

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What is Salvation All About

I Peter 1:1-12

¹ What is salvation all about? When a Christian asks you if you have been saved or state that they are a saved person, what do they mean? This may have been a question the Apostle Peter was asked because the first twelve verses of his first letter give us a good explanation. These verses give us some of the implications about what salvation means. ²

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. ³

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until

the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁴

These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ⁵

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving

themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Now, let's look at some of the implications found in this passage. ⁶ The first two verses tell us that . . .

I. It's About Being Different from the World –

v1-2

. . . It's about being different from the world. ⁷ We, as Christians, are strangers in the world's ways. ¹ This world is Satan's territory. ⁸ John, Chapter 3, verse 19 says that those who are comfortable in this world are really in the darkness. ² If you feel uncomfortable in our society, it's because you are becoming different than it is! ⁹

¹ v1 - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia

² John 3:19 - This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Verse 11 in the next chapter says, **Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.** ³ ¹⁰

The Phillips paraphrase of Romans, Chapter 12, verse 2, nails this on the head, **Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold.** Our theme song as Christians is, "This world is not my home. I'm just a passing through" . . .

¹¹ Verse 2 tells us that, as chosen ones, we are set apart for a specific purpose. We are ones **who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood** . . . ¹²

Remember, verse 1 says that God elected you. ⁴ ¹³ The Calvinistic Doctrine of Election implies that God chose you as a manifestation of His sovereign will. ¹⁴

³ | Peter 2:11.

⁴ v1 - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

The Bible doctrine implies, however, that when you choose God, God chooses you! ¹⁵

When God chooses you, He sanctifies you. The Holy Spirit sets you apart and makes you holy. ¹⁶

The Lord's part in sanctifying you is to sprinkle you with His blood. Exodus, Chapter 24, verse 8, **Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."** ¹⁷

To the Jew, this meant cleansing. Lepers were officially cleansed this way. ⁵ ¹⁸

To the Jew, this also meant setting apart for service to God. Priests were set apart for temple service this way. ⁶ ¹⁹

Your part in the sanctifying process is obedience. Exodus, Chapter 24, verse 7, **Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They**

⁵ Leviticus 14:1-7.

⁶ Exodus 29:20-22.

responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

The next implication about what salvation is all about is found in verses 3 through 5. ²⁰

II. It's About Starting Over in Life – v3-5

It's about starting over in life. ²¹ Verses 3 and 4 talk about a new birth: a new relationship with God.

This new birth includes a resurrection into eternal life. Notice verse 3, **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . . . Since Lord Jesus did it, we now have this hope that He will do it for us!**

²²

The new birth also includes an inheritance of a home in heaven with God forever! Verse 4 continues, . . . and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you. ²³ Lord Jesus put it this way, **Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God;**

trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁷ God is keeping this inheritance for you in heaven! ²⁴

Now notice verse 5, . . . who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. Because of your faith, you are provided a powerful shield! ²⁵

A popular theological explanation of this is the Doctrine of Eternal Security. The basic supposition is that it is impossible to be lost once you have been saved. God's powerful shield keeps you from falling away. But this passage tells us that the shield is produced by your faith and faith can be changed! ²⁶ I see the biblical doctrine as this: absolutely nothing can take your salvation away from you as long as you remain faithful to Him! ²⁷

⁷ John 14:1-3.

The basic problem is this; is salvation a state, a process or a result? We get different theological doctrines depending on which of these conditions you accept. Actually I believe it is all three! ²⁸

It's a state. You are a saved person as soon as you are born again. ²⁹ It's also the process of being saved. Verse 9 tells us that your faith in Christ is the goal of your faith. ⁸ ³⁰ Verse 5 says that it's a result of your faith. Salvation is when Lord Jesus comes again, He will take you with Him to live forever. ⁹

Another implication about what salvation is all about is found in verses 6 through 9. ³¹

III. It's About Enduring the Trials in Life – v6-9

It's about enduring the trials in life. ³² Verse 6 says that one purpose for trials in life is to give us grief. ¹⁰ It seems logical that if God gave you an emotion, He

⁸ v9 - . . . for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

⁹ v5 - . . . until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

¹⁰ v6 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

would also give you the opportunity to experience it. Experience indicates that people who have suffered tend to have developed strong character as a result. ³³

Verse 7 tells us that another purpose is to prove your faith genuine. ¹¹ One of the aspects that make pure gold so valuable is that it is melted in fire. All the impurities are burned out of it. That's what trials do with your faith; they burn out impurities to build your Christian character.

That's what happened with Job. The trials he suffered resulted in his becoming a winner in life. The Bible says God provided for him materially, ¹² but these trials must have also affected his godly character. Certainly his faith, and that of his friends, blossomed.

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¹¹ v7 - These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

¹² Job 42:7-17.

Verse 7 also has another purpose for trials; to bring praise, honor and glory to the Lord Jesus. ¹³ At the Second Coming the Lord Jesus is going to be revealed. Apparently, the genuine faith of His children is what will praise, honor and glorify Him. ³⁵

In verse 8, the final purpose is to give you joy! ¹⁴ It is hard to put your trust in someone you have never met personally. So when you finally meet Jesus in person at His revealing party, the Second Coming, you will realize your trust in Him was not in vain. That's joy!

The final implication of what salvation is all about in this passage is in verses 10 through 12. ³⁶

¹³ v7 - These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

¹⁴ v8 - Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

IV. It's About Making Your Salvation a Priority in Your Life – v10-12

**It's about making your salvation a priority in your life!
Every relationship you have or have ever had has
been for this short life only. ³⁷ Your relationship with
Lord Jesus in heaven will be eternal! It will never end!
³⁸ The more important your salvation becomes to you,
the more money, time and effort you will joyfully give
back to Him in appreciation. ³⁹**

**Your relationship to God is extremely important to
others whom you might not be aware. ⁴⁰ It's important
to God. ¹⁵ He became a man and went to the cross to
establish that relationship. ⁴¹**

**It's important to the prophets of old. ¹⁶ They longed to
understand the meaning of what they prophesied. ⁴²**

¹⁵ v11 - . . . trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

¹⁶ v10 - Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care . . .

It's important to the heavenly hosts. ¹⁷ They rejoice when you repent and are born again. ¹⁸ ₄₃

What is salvation all about? It's about being different from the world. It's about starting over in life. It's about enduring the trials in life graciously. It's about making your salvation a priority in your life!

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¹⁷ v12 - It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

¹⁸ Luke 15:10 - In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."