

## 1 Peter Chapter 1C

When I was young, my parents packed the whole family including my grandparents into a station wagon and drove across the United States.

In 2 short weeks we traveled from Phila. to Las Vegas and back. My sister and I experienced a sweeping overview of the entire nation sitting backward on beach chairs in the back of a 63 Chevy station wagon with no air conditioning.

From the Appalachian Mountains through the great plains of the Midwest, to the Rockies, through the Arizona desert all the way to the Sierra Nevada Mountains,

- Along the way we visited Pikes Peak, Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, and I absolutely loved it.
- As a young man, I gained a deep appreciation for the tremendous beauty and diversity of our great nation in those two short weeks.

Well, we have been studying this Epistle of Peter for 2 short weeks and together we have experienced a broad and sweeping overview of the Saving work of God from eternity past through eternity future.

- From the Sovereign election of the Father that took place before the foundation of the world to the grand inheritance that is being kept in heaven for that Final Day. We have observed God's plan of salvation from conception to final consummation.
- In the very first verse, we encountered the Electing grace of God the Father. Then in verse two, we saw the Sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit
- In verse two Peter told us that the Salvation of God's people was secured by the Son of God through the shedding of His blood.

Vs 3 we began to worship God for His great salvation **“Blessed be the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ according to His great mercy, He caused us to be Born Again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”**

Along the way we learned that same grace which brought about our New Birth has secured for us an eternal inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading kept, and secured for us in heaven for the final day.

Having completed this sweeping overview of our great salvation, having pondered our future inheritance we now turn to look at some of the present day benefits of God's redeeming grace in the lives of those who believe.

This morning we are going to look at three wonderful benefits of our salvation as described by the Apostle Peter

1. Persistent Joy in Our Salvation
2. Precious Love for Our Savior.
3. Privileged Revelation by the Spirit
1. Persistent Joy in Our Savior

Reflecting back on the context of verses 1- 5, but more especially on the great hope of our eternal inheritance Peter draws our attention to the abundance of joy that belongs to each and every one of us who is redeemed. He says:

1 Peter 1:6 **In this you rejoice,** KJV - **Wherein ye greatly rejoice,**

- **“In This”** In this great salvation, more especially in that imperishable inheritance that God Himself is guarding for you in heaven, in this YOU REJOICE!
- Of course, Peter is referring to the joy of our salvation and He describes that joy with a very expressive term. The wording suggests a supreme happiness or abundant joy, that ecstatic delight which is the possession of every true believer.
- Moving on we learn that this great joy is not diminished by the trials and hardships.
- Peter tells us that this persistent, God given joy supersedes even the most difficult of circumstances that come into our lives.
  - In light of the glorious revelation of Jesus Christ, and the hope of eternal life we see the sufferings of this present life in a totally different light.

Through the eyes of faith, enlightened by the Word of God we now see our trials from God’s perspective and that sets us free from hopelessness, it delivers us from self-pity. When we truly believe that:

- God actively works, **all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**
- When we understand that **the testing of our faith produces steadfastness** and **steadfastness produces spiritual maturity**, we are able to count it all joy!
- When we are convinced that nothing in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.
- Then we can live with an abiding measure of joy regardless of the difficulties that come into our lives. Listen again to the words of Peter.

1 Peter 1: 6 **In this** (This great Salvation) **you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,** 7 **so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

Peter’s words help us hold fast to the joy of the Lord whenever trials come into our lives. Let’s take a deeper look:

1. The words, **“For a little while”** tell us that, by their very nature, trials are transitory, temporary, in KJV language: **“They come to pass.”**

Pastor Jon Courson (Pastor’s Conference) teaching from the book of Genesis Ch. 22 gave a sermon entitled, *“It Came To Pass.”*

- He spoke of the testing of Abraham, when the Patriarch was commanded by God to take his son Isaac up on Mt Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering. (impossible command if it were not for Abraham's confidence in the covenant keeping God)
- In that sermon Jon told the story of an automobile accident he was in at the age of 28. Thankfully he survived but his wife and two children died. With many tears He spoke of the comforting arms of the Lord that sustained him through his great loss. Years later, he could say of that tragedy, **"It came to pass."**
- His point was that every trial that we face in this life, regardless of the loss, despite the pain, trials are only temporary. You See: Trials come to pass, BUT Christ comes to stay.

The Apostle Paul understood the transitory nature of the trials that He faced.

2 Corinthians 4: 17 **For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.**

- If you are like me you can become consumed with the things that are transient and neglect the things that are eternal. Too frequently we obsess over our trial and we become depressed, overwhelmed, at times even paralyzed.
- We would do well to remember the words of the Psalmist:

Psalm 121:1 (KJV) **I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.**

Even when our trials come as discipline bringing God's faithful correction to our lives, they only stay for a season. David understood this and he wrote:

Psalm 30: 4 **Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. 5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

- So you see trials and tribulation are only temporary, but Salvation is eternal.

Peter uses the words **"If necessary"** to teach us that the trials we face are not the result of fate or the impersonal forces of nature. As difficult, as it may be for us to comprehend the trials that come into our lives always come through the sovereign hand of our loving Father with an explicit purpose in mind.

- Let me give you an example:

God purposefully led the children of Israel (*Cloud by day, Fire by night*) into some very hard places, some very difficult circumstances where they were tested.

- He desired to transform them from a rag tag group of run-away slaves into a unified people who wholeheartedly trusted Him to meet all of their needs.

Deuteronomy 8: 3 He (God) humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

- God specifically led them into places where they were hungry and thirsty so that they would know that only HE could meet their deepest needs and satisfy the desires of their hearts.
- The whole of Scripture affirms the fact that trials are the crucible in which our faith is refined. Like the refining fires that purify precious metals God uses the fiery trials that we face to transform believers into His image.
- Listen: Scripture also affirms that the people of God possess a joy that is not diminished by their suffering. Consider the Apostles:

Early on, they were arrested by the Temple guards, cast into prison and they were beaten for proclaiming the Gospel in Jerusalem.

Acts 5: 40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

- It was said of the Lord Jesus, “*for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,*” As it was with the Master so it is with his followers.
- It is the Joy of our Salvation that gives us endurance. Remember Hebrews??

Hebrews 10: 32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated.

34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

- When God opens your eyes to see the wonder of His Great Salvation; when you catch a glimpse of the eternal inheritance he has stored up for you in that city four square, with walls of Jasper and streets of Gold; That place where God will wipe away every tear, The Joy of the Lord enables you to endure sufferings.
- When you realize that 70, 80 or 90 years of suffering is nothing compared to eternal ages of blissful joy and peace in the presence of God Himself.

Now that we have seen the persistent joy that God has provided in Our Salvation, let’s move on to examine the Precious Love for Our Savior that has captivated our hearts.

## 2 The Precious Love of our Savior

When we arrive at Vs 8, Peter considers something that must have been very strange to him. These believers who were disbursed through the persecution that arose had never laid eyes on the Lord Jesus and yet they loved him with all of their hearts.

1 Peter 1: 8 **Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,**  
9 **obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

- Of course, Peter walked with Jesus for 3 ½ years. He was an eyewitness to every miracle, he saw Lazarus come out of the tomb, He ate the loaves and fishes by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Jesus transformed before his very eyes as his eternal glory was revealed.
- It makes perfect sense that Peter would love the Lord BUT these people had never seen Jesus, none of them witnessed even a single miracle, and yet Peter commends them for the LOVE that they have for Christ.
- This was NOT “Love at First Sight,” this was love apart from sight.

Remember “You’ve Got Mail” our introduction to internet dating? Since then thousands of couples have fallen in love before they met one another face to face.

- But Peter is not speaking of romantic love, the word that he uses is (AGAPATE) which is a love of the will. It is the most noble form of love that words could possibly express.
- And Peter uses the Present tense to show the continual, abiding love of these believers for the Lord. They Loved Him even when that Love caused them great suffering.
- This is similar to what the Lord Jesus said to Thomas, there in the Upper Room.

John 20:29 **Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."**

- The revelation of Jesus Christ that comes through the proclamation of the Gospel provides both the kindling and the fuel for the fires of love that bring great joy to the people of God.
- And the More we come to know Christ through the preaching of His Word the more our love and joy increase and grows in strength.

Peter’s main point in this text is clear, believers who suffer are not destroyed, they are not dashed to the ground by their troubles; instead, they love the Lord Jesus and they rejoice in him even though they have never seen him. And their lives are characterized by a hope that fills them with love and joy as they await the final installment of their salvation at the coming of the Lord.

King David understood this Psalm 32:10 **Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD. 11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

Although none of us has seen the Lord face to face, the Holy Spirit has endowed us with an ever-growing love for Christ that is fueled by the Gospel and fanned into flame by the Eternal Word of God.

- Now, as we bring today's teaching to a close we will contemplate the privilege of divine revelation once given by God to His servants the Prophets, now actively at work in the preaching of the Gospel.

### 3 Privileged Revelation by the Spirit

The "Link" connecting verse 9 with verse 10 is the term "Salvation."

Peter tells us that our salvation was revealed by God at first to the O.T. Prophets.

- SO you could rightly say that believers in Christ, today are a living fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy. Listen again to the words of Peter:

1 Peter 1: 10 **Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.**

- The Spirit of Christ, himself revealed this great salvation, and the many benefits that we enjoy to the Prophets thousands of years ago.
- BUT they only saw through a glass dimly. Writing long before the Advent of Christ these Prophets did not fully comprehend the things of which they wrote.
- SO they searched diligently, studied carefully not only their own writings but the writings of other prophets in hopes of understanding when these things would come to pass.

IN Daniel 9:2, we see that Daniel received insight and was motivated to pray for the people of Israel after reading the prophecies of Jeremiah.

Then at the end of his book, Daniel expressed a desire for more insight, He asked the Lord to give him understand into the things that were revealed to him.

Daniel 12: 8 **I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"**

- But God didn't tell him, he gently and graciously told him to close up the book

Daniel 12: 9 **He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.**

- The privileged revelation that Daniel received was NOT for HIMSELF, it was for the benefit of a future generation. Listen to the words of Peter:

1 Peter 1: 12 **It was revealed to them (That is the Prophets) that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.**

- In essence Peter is saying that the Old Testament prophecies NOT only ALLPY to us but they were actually INTENDED for us.
- More than 300 O.T. prophecies foretelling the coming Messiah AFIRM for us that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Genesis 3:15, He would be born of the seed of a Woman

Genesis 12:3, The Promised descendant of Abraham.

Genesis 49:10, He would descend from the tribe of Judah in Israel.

Isaiah 9:7, He is the King who would come from David's family.

Micah 5:2, Born in Bethlehem of Judea

Isaiah 7:14, Born of a virgin.

Hosea 11:1, Fled to Egypt

Isaiah 53:3, Was rejected by the Jews.

Psalms 41:9, Betrayed by a friend.

Zechariah 11:12, Sold for 30 pieces of Silver.

Isaiah 50:6, Beaten and Spit upon.

Isaiah 53:4-5, Suffered in our place.

Psalms 22:6-8, Hands and feet were pierced.

Isaiah 53:9, Buried with the rich

Psalms 16:10, Rose from the dead.

Psalms 68:18, Ascended into heaven.

The Same Spirit that provided a veiled revelation to the Prophets has NOW, through the preaching of the Gospel removed the veil and brought truth to light through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1 **Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.**

**3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

Tie up the points THE BENEFITS of our Salvation:

- Through our great salvation we have received a Persistent and enduring Joy
  - By faith in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit we will overcome every obstacle along the way as we travel this pilgrim's path.
- He has blessed us with a Sincere and Precious Love for Our Savior.

- Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- We have received a Privileged Revelation by the Spirit

Eph 1:18 God has gloriously opened the eyes of our hearts that WE might know the hope to which he has called US, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

- WE Bless the Lord for opening our blind eyes to see His majestic love in the person of Jesus Christ.