

# Our Glorious Hope in the Midst of Trials

I Peter 1:3-12

Introduction:

- In verses 3-12 Peter contrasts the wonderful glories of our salvation with the temporary trials we may face in this world
- I. **LIVING HOPE**- v. 3-5
  - a. V. 3- God's abundant mercy
    - i. V. 2 Grace (God doing for us what we do not deserve- unmerited), v. 3 abundant mercy (not giving us what we do deserve!)
    - ii. "No other attribute could have helped us had mercy been 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 fulfils it. It is from the mercy of our God that all our hopes begin." (Spurgeon)
    - iii. God's justice and wrath were satisfied at the cross, and made evident by the Resurrection
  - b. V. 4- Our inheritance
    - i. Only for those who've been born again
    - ii. Election is linked to the fact that Christians have been predestined to a glorious future
    - iii. It is indescribable so Peter just tells us what it is *not*
      1. Incorruptible- never corrode, crack, or decay
      2. undefiled- it remains in mint condition. Without tarnish or stain
      3. Fadeth not away- will never diminish in value, beauty or glory  
(diamonds are forever, but our inheritance in Heaven will outdo that!)
    - iv. We should warn sinners about the agonies of Hell, but also missing out on the glories of Heaven
    - v. Specially reserved- illustr- God's safety vault. There will be no probate courts in heaven!
  - c. V. 5 God's work of preservation

- i. Not only is the inheritance guarded and kept for the Christian, but the Christian is guarded and kept for it!
- ii. Jude 1, 24, 21- We are kept by the power of God. This enables us to endure through faith until the coming of Jesus. This does not mean lazy, sloppy living!
- iii. Saving faith is a continuous abiding relationship with God. We trust, while He keeps.

II. **TRIAL OF OUR FAITH-** v. 6-8

- a. When Christians grieve- v. 6
  - i. Our salvation gives us great cause to rejoice- yet the trials of life sometimes makes us heavy with sorrow
  - ii. Sometimes it is thought that a strong Christian will never be grieved in a trial. The idea is that a Christian should be like Superman; though bullets are shot at Superman, they all bounce off of his chest. Yet Peter here tells us that there is a “need be”
  - iii. I Peter 4:16 “Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.” Illustr- Joseph, Daniel in the Lion’s den, Paul and Silas in prison
  - iv. Grief should be temporary, even if the trial is not- “for a season”- I Peter 4:12.
- b. There are many different types of trials- financial, health, emotional, relational, etc.
- c. When Peter wrote his two epistles, Nero was the Roman emperor. Nero was the first emperor to openly persecute Christians.
- d. From The Church in History, by B.K. Kuiper: "In the year 64 A.D. during the reign of Nero, fire broke out in Rome. For six days and nights the fire burned. The greater part of the city was laid in ashes. The rumor got around that Nero himself had caused the city to be set on fire. This aroused great hatred in the people of Rome against the emperor. To turn this hatred away from himself, Nero accused the Christians of having set fire to Rome. The accusation certainly was not true, but large numbers of Christians were arrested and a terrible persecution followed. Many Christians were even crucified (Peter).
- e. The purpose of trials- v. 7
  - i. To produce genuine faith that results in praise, honor, and glory when Jesus comes (Judgment seat of Christ)

- ii. To produce patience/endurance- James 1:2-3
    - iii. V. 7- Much more precious than gold that perishes: If gold is fit to be tested and purified by fire, then how much more our faith, which is far more precious than gold? God has a great and important purpose in testing our faith.
  - f. V. 8- Seeing through eyes of faith
    - i. Most Christians in the early church had not seen Jesus. Nevertheless, they loved Him. Jesus was no less real because they had not seen Him.
    - ii. Great advice during a trial!
    - iii. Spurgeon said, "A little faith will bring your soul to heaven; a great faith will bring heaven to your soul."
    - iv. God can give joy unspeakable and full of glory!
    - v. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18)
- III. **THE END OF OUR SALVATION-** v. 9-12, Romans 13- nearer than when we first believed!
  - a. Glorification- v. 9 One day we will be saved from the very presence of sin, and our trials!
  - b. The great mystery of our salvation- v. 10-11
    - i. Prophesied of the grace that would come to you: The prophets of the Old Testament longed to see the grace of the New Covenant come. Prophesying by the Spirit of Christ, they knew something of His sufferings and glories, but did not fully understand
    - ii. It was a mystery- Eph. 3:4-6
  - c. V. 12- The angels interest in God's unfolding drama of redemption
    - i. Things which angels desire to look into: The unfolding of God's eternal plan is something that angels desire to look into. Angels observe our conduct (1 Corinthians 4:9)
    - ii. This concept seems grounded in Jesus' words in Luke 15:7, 10 where angels are said to rejoice over one repentant sinner.

Conclusion:

- The theme of the epistle is victory over suffering. The word "glory" or "glorify" is found 15 times in this epistle. (1:7, 8, 11, 21, 24; 2:12, 20; 4:11, 13, 14, 16; 5:1, 4, 10, 11).
- Take time to appreciate our salvation! Our salvation has three aspects -- past, present, and future, and all three are in view here in this epistle.

- Past -- "hath begotten us again unto a lively hope" (1:3)
- Present -- "kept by the power of God through faith" (1:5)
- Future -- "Receiving the end (outcome) of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (1:9)