

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 6

1 Peter 1.6-9 The “living hope” that believers possess can even provide joy...

Consequently,...God’s people can trust that God has a greater outcome in their trials.

(v.7): As an example...*gold ... refined by fire*. Like precious metals purified in a furnace, impurities are removed.

Job 23.10...Psalm 12.6...Isaiah 48.10...Purity is the result!

(vs.8-9): The focus of a believer’s faith is not on abstract religious principles but on the person of Jesus Christ!

While Peter *physically* saw Jesus...Peter knew many would not (us).

Perhaps Peter remembered Jesus’ words recorded in *John 20.29.... Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

All of a believer’s life...joys and trials...bring us closer to the “outcome of our faith” ...
“The picture of the Christian life presented by Peter in these opening verses is characterized by hope in what God will do in the future. Christians, he says, look forward to salvation in the world to come. Their lives ought to have a forward-looking and other-worldly dimension that is often lacking among contemporary Christians.”¹
Once again, we see the “timeless” quality of our faith.

A salvation given through the past work of Jesus Christ...A present, triumphant faith in the unseen Jesus, which gives an inexpressible joy in the midst of trials and challenges.... And...

A future expectation of a fulfilled salvation in the presence of Jesus!

“As the true character of gold is seen in a refiner’s fire, so faith’s true character is revealed when tested....All earthly treasures will eventually be destroyed, but through faith, we will live with our Savior forever. Luther: ‘All Scripture compares temptation to fire. Thus here St. Peter also likens the gold that is tested by fire to the testing of faith by temptation and suffering. Fire does not impair the quality of gold, but it purifies it, so that all alloy is removed....so that one adheres to the Word alone and relies on nothing else. For we really need such purging and affliction every day because of the coarse old Adam’ (AE 30:17).”²

1 Peter 1.10-12 In the ancient world the “old” and “early traditions” were deeply valued.

Peter points to this in reference to Christ. Perhaps in referencing of Jesus’ sufferings, Peter has min mind...

Psalm 22.1-2...Isaiah 53.4-5.

(v.11): Peter again affirms the Trinitarian nature of God... The “Spirit of Christ.”

At the same time... Peter links the work of Jesus with the ancient prophets. The continuity of God’s salvific mission!

¹ I.H. Marshall. *1 Peter* (InterVarsity Press, 1991).

² *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

(v.12): The interest in and study of angels was common in the Jewish world.

“According to some Jewish traditions, some secrets were so important that God kept them even from angels until the end time (cf. Mk 13:32); in some other traditions, angels envied Israel, who received God’s law.”³

Peter’s encouragement...God’s greatest and most powerful moment in human history...The incarnation and mission of Christ...was revealed to (and for) humans! The angelic world can only reflect with delight on God’s work of salvation for the world!

“The whole paragraph carries a strong flavor of the newness and the excellence of the church age. Peter tells his readers: ancient prophets predicted the grace that would be ‘yours’ (v. 10); you live in the great ‘time’ of ‘glories’ (v. 11) which was long foretold; the prophets were in fact repeatedly ministering for the benefit of ‘you’ (v. 12b); and world-changing events have ‘now’ been proclaimed to ‘you’ through the working of the Holy Spirit ‘sent’ in epoch-changing new power from heaven (v. 12b). Though the world may think such Christians insignificant and worthy of pity or scorn (see 3:14–16; 4:4), angels—who see ultimate reality from God’s perspective—find them to be objects of intense interest (v. 12c), for they know that these struggling believers are actually the recipients of God’s greatest blessings and honored participants in a great drama...We too may rightly think of our Christian lives as no less privileged and no less interesting to holy angels than the lives of Peter’s readers.”⁴

³ C.S. Keener and J.H. Walton, Eds. *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible: Bringing to Life the Ancient World of Scripture* (Zondervan, 2016).

⁴ W.A. Grudem. *1 Peter: An Introduction and Commentary* (InterVarsity Press, 19198).