

## 1 Peter 1:3-12 (Week 2)

### vs. 3-5: Our Great Inheritance (Salvation)

Peter knows his readers are suffering under persecution, an people under pressure can cave. But Peter reminds his audience of the magnificent nature of their salvation, and that should lead to joy in the midst of their trials (salvation and joy are linked). He gives them 4 things to contemplate concerning their salvation:

**1. The Source of our salvation** – The great *mercy* of God the Father. The Father's love is put on display in the incarnation of Jesus and His death and resurrection for His people. The hopeless, lifeless state of sinful humanity has been conquered and replaced with forgiveness and deliverance through the mercy of God the Father. Mercy and grace are 2 sides of the same coin. *Grace addresses our guilt, mercy our misery.* Grace fixes our position, mercy our condition (**Matthew 17:15, Ephesians 2:4**). God comes to the sinner in his misery and gives hope and joy in Jesus Christ.

*No other attribute could have helped us had mercy refused. As we are by nature, justice condemns us, holiness frowns upon us, power crushes us, truth confirms the threatening of the law, and wrath fulfills it. It is from the mercy of our God that all our hopes begin.* **Spurgeon, A String of Pearls**, sermon delivered on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1870.

**2. The Means of our salvation** – We are brought out of our dead, miserable, sinful condition by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit – He caused ('beget again,' emphasizes the sovereignty of God in our salvation) us to be born again to a living hope (**Titus 3:4-8, also John 3:3-8**). This hope will never die, unlike the hopes and pursuits of this world (**1 John 2:17**). Worldly accomplishments will never satisfy, nor will they survive past this short life – they will die, along with the sinner. However, this 'living hope' ushered in by new life will never fade away, and is guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus – He has already conquered the last enemy, death (**1 Corinthians 15:54-57**). The Christian's hope is not based on this world, but looks forward to our eternal inheritance (**Philippians 1:21**).

**Living hope** - Hope is *disciplined waiting*. It is an objective reality, not a subjective wish (**Colossians 1:5 Titus 2:11-14**). It is not something relegated to the future alone, but gives life, comfort and joy to the believer now. Our hope is based on the objective fact of Jesus' resurrection. Otherwise, our hope is in vain (**1 Corinthians 15:1-19**).

*“Some men's hopes of heaven are not 'living hopes,' for they never stir them to action. They live as if they were going to hell, and yet they coolly talk about hoping that all will be well with them at the last! A Christian's hope purifies him, arouses him to diligence, makes him seek after what he expects to obtain.”* **Spurgeon**

**3. The Nature of our salvation** – We are born again as children of God (**John 1:12-13**), and as children, we become heirs with an eternal inheritance (**Romans 8:15-17**). So valuable is our inheritance that we have been given the Holy Spirit as a pledge towards our final redemption (i.e., living hope, **Ephesians 1:12-14**).

So great and valuable is our inheritance, Peter can only say what it is *not* like:

**Imperishable** - not subject to death or destruction (a living hope) **Matthew 6:19-20**

**Undefiled** - it can never be spoiled, corrupted or polluted. It is forever pure **Revelation 21:27**

**Unfading** - it never loses its luster (unlike the riches of the rich man) - **James 1:9-11**

**Kept** (means to guard from loss or injury – to keep an eye upon, and implies a fortress) **in heaven** - Peter realizes the lasting nature of our salvation means nothing unless we can be assured it is guaranteed for us. Our inheritance is in heaven, and is guarded by God Himself.

**4. The Security of our salvation** – We are guarded and protected by the power of God!

**Guarded** (literally, '*being garrisoned*', a military term, means to protect by a military guard) - Our salvation is guarded by God, the Mighty Warrior (**Exodus 3:14, 15:3, Psalm 18, 91, Isaiah 42:13, John 10:27-30**). Since our inheritance is in heaven and we dwell on earth, how can our inheritance be sure? Because we are protected by the power of God (**John 6:37-40,44, 10:27-29, Romans 8:38-39, Philippians 1:6**).

*“When condemnation grips my heart and Satan tempts me to despair*

*I hear the voice that scatters fear the Great I Am the Lord is here*

*Oh praise the One who fights for me and shields my soul eternally”* **Rend Collective, Boldly I Approach**

**Through faith** - The means we employ. Though God has promised to protect us, we must be active in using the gift of faith (**Ephesians 2:8-9**) God has given us in order to stand strong (**Ephesians 6:16**). In His providence, God has chosen to employ faith as the means of protecting those who belong to Him – may we grow in our faith (**2 Peter 3:18**).

**Salvation ready to be revealed in the last time** - The reception of our inheritance (**1 Corinthians 15:35-58, 1 John 3:2**).

### vs. 6-9: Rejoicing in our Trials

## 1 Peter 1:3-12 (Week 2)

*In this you greatly rejoice* - All that has been said in vs. 3-5 about our salvation.

What does Peter tell us about our trials?

**1.** They are temporary (“*For a little while*”) - The present sufferings are of a brief period in light of our eternal inheritance (**Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, James 1:2-4**).

**2.** They are necessary – God has a purpose in our trials. Each one of us faces different trials as our spiritual growth and needs are different (**Psalm 119:71,75, Acts 14:22, Romans 5:3-5, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**).

*“It is said that in some countries trees will grow, but will bear no fruit because there is no winter there.” John Bunyan*

**3.** They are painful (“*You have been grieved*”) - We must not deny the reality of grief and pain, but we must look past them to our eternal inheritance – that ‘living hope’ sustains (**2 Corinthians 4:7-18, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**).

**4.** They come in many forms (“various trials”) - **James 1:2-4** (same message, also gives the same purpose below)

**5.** They have a purpose – to test “*the genuineness of our faith*” - Testing gives us assurance that our faith is genuine (**Genesis 22:1-12, Deuteronomy 8:2, Matthew 13:20-21, Hebrews 11:1-40**).

*“It is hard to prescribe a just measure of humiliation. It is the same in the new birth as in the natural. Some give birth with more pangs, and some with fewer. But would you like to know when you are bruised enough? When your spirit is so troubled that you are willing to let go those lusts which brought in the greatest income of pleasure and delight. When not only is sin discarded but you are disgusted with it, then you have been bruised enough. The medicine is strong enough when it has purged out the disease. The soul is bruised enough when the love of sin is purged out.” Thomas Watson, The Godly Man’s Picture, p. 227.*

**6.** Tested faith is “*more precious than gold that perishes*” - Faith has eternal value. Gold is the most precious of the temporal, perishable items, and yet it must be subjected to fire to refine and purify. How much more so our faith (**James 1:12, 5:11**). Tested faith, once approved, will result in praise, glory and honor when Christ returns.

**7.** They result in greater joy when endured (“*Rejoice with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory*”) - **Acts 5:41**

**8.** They result in the end of all pursuits of the believer – more love for Jesus (“*Though you have not seen him, you love him*”) - The real test of the believer is do they love Jesus Christ (**John 21:15-17**). We can know about him, believe in Him, do works in His name, but do we love Him (evidenced by obedience - contrast **1 Corinthians 16:22**).

**9.** They result in “*the salvation of our souls*” - This is the overwhelming focus and pursuit of the believer (**Colossians 3:1-4, Hebrews 11:13-16**). Notice also this consummation of our salvation (i.e., glorification), is the result of faith. Faith grants us entry to salvation, works in us sanctification, and will carry us through to the end.

*“The Christian amid the waves and billows of adversity retains his hope, a glorious hope of future bliss, and therefore he strikes out like a man towards the heavenly shore. Our hope buoys up the soul, keeps the head above water, inspires confidence, and sustains courage.” Spurgeon*

**vs. 10-12:** The history of our salvation

**The Old Testament prophets** – They knew salvation would have to be by grace – men were incapable of saving themselves. They wrote about the sufferings and ultimate glory of the Messiah (**Psalm 2, Isaiah 9:6-7, 52:13-53:12, Micah 5:2**). Their writings were complete enough that Jesus said to search the Scriptures about Him (**John 5:39**). How these prophets longed to know in full the salvation of which they wrote – *should we not take joy in our salvation?*

**The Holy Spirit’s inspiration** – The theme of the Holy Spirit’s revelation in the Old Testament was salvation.

**Angels longing to understand our salvation** – There is no salvation for fallen angels (**Hebrews 2:16**), the gospel is for the fallen human race. Yet, throughout the history of redemption, angels have been God’s messengers to His people. Man is of a higher created order, and we will one day assist in judging the angels (**1 Corinthians 6:2-3**).

*“(Suffering) strips us of our pride, self-sufficiency, complacency, and our oblivion to the things to come. Eternity is more deeply engraved on the rough palms of God’s suffering children.” Michael Horton, In The Face of God, p. 176.*