

Peter And The Gospel #2

Introduction. We began examining the beautifully wide-ranging passage of 1 Peter 1:1-10 this morning. Included in this review were the points foreordination (v. 2), sanctification (v. 2), regeneration (v. 3), expectation (v. 4), and preservation (v. 4). The passage finishes with five more exceptional qualities.

I. Jubilation (v. 6)

- A. “Wherein” refers to anticipation of the future deliverance. As Christians long for their inheritance, they can “greatly rejoice,” which is an intense, expressive term that means to be supremely and abundantly happy — a happiness that is not tentative or based on circumstances or superficial feelings (cp. Matthew 5:12; Acts 2:26; 16:34).
- B. Rather than allow severe trials and persecutions to steal their joy and spoil their anticipation of future blessing in Heaven, genuine Christians with a biblical perspective know that such sufferings actually can add to their joy as they experience grace and anticipate the future (2 Corinthians 6:10; 8:2; 12:10; 1 Peter 4:12-13).

II. Temptation (v. 6)

- A. Trouble undeniably brings pain. The Christians in Asia were grieved and they struggled — words that indicate both physical pain and mental anguish (cp. Matthew 26:37; 1 Thessalonians 4:13).
- B. “Manifold” means “many colored” and is used to describe the diverse grace of God in 1 Peter 4:10. Just as trouble is diverse, God’s sufficient grace for Christians is equally diverse. There is no form of trouble that some facet of divine grace cannot supersede (2 Peter 2:9; Revelation 3:10). God’s grace is sufficient for every human trial.

III. Valuation (v. 7)

- A. The phrase in v. 7 does not mean that their faith was more precious than gold, but that the testing of it — the process of showing whether it was or was not genuine — was a much more important and valuable process than that of testing gold in the fire.
 - 1. In the ancient world gold was considered the most expensive and rarest of all metals. It was used in the worship of the gods, and was very prominent in the temple of Jerusalem, where the true God was worshipped.
 - 2. Emperors and heroes were known for their lavish use of gold. Under Augustus and Nero the price of the Roman gold coin, the aureus, was worth 45 denarii (a Roman soldier got 225 denarii a year and one denarius was considered to be a day’s wage).
- B. God put the faith of His people to the test in the Old Testament (Exodus 16:4; Deuteronomy 8:2). Suffering and trials can separate true faith from superficial profession. The apostles, after the Jewish leaders beat them for preaching Jesus, rejoiced because they were worthy to suffer for His name (Acts 5:41).

They had come a long way since the days when Jesus admonished them for their “little faith” (Matthew 8:26).

IV. *Salvation (v. 9)*

- A. “Receiving” or “obtaining” gives this verse the sense of a progressive obtaining of more and more of this goal or outcome to which their faith leads. Since each day brings Christians closer to that final day, they are now “receiving” it. All of this — in spite of persecution which deepens and demonstrates one’s faith — is certainly cause for inexpressible joy.
- B. ”Salvation” means “rescue” or “deliverance.” We are delivered from sin’s guilt (Romans 6:18; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:13-14), condemnation (Romans 8:1), wrath (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10), ignorance (Romans 10:2; Galatians 4:8), confusion (1 Corinthians 15:17), and dominion (Romans 6:10-12). The word denotes the full, final rescue from sin.

V. *Revelation (v. 10)*

- A. God’s promised salvation was the prophet’s greatest passion. From Moses to Malachi, all of the Old Testament prophets were fascinated by the promises of salvation.
- B. They knew that God’s promise of a salvation by the grace that would come extended far beyond Israel to include people from every nation on earth (Isaiah 45:22; 49:6; 52:10).
- C. If the greatness of the salvation yet to come was the intense, preoccupying study of all the prophets, then it ought to be just as precious, if not more so, to Christians today who have the full revelation (Romans 3:21-22; Hebrews 1:1-2).

Conclusion. In 1928, Alexander Fleming accidentally discovered penicillin, which marked the start of modern antibiotics. These substances revolutionized modern medicine, and have saved the lives of millions of people. The hard-working, selfless contributions of Alexander Fleming are nothing compared to the greatness of saving people’s eternal souls. That great salvation is the heart of the apostle Peter’s concern in this passage. If you are ready to obey the gospel, come to the sprinkled blood of Christ.