

## “An Unshakable Foundation to a Godly Life”

**Text: 1 Peter 1:9-13** “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

**Purpose:** The purpose of this section was to awaken a sense of awe in God’s redemptive work so that they would be properly strengthened in the midst of the various struggles they were facing for their faith in Christ.

**Proposition:** God wants me to glory in His work of redemption.

**Interrogative:** How can we do that?

**Truth 1: Instruction:** We need to reflect on the individual building blocks that make up an unshakeable foundation to a godly life!

- **Building Block 1: God loves me and has personally worked in my life to bring me to repentance, faith, and salvation: 1:2** “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied...”
- **Building block 2: I am spiritually alive now in Christ thanks to regeneration and the resurrection: 1:3** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...”
- **Building Block 3: I have a secured future in Christ, that does not have the corruptions that I face on this side of eternity: 1:4** “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you...”
- **Building Block 4: There is nothing that I can do or that can be done to me that can cause me to lose my position in Christ: 1:5** “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time...”
- **Building Block 5: The trials that I face in this world are temporary and serve redemptive purposes: 1:6** “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations...”
- **Building Block 6: God observes me as I go through trails of my faith, and He will appropriately reward me for my faithfulness to Him: 1:7** “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ...”

**Truth 2: Worship:** We need to allow the wonder of the gospel to awaken a sense of awe in our hearts: The blessings that we enjoy in Christ far surpass the blessings that Old Testament saints enjoyed prior to Christ’s redemptive work!

- **Peter understood salvation both before the cross and after the cross:**

- **His faith before the cross looked forward to the future work of Christ.**
- **His faith developed with incomplete information as the events surrounding the work of Christ were unfolding before his eyes.**
- **Now as he writes this epistle, his faith looks back at both his understanding before the cross, during the passion of Christ, and now at his current position.**
- **He is convinced that his current position is far better, and he wants these Christians to glory in the gospel like he is glorying in the gospel.**
- **Peter explained that the prophets of the Old Testament were so interested in the coming of the Messiah, that they inquired and searched diligently about the details of the gospel**
  - **Inquired:** scrutinized and investigated
  - **Searched diligently:** There was a persistence

**The disciples after the passion and resurrection: Luke 24:26-31** “Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself...And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him...”

**The African diplomat in Jerusalem: Act 8:29-35** “The Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.”

**Jewish Christians resistant to Gentile assimilation into the local church: Colossians 1:25-27** “I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory...”

- **He explained that their persistent study was not to discover truths that they would enjoy, themselves, but truths that would be enjoyed by this generation.**
  - **The grace that should come upon you:** While people living up to the time of the cross could be saved, and would be saved by faith in the Messiah, their understanding of the gospel was partial and incomplete. We are able to understand these truths on a level that they could not understand.
  - **They searched out the timing of these events:**

**Daniel 9:24-26** “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two

weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself...”

- **They searched the complete gospel:**
  - **Sufferings of Christ:** The cross provides a full redemption.
  - **Glory that should follow:** His triumph over death secures new life in Christ.
- **He explains that their ministry as prophets, writing the scriptures, was primarily for our benefits, not for their own benefits: 1:12** “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down...”
- **He explained that the angels continually long to see the things that are now clearly understood by God’s people: 1:12** “Which things the angels desire to look into...”

**Truth 3: Reformation:** We need to identify, root out, and replace wrong thinking about ourselves and the gospel, so that we are properly positioned to worship Him: **1:13** “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ...”

- **Wherefore gird up the loins:** Prepare yourself for the battle.
- **Of your mind:** Realize that preparation is primarily in the mind.
  - **Sound Mind: 2 Timothy 1:7** “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind...”
  - **Settled Mind: Philippians 4:7** “The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus...”
  - **Renewed Mind: Romans 12:2** “Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

**The first piece of equipment mentioned in Ephesians 6, is not a weapon, yet it is critical to success in the battle:**

**Ephesians 6:14** “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...”

This action is important because, it will keep us from self-inflicted vulnerability to the enemy. It also frees us up to defend ourselves and go on the offensive in battle.

#### **Satan attacks us by...**

- Feeding us with lies.
- Influencing our circumstances to disrupt our thinking.
- Distracting us with worldly pursuits.
- Planting seeds of doubt in our minds.

#### **God’s truth...**

- Keeps us focused on what is real.
- Exposes lies for what they actually are.
- Goes on the offensive to confront lies.
- Reminds us of the character of God, the nature of the Christian life, and the blessings we have in Christ.

**Conclusion:** God wants me to glory in His work of redemption. May we allow ourselves to be instructed by God's word where we will be pressed into worship, and reformed through His sanctifying work in our hearts!