gift of our salvation was and is preached (v. 12b).

They preached the gospel from the Old Testament. This seems to be alluding to Pentecost when Peter and the other disciples did just that. They preach the good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Essentially, the whole of the New Testament is this, preaching the good news of Jesus by the Holy Spirit from the Old Testament. The New Testament is solidly built on the Old. (Ephesians 3:4-5)

- Application: Study the Word. Sit and learn under Biblically rich, Gospel filled preaching that feeds you from the Word of God. Accept no substitutes.

5. The gift of our salvation is a privilege (v. 12c).

Though angels are almost universally feared by people throughout Scripture, they are still created beings. They have limits. They do not directly know the salvation that we have in Christ.

Angels don't know redemption, but they rejoice in it. They aren't on the outside looking in, but rather are joyful heralds saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14)

Angels are "ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). They rejoice "over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). They "will gather [God's] elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" when the Son of Man comes (Matthew 24:31). They will be judged by God's elect (1 Corinthians 6:3). The manifold wisdom of God will be revealed to them through the church (Ephesians 3:10).

- Application: Rejoice in your salvation. God's unmerited favor is given as a gift to you.