

I PETER 1:3-12
SECURITY IN CHRIST!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to I Peter chapter 1 as we continue our in-depth study through this letter that Peter wrote to those that had been dispersed for their faith to Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, different parts of the Roman Empire.

Remember what the focus of this letter is all about – ***WHERE THERE'S CHRIST, THERE'S HOPE!***

The focus of this letter is how we are to live out our faith, where our hope is found.

You see, there needs to be balance in our walk with the Lord. It is not just that we are saved, but how we are to live out our faith. You see, if we are not balanced, we are going to stumble in our walk.

This morning our focus is going to be our – ***SECURITY IN CHRIST!***

This is so important for us to understand and to have a balanced picture of what this is all about.

Some feel that yes, we are saved in Christ but then you have to maintain that salvation by the things that you do. If you do not live up to some standard, then you will not make it in. We don't know what that standard is, and the reality is, Adam and Eve just had one command, and they could not keep it! And what ends up happening with this kind of thinking is that you are mixing grace, saved by Christ, with the Law, you have these laws to keep if you want to make it in!

Now the other view is that we are saved in Christ by grace through faith alone and there is nothing that we can add to it. Which is true but some take it to an unbiblical conclusion. They believe once you are saved you can do whatever you want, sin all you want because it is all covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. We will make it no matter what we do, how much we sin!

Paul, in Romans 6:15-16 put it like this as he gives us a correct perspective. He wrote, **“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”**

You see, both those views are wrong, and we will see that this morning. Again, there is a balance we need to have here. Let's face it, we do sin as Christians, but it is not because we don't care. We do and we feel the conviction of God and we ask God to help us do better.

I don't believe someone who says that they came to Christ will boast in their sin. I don't think they were ever saved no matter what they may say!

Now, how can we have this security in Christ?

By knowing our God, what He has told us in His Word and Peter is going to expound on this for us.

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into the following main points. They are,

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE – I PETER 1:3-5

TRIALS FOR THE PRESENT – I PETER 1:6-9

PAST ANTICIPATION – I PETER 1:10-12

With that said, let's begin reading in I Peter chapter 1, beginning in verse 3 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic – ***SECURITY IN CHRIST!***

I PETER 1**VERSES 3-5**

As I have said, these verses focus on our – ***HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!***

What do I mean by that?

What I mean is that when we repent of our sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives, we are saved! Our future is secure in Christ.

In fact, Paul put it like this in Romans 8:30, **“Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”**

In these verses Paul is showing us that every person who is genuinely saved is eternally saved, they cannot lose their salvation. It is a free gift of God that He does not take back.

Yes, God has called us, He has justified us and one day we will be taken up into glory.

For most of us we see this as a future event, and it is.

The only problem with that kind of thinking is that Paul is speaking of this glorification in the past tense.

In fact, all of these points are spoken in the past tense!

You see, Paul is speaking of something that hasn't take place yet with such certainty because this is not based upon man's faithfulness to complete it but God's faithfulness!

God will complete the work He started because He foreknew us!

It is as Jesus said in John 6:37, **“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”**

And in John 18:9 we are told by Jesus, “... **‘Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.’**”

If you are His, He will not lose you – it is a promise – you are already seen as glorified in the Father’s eyes – that is how certain it is!

Can we be assured of eternal security?

I believe that is what Peter is saying here in the verses we are looking at.

Notice how Peter starts out here. He says, “**Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .**” I Peter 1:3.

As Peter thinks about what God has done for him, the salvation that He has brought into his life through Jesus Christ, Peter just had to praise the Lord!

It is the Lord who has given us life and it is as Hiebert tells us, “*This beautiful passage is the outpouring of an adoring heart. Only one who has devoutly contemplated the greatness of our salvation could utter such a magnificent paean [eulogy] of praise, one that prepares and encourages the suffering soul to steadfastly continue the spiritual battle.*”

Absolutely. God does not give us what we deserve – **DEATH!** He, by His grace gives us life.

Spurgeon put it like this to help give us the correct perspective. He wrote, “*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.*”

If our hope for the future rests in us, then there truly is no real hope there.

In the *Divine Comedy* by the Italian poet, Dante, he hung this foreboding inscription over death’s door. This is what it said, “*Abandon all hope, you who enter here!*”

For those who don't know Christ, death chokes out all hope. But for us, for believers, we can look death in the face and still maintain this **“living hope.”**

Again, Spurgeon expounds on this living hope as he wrote, *“It is also called a ‘living hope,’ because it is imperishable. Other hopes fade like withering flowers. The hopes of the rich, the boasts of the proud, all these will die out as a candle when it flickers in the socket. The hope of the greatest monarch has been crushed before our eyes; he set up the standard of victory too soon, and has seen it trailed in the mire. There is no unwaning hope beneath the changeful moon: the only imperishable hope is that which climbs above the stars, and fixes itself upon the throne of God and the person of Jesus Christ.”*

Amen to that!

And, as we will see here in these verses, Peter will speak about what God has done in our lives and is doing in our lives!

Before we come to the solution of this death issue, of this sin issue really, we must acknowledge that there is a problem for man that he cannot fix!

Jeremiah illustrates the problem for us as he tells us, **“Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.”**

Jeremiah 13:23.

Obviously, an Ethiopian can't change the color of his skin nor can a leopard change or remove his spots, it is part of their make-up. So how can we be good when we are already evil?

And for some, they may wonder, *“What does that have to do with me?”*

Simply, apart from Christ we are dead in sin and the flesh controls our lives.

Thus, we can't do anything good because it is not part of our nature apart from Christ.

God requires perfection because He is holy and cannot look upon sin favorably. You can't approach God in your sin.

Sin separates us from God as Isaiah tells us, **“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.”** Isaiah 59:1-3.

That is the problem. Our sin has separated us from God!

There is a solution to this problem, and it is not found in our ability to correct this problem of sin. It is found in Jesus Christ who paid the penalty for our sin, all of them!

Now here is the thing. Peter tells us that God has **“begotten”** us, or we are born again in Christ. That old man is now dead, and the spirit controls us. That flesh nature will be with us until we go to be with the Lord, but it does not have the power to control us unless we let it!

That is Paul's point in II Corinthians 5:17 where Paul said, **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”**

We are a new creation in Christ, not because we can change our ways, but God can, and He has!

But how does that tell me I am secure in Christ, that I can have a hope for the future with Him?

Many people struggle with this. There are those who respond to altar calls every week because they feel that they have blown it, and God is done with them, and they need to get saved all over again. We all blow it every day, that truly is the problem for us, this flesh that we have.

And what Peter is going to show us is that our security in our salvation is not based upon us, but it is based in God!

Now think about our earthly inheritance, is it safe, is it everlasting, will it not fade away?

Of course not, nothing of this world will last, it is always moving from order to disorder, from new to rotting and decaying, from yours to someone else's. You can't take it with you.

But look at our heavenly inheritance, it is "**incorruptible**" or it will not be destroyed, it will never be lost.

Our heavenly inheritance is "**undefiled**" or it is unstained or unpolluted.

And our heavenly inheritance will not "**fade away**" which speaks of a flower that does not wither and die.

The kingdom of this world, the things of this world, the things we tend to treasure and hold onto so tightly will all go away but what God has for us will not!

And as we have seen, Peter calls this our "**living hope.**"

Here's the thing. If you think you can lose your salvation, think again because Peter tells us it is reserved in heaven for us.

If God has a place reserved for us, do you think He will lose it or give it away to someone else?

Of course not because our salvation is based upon His finished work, His faithfulness and all we must do to receive that gift is to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!

Notice that Peter does not say that our salvation is secure "***As long as we hold on real tight to Jesus. If we don't, if we let go, if we lose our grip on Him before we die, we are going to lose our salvation!***"

If he did say that then there would not be much hope in this salvation because it would be based upon my finished work and not His finished work!

Maybe you are not convinced yet. Maybe you still think you can lose your salvation. But you can't and I will show you that we are not saved by our strength, but by His!

Look at I Peter 1:5 once again and as you do I want you to notice that Peter says that we **“are kept”** or *PHROUREO*, (froo-reh'-o) in the Greek, and it was a military term used to refer to a garrison within the city. (The same Greek word is used in Philippians 4:7)

Here is the point. If God is on guard over our salvation, do you really think the enemy is going to be able to take it away? Of course not.

Paul said in Philippians 1:6, **“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”**

Do you see that? He will complete the work He has started in our lives because we are kept by the power of God through faith! What peace that should bring to each of us!

Meyer sums it up like this, *“To have been told, as in the preceding verse, that our inheritance was reserved in heaven could have yielded us little comfort, unless that assurance had been followed and capped by this, that the heirs also are being kept for its full enjoyment.”*

Our hope is in the Lord. He has saved us. He will sustain us. And one day He will take us to glory! And as we read in Romans, our glorification is a done deal. Yes, we are not there yet, but God is doing this work, and it will be done!

And look at I Peter 1:9 as Peter tells us the result of the work that God has done in our lives. He wrote, **“receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.”**

Not that you might receive this, but you will because this is a work of God and not a work of man.

If this was based partly on God's work and partly on us, we would never make it. But we can have this – ***HOPE FOR THE FUTURE*** because it is the Lord who is doing this in our lives.

We have come to Him, repented of our sins and asked Him to be Lord and Savior of our lives and the moment we do we are ***JUSTIFIED!*** That is a one time event, the blood of Christ has taken away all our sins as we have come to Him.

At that moment the ***SANCTIFICATION*** process begins in our lives and God is doing the work in us and our response is to surrender to Him. We can fight against what He is doing, and we do from time to time, but the Holy Spirit is molding and shaping our lives, making us more like Jesus!

All our sins are forgiven and one day we will be taken home and spend eternity with the Lord!

As one writer put it,

This truth about the security of every believer's salvation has been boldly revealed by Jesus Himself: ***“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand”*** (John 10:28-29).

To believe that our salvation is eternally secure is to have confidence in God's preserving power, i.e., that He is able to fulfill His promise (Titus 1:2), to complete what He has begun (Philippians 1:6).

Salvation is made possible by God's grace through Christ's redeeming work and made secure by the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work in every believer.

We can fully trust our security in the Lord only after we know our identity in Christ Jesus. As we believe in Him, we become God's children and that means our heavenly Father takes total care and full responsibility for our lives as we surrender to Him.

Therefore, we can believe that He is able to provide all our needs, protect us from evil and calamity, and preserve our love relationship with Him and the eternal salvation He has promised. Putting our security in the Lord means resting in the power of His love.

- <https://bit.ly/3XckqtH>

Here's the thing regarding this issue that Christ did the work but now we must maintain this salvation. It is not going to happen because it is a work-based relationship.

Then why don't I just go out and sin all I want if all my sins are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ!

Because I love the Lord, and I don't want to do anything that would dishonor Him. You see, my relationship with Jesus is based in love and not the Law or maintaining a certain standard to continue to be saved.

My relationship with my wife is based on love and not on any laws. Because of that I try to do things that would bless my wife, not hurt her. Not because of some laws that I have to maintain to continue in this marriage relationship, but because of my deep love for her.

And the same should be true in our relationship with the Lord.

You see, the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary gives to us – ***HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!***

As we read on, we will be looking at – ***TRIALS FOR THE PRESENT!***

VERSES 6-9

Yes, we have – ***HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!*** But, what about now?

Now we have – ***TRIALS FOR THE PRESENT!***

Not something we like to talk about, but Peter wants his readers to understand that this is a present reality, not just for them, but for all Christians!

Notice how Peter opens this section up. He says, “**In this . . .**” I Peter 1:6.

When Peter says that he is not speaking of our salvation, but he is speaking of our inheritance in Christ!

We rejoice in all that God has given to us in Christ Jesus and yes, we are going to go through trials and difficult times, but compared to what we have in Christ, it is minor!

Remember what Paul said in Romans 8:18, “**For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**”

In other words, this is as bad as it will get for us. And when you understand this truth, when you have that perspective that for eternity you will be with the Lord and there will be no more sin, no more sickness, no more pain, for eternity! In other words, all that we go through now pales in comparison to what is coming!

And like with James, we see Peter speaking of joy and trials, various trials, all kinds of difficulties mixed together.

And when Peter says that these persecuted believers were greatly rejoicing, in the Greek it is ***AGALLIAO***, (ag-al-lee-ah’o) and it meant to jump for joy!

You have to be kidding me, they were jumping for joy in the midst of those trials they were facing, how can that be?

And folks, please understand that this persecution was intense.

How can that be when they seem to oppose each other, joy and trials?

Because of all that God has done for us, because our salvation is secure, because our inheritance is incorruptible, undefiled, it does not fade away and it is not only reserved for us in heaven, but our salvation is kept by the power of God.

You see, in that we rejoice in our incredible inheritance we have in Christ!

And our Lord, Jesus Christ is a constant in our lives and what He has promised us He is more than able to bring to pass. We don't have to wonder or worry; it is a done deal!

Make no mistake about it, Christian joy is independent of the circumstances we face because our joy is based in the Lord. And we saw that throughout Paul's letter to the church in Philippi!

But what about trials in our lives?

Remember what James told us, "**My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**" James 1:2-4.

As we saw in our study in James, God brings trials into our lives to test our faith, to see if our faith is real and to help us to grow as we look to Him to be the strength of our life.

Notice again what Peter is saying here about these trials that come upon us, "**... if need be**" or just when you need them, and only God knows, He will allow them in our lives!

And I guess it is not maybe, we do need them in our lives if we want to grow in the Lord, if we want our faith to mature in the Lord!

As I have just said, sometimes God determines that trials are necessary in a Christian's life.

Listen to what Warren Wiersbe wrote regarding this point. He wrote,

The phrase “if need be” indicates that there are special times when God knows that we need to go through trials. Sometimes trials discipline us when we have disobeyed God’s will (Ps. 119:67).

At other times, trials prepare us for spiritual growth, or even help to prevent us from sinning (2 Cor. 12:1–9).

We do not always know the need being met, but we can trust God to know and to do what is best.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p.

And when these trials come into our lives, these things that test our faith, we have to remember that not only is God aware of these things, but God is in total control of these things. Nothing happens that is out of His control.

Warren Wiersbe continues to say,

[When it comes to trials] . . . they do not last forever; they are “for a season.” When God permits His children to go through the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. If we rebel, He may have to reset the clock; but if we submit, He will not permit us to suffer one minute too long. The important thing is that we learn the lesson He wants to teach us and that we bring glory to Him alone.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p.

We also need to keep in mind that these difficult times that come upon our lives are only temporary and as we endure through them, as we grow, we will bring glory to God, and when we are called home to be with Him, God will receive the glory for the work He has done in us and through us.

Remember the Parable of the Talents and what the Lord said to His faithful servants, **“... ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”** Matthew 25:21.

We too will receive praise from the Lord and rewards for our faithful service to Him!

And here’s the thing. We all will experience trials in our lives to test our faith. As the fires are heated the garbage from our lives is purged as God is refining us, sanctifying us.

And we all know what Paul said in Romans 8:28, **“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”**

Notice, Paul didn’t say that we *SEE* the good in the various situations we face.

He also did not say that we *FEEL* the good that will come from these various situations we face.

But we *KNOW* that all this will somehow and someday work out for good.

How do we know?

Because we have God’s Word to us and God does not lie. We can trust His Word because it is truth!

Thus, we must walk by faith trusting in the Lord.

Job tells us in Job 23:10, **“But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.”**

Paul, in I Thessalonians 3:3 tells us, **“that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.”**

The thing we need to remember, and Peter reminds us, is that trials are necessary, they are needed in our lives, but for what?

Here are a few reasons that trials are necessary in our lives.

- ***TRIALS HUMBLE US***
- ***TRIALS KEEP OUR EYES FOCUSED UPWARD***
- ***TRIALS COME SO WE MAY HELP OTHERS WHO GO THROUGH SIMILAR SITUATIONS***
- ***TRIALS CAN BE A FORM OF CHASTENING BY GOD***
- ***TRIALS WILL STRENGTHEN OUR INNER MAN, BUILD UP OUR SPIRITUAL CHARACTER***

I think without trials our faith dies. It needs to be tested; it needs to be challenged for it to stay strong.

Let me give you this example to show you what I mean.

One of Australia’s greatest natural attractions is the Great Barrier Reef.

Colorful corals stretch hundreds of kilometers along [the] northern coastline.

At points you’ll notice that the coral close to the coastline is nowhere near as vibrant and colorful as the coral on the ocean side of the reef.

There’s a very simple reason for this.

The coral on the coastline side is in still water.

With no challenge for its survival, it dies early.

The coral on the ocean side is constantly being tested by wind, waves, storms - surges of power. It has to fight for survival every day of its life. As it is challenged and tested it changes and adapts. It grows healthy. It grows strong. And it reproduces.

That is how it is with people too.

Challenged and tested, we come alive. Like coral pounded by the sea, we grow.

- Source Unknown

Now God will use these storms of life, these trials in a variety of ways and we have talked a little about that already.

But I will give you three more things on how God will use storms or trials in our life to help you to grow as you seek His direction through them. They are as follows,

There are ***STORMS OF CORRECTION***. If we are going astray, down the wrong path, He will use a storm to get us back on track.

Then there are ***STORMS OF DIRECTION***. God will use these storms to direct us to where He wants us to go.

And then there are ***STORMS OF PERFECTION***. In these God will use them to mold and shape our lives, to help us to grow and mature in Him!

Some 17 years ago we saw this play out in this church.

We were told that we had to leave the building we were renting. Now we had to find a new building for the church and that is not easy. We had to wait some seven months for God to provide another place for us to meet in, another building.

You might say that was a – ***STORM OF DIRECTION!***

We looked at many buildings that might work out for us, but God closed the door on each one of them.

That was a – **STORM OF CORRECTION** for us. We were going the wrong way you might say, and God did not want us in those buildings.

Then we found this building and we purchased this building.

You might call that the – ***STORM OF PERFECTION!***

God is always working but are we getting in the way of what God is doing by complaining, becoming angry at the situation we find ourselves in.

If we want to grow, we must surrender and learn the lessons that God is teaching us.

You see, our lives are placed in the refining furnace to remove all the impurities, and as the fires heat up, all that garbage will rise to the top and if we allow God to, He will remove them from our lives with the end result being, **“receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls.”**

That is what God is doing, we will be raised in glory one day to be with Him, but until that time, He is working in our lives, refining us in the furnace of life’s situations.

It is like the example of the Acid Test.

What is this Acid Test? Listen carefully because we can apply it to our lives. We are told,

A severe trial is sometimes called an ***“acid test.”***

This term originated during times when gold was widely circulated. Nitric acid was applied to an object of gold to see if it was genuine or not.

If it was fake, the acid decomposed it; if it was genuine, the gold was unaffected.

In God’s view, our faith is ***“much more precious than gold”***, and it too must be tested (1 Pet. 1:7).

But these *“acid tests”* are positive ones.

The Lord is working to reveal genuine faith, not to expose false faith.

During hard times, though, we may feel overwhelmed with the fear that our faith is decomposing.

Ronald Dunn, a Bible teacher who has experienced much personal tragedy, knows what we are going through.

He writes, *“I’m often mystified. I don’t understand why it is that as I endeavor to live for God and pray and believe, everything seems to be falling apart. Sometimes I struggle, and I say, ‘Dear Lord, why are You allowing this to happen?’”*

Dunn concludes, *“It’s good for us to remember that God is not an arsonist; He’s a refiner.”*

- Our Daily Bread, January 28, 1997

We need to remember that! Remember in the darkness, what you learned in the light!

Here is a fascinating thing. Peter saw Christ before and after His resurrection but none of us have seen the risen Lord and yet, we love Him. How can that be?

Because we have read His love letter to us, the Word of God and have fallen in love with Him.

It is as John said in I John 4:19, **“We love Him because He first loved us.”**

And we now have seen the goodness of God in the past experiences we have faced and that gives to us the strength and assurance for our present situation – that God will see us through it and as He does, He will teach us lessons of faith.

It is as David said, “**Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!**” Psalm 34:8.

And Peter says that love, that knowledge of God and what He has done in our lives gives us joy that is inexpressible.

It doesn't get any better than that!

It is as Jesus said in John 15:11, “**These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.**”

God wants our joy to be full and that only comes as we spend time with Him, as we keep our eyes upon Him!

And notice the end result – *the salvation of our souls!*

Praise the Lord and a big *AMEN* to that!

One writer summed all this up for us as he wrote,

Our willingness as Christians to endure earthly affliction says a lot about our trust in God. He is fashioning us into praiseworthy and honorable vessels for his glory.

Malcolm Muggeridge, having come to Christ late in life, understood this well. His ability to embrace life's woes was never put more succinctly than when he wrote:

I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have ever learned in my seventy-five years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my existence, has been through affliction and not through happiness, whether pursued or attained. In other words, if it ever were to be possible to eliminate affliction from our earthly existence by means of some drug or other medical mumbo jumbo, as Aldous Huxley envisaged in Brave New World, the result would not be to make life delectable, but to make it too banal and trivial to be endurable. This, of course, is what the Cross signifies. And it is the Cross, more than anything else, that has called me inexorably [inevitably] to Christ.

It was this same belief – that God is at work in the muck of life – that enabled Dietrich Bonhoeffer to write the final stanza of his poem “New Year 1945.” That day was a mere three months and nine days before he was executed by Hitler at the close of World War II:

*Should it be ours to drink the cup of grieving
Even to the dregs of pain, at thy command,
We will not falter, thankfully receiving
All that is given by thy loving hand.*

The responses of Muggeridge and Bonhoeffer are only made possible by embracing Peter’s words as divine truth. For without a deep and abiding trust in God’s words, we will try to flee trials at all costs and will miss out on the very lessons God has for us.

- David R. Helm, I & 2 Peter and Jude – Sharing Christ’s Sufferings, pp. 42-43

How true that is. There are lessons in the trials we go through, the testing of our faith.

Or, as Paul put it in II Corinthians 4:16-18, **“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”**

May we not forget that!

I think we all understand this, that there are – ***TRIALS IN THE PRESENT!***

And they will continue on until we go to be with the Lord. And I think these trials are for the purpose of growing us up in the Lord, maturing us in the faith!

And I don't think we realize all that we have in the Lord, all that God has given to us. We have what others did not have except, what they were waiting for, and thus, their – ***PAST ANTICIPATION!***

VERSES 10-12

Keep in mind that grace and the coming Messiah was not a New Testament idea but was spoken of way back in Genesis 3:15 and onward, throughout the Old Testament.

In other words, what the Hebrew prophets said about Messiah, and what the ministers of the Gospel preach about Jesus, are in perfect harmony with one another.

There's no contradiction in the message.

The Gospel of grace is not a ***man-made*** invention - it's ***Spirit-sent!***

In Jeremiah 31:31-34 for example, we are told, **“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”**

You see, this is a New Covenant not based upon the faithfulness of man but God, not written on tablets of stone, but upon our hearts!

In Isaiah chapter 53 we are told starting in Isaiah 53:1, **“Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He**

was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked - But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.” Isaiah 53.

And there is much more we can look at, but, as we are told in Luke 24:24-25, what Jesus did after He rose from the grave and was speaking with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, **“Then He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?’ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”**

In other words, the Old Testament speaks of Jesus from Genesis through Malachi!

And we see that these prophets wrote about this coming Messiah and this New Covenant, but they didn't fully understand all that they wrote.

In Matthew 13:16-17 Jesus said, **“But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”**

And these prophets knew that they were ministering not only to their own people but future generations that would read these words.

And now we see what the prophets wrote of coming to pass, being fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the apostles shared these truths with the people as we do.

Not only were the prophets trying to understand all they wrote of but the angels in heaven looked at this wonderful grace that has been extended to us by God.

Why?

Paul, in Ephesians 3:10-11 tells us, **“to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

In this grace the goodness of God shines forth and I’m sure the angels are blown away by this gift that God extends to us!

Look at all that we have in Christ. And may that encourage you to be bold in your faith and share that gift of life that God has given to you in Christ! Eternal life with Him!

Let me share this with you and you will see a picture of this amazing salvation that we have in Christ,

The story began one summer’s day toward the end of the nineteenth century when an English city boy was on a visit to rural Scotland.

That afternoon the boy went swimming in a small countryside lake.

After swimming quite a distance from shore, a severe cramp seized him so he could not continue swimming. He was in great pain and soon cried out at the top of his voice for help.

A farm boy working in a nearby field heard the city boy's screams and ran as fast as he could to the lake.

There the farm boy threw off his shirt, dived into the water, swam to the imperiled city boy, and brought him safely to the shore.

Several years later the two boys met again. The city boy, still filled with gratitude that the other boy had saved his life, was thrilled to see the farm boy again and asked him what career the boy had decided to pursue.

The farm boy said he had chosen a career in medicine.

Since the city boy's parents were quite wealthy and were greatly indebted to the other boy for saving their son's life, upon hearing of the farm boy's career choice they immediately promised to pay for his medical education.

They followed through on their promise and the young man went on to have a brilliant career in scientific investigation.

In 1928 that farm boy, then both a physician and bacteriologist, discovered the famous wonder drug penicillin.

In 1945 he shared the Nobel prize with two other scientists for the discovery and development of that antibiotic.

That Scottish farm boy turned scientific researcher, who died in 1955, was Alexander Fleming.

The rescued city boy also gained great renown.

During World War II he contracted a life-threatening case of pneumonia. He recovered at a hospital after receiving penicillin, which meant that indirectly the one-time farm boy Alexander Fleming had saved his life twice.

The city boy's name was Winston Churchill, the famous wartime British prime minister and world statesman.

Interestingly, just like Fleming, Churchill won a Nobel prize.

But in this instance, he won the 1953 award in literature for his incisive writings on the history of the Second World War.

It is wonderful to save a life, and even more wonderful to save someone's life twice, especially when the one saved was such an influential person as Winston Churchill.

But the hard-working selfless contributions of Alexander Fleming are nothing compared to the greatness of saving people's eternal souls.

The great salvation is the heart of the apostle Peter's concern in this passage. He wanted his believing audience to focus on that full, final rescue from sin, Satan, death, and hell that God so graciously chose to give them through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Peter celebrates salvations' greatest by reminding his readers that no matter how difficult the circumstances or how severe the persecution, they can confidently hold to the hope of eternal salvation.

- John MacArthur

What a picture that paints for us!

Remember when the seventy returned from their mission trip and they were excited, they were pumped up at all that they saw God do.

They told Jesus that even the demons were subject to them!

They were excited to say the least and many times that is where we are at, and we miss the bigger picture.

Notice what Luke tells us in Luke 10:18-20, as Jesus said to these men, “**. . .I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.**”

Folks, may we rejoice that our names are written in heaven and God has a place reserved for us that no one can take away!

We have – ***HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!***

Why?

Because our salvation is secure in Christ, and no one can take that away. We are kept by the power of God and not by the power of our own strength or efforts or good works!

In knowing that, we also have to understand that we will face – ***TRIALS IN THE PRESENT!***

And we looked at how God uses these trials in our life to help us to grow.

But too often we take the gift that God has given to us for granted and we don't realize that there was a – ***PAST ANTICIPATION!***

In other words, these prophets and writers looked forward to the coming Messiah. They wrote about Him, but they did not fully understand it.

We do today because Christ has come, and the Holy Spirit has been given to us to teach us these things as He opens the Word of God up to our hearts and lives!

Never forget that we have – ***SECURITY IN CHRIST!***

And, as you have seen - ***WHERE THERE'S CHRIST, THERE'S HOPE!***