



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 1 - Day 3

Approaching God

Read Back through 1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Yesterday Peter reminded us that God is worthy of praise because he has granted us a new birth into a living hope through Jesus' resurrection. This new birth results in an imperishable inheritance that is now being kept in heaven for you his child, whom God is guarding by his power, through your faith, until salvation is revealed at the last time. These verses contain wonderful promises which we may cling to during difficult times, and they contain amazing truths about our God that should move us to worship! Start today by worshipping God for your complete salvation in Him.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - 1 Peter 1:8-12

Passage Introduction: *Sufferings now, glories to follow. Peter wants to encourage Christians to face the first by looking for the second. He has pointed out our hope to the glory of Christ, and to his return. Now he would have us remember that the Christ of glory is the Christ of the cross. The sequence of our lives follows the sequence of Christ's life. He suffered first, then entered into his glory. So must we. Jesus understood the order well. It was the pattern predicted for the Messiah in the Old Testament.*

Textual note: verses 10-12 should be understood in connection with verse 9 because the first three Greek words in verse 10 mean literally "concerning which salvation." This is the salvation mentioned in verse 9, which Peter sees as a "progressive obtaining" through faith by believers of more and more of the full benefits of their salvation.

1 Peter 1:8-12 - 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. **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. **12** It was revealed to them 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.

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted?

Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in “Resources for Further Study” at the end of today’s study to answer these questions.

- What are 2 or 3 things you can observe or learn about God from this passage? (The Father, Son or Holy Spirit?)

- What are 2 or 3 things you can learn about you, God’s creation, people, or humanity from this passage?

- How does understanding that we live in a privileged time, when God has revealed his Messiah, encourage you in your daily life?

- How does this section of Scripture encourage you to worship and praise God the Spirit for all he has done for God’s people?

- How might you read the Old Testament differently in light of verses 10-12?

Close in Prayer:

“We would take afresh the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. We would pay our vows now in the midst of all the Lord’s people and in the courts of his house; and this is a part payment of our vow that we bless the Lord Jesus who has put away our sin. We bless him that he has redeemed us unto himself not with corruptible things as silver and gold, but with his own precious blood; and we do avow ourselves today to be the Lord’s.”

Charles Spurgeon

Resources for Further Study

1 Peter chapter 1 notes

Commentary & Notes on 1 Peter 1:10-12

A Privileged Time - If you had a time machine and could go anywhere in the bible where would you go? Would you want to know what it was like to live under Moses' leadership, when God visibly led Israel day and night? Or maybe you'd like to be in King David's court. Or to walk with Jesus and hear him preach the Sermon on the Mount. But for all the wishful thinking, Peter reminds us that the time we live in now is privileged over every one of those times.

Ours is a privileged time because we live in a time of fulfillment. Certainly, we may live in difficult days to be a Christian, when the church seems irrelevant and God may appear silent or distant. During such times we may wish to live in the time when God spoke out loud to his prophets... but that is not how the prophets saw it! The Old Testament prophets "prophesied about the grace that was to be yours" (v 10). The prophets lived during a time before the Messiah was revealed, pointing forwards to him and what he would achieve—Peter's readers now live in a time when those promises of the coming Messiah are fulfilled. The prophets actually longed for the time of the Christians in first-century Asia Minor—and for the time of Christians in the 21st century. They "searched and inquired carefully" (v 10) concerning the time and circumstances of the Messiah's coming (v 11).

The sufferings of the Messiah are progressively revealed in the Old Testament. Perhaps the clearest revelation is found in Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12. There, Isaiah foretold the Messiah's rejection, oppression, judgment, afflictions, eventual death, and subsequent vindication (what Peter calls his "glories" in 1 Peter 1:11). On the basis of the suffering Messiah's work, God promised to restore his people on the basis of a new covenant (Isaiah 54 – 55). This promised restoration would not only be for Israel; it would also include people from all nations (Isaiah 56). This is the salvation that had been prophesied by the prophets; the salvation into which they had made careful inquiry; the salvation which Peter's readers now enjoyed, having been set apart by the Spirit.

The Spirit Who Testifies - By saying that "the Spirit of Christ in [the Old Testament prophets]" revealed to them the future suffering and glories of the Christ (1 Peter 1:11), Peter tells us that the Holy Spirit inspired the prophets to predict the Messiah's coming salvation and set the elect exiles apart for conversion (1:1-2). In the Old Testament, the Spirit is usually known as "the Spirit of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:2; Ezekiel 11:5), "the Spirit of God" (1 Samuel 11:6; 2 Chronicles 15:1), "your/my Spirit" (Isaiah 30:1; 44:3; 59:21; Ezekiel 36:27), "the Spirit" (Isaiah 32:15; Ezekiel 3:12, 14), or the "Holy Spirit" (Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 63:10). Here, Peter deliberately chooses to call him the "Spirit of Christ."

The point is this: the prophets weren't just writing down their "best guesses" or "astrological calculations" regarding the timing of the Messiah's arrival, or the nature of his life and work. They weren't writing their version of Old Moore's Almanack or The Farmer's Almanac. Peter knew that "no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). Under the inspiration of the "Spirit of Christ," the prophets' words were authoritative and true. And because the Spirit who revealed to the prophets the future suffering and glories of Christ is the same Spirit who revealed to the New Testament apostles that Jesus fulfilled those predictions, both the Old and New Testaments are Christian Scripture. Both have the same author (the Spirit of Christ). Both tell the same story, revealed progressively through the Scriptures and revealed sufficiently in the Scriptures: the eternal plan of God to restore his people to his kingdom through an anointed king from David's line.

And the same Spirit who inspired the Scriptures has also caused the Scriptures to be "announced to [us] through those who preached the good news to [us] by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven" (1 Peter 1:12). The Spirit works through "those who [preach] the good news" to set apart men and women to trust the gospel. This too points to the nature of the privileged time in which we live. In the Old Testament, the Spirit primarily indwelled prophets, priests and kings. Since Pentecost, however, all new covenant believers are indwelled and filled with the Spirit (Acts 2:14-21). The Spirit of Christ empowered Jesus' subjects to be witnesses, beginning in Jerusalem and continuing up till now, until the gospel reaches the ends of the earth

(Acts 1:8). The Christians in Asia Minor were beneficiaries of this witness—they had heard the good news that had been revealed to the prophets by the same Spirit. Later, Peter would call on them to declare this same gospel (1 Peter 2:9; 3:15), and they could rest assured that the Spirit of Christ would work in them and through them to empower their gospel proclamation. After all, they had already experienced the power of the preached word in their own new birth (1:22-25).

In spite of their present suffering, Peter's readers live in a privileged time—a time when the Messiah has come, and when the Spirit is no longer pointing forward to his coming through the words of the prophets, but proclaiming his coming through the words of all believers. It was a time not only of fulfillment—it was also a time of salvation. We, too, live in that time. Whoever you are, and whatever your life is like, if you trust Christ, then Isaiah would have gladly time-traveled to your day!

Experiencing a Privileged Salvation - Not only do we live in a privileged time; we also experience a privileged salvation. So even in comparison to angels, we are privileged. We may think it would be amazing to be an angel—to live in the throne-room of heaven, to be sent on God's errands, to see and to know all that they do. The angels observed the unfolding of God's plan throughout history to save humanity through Jesus. They were there when God revealed his plan to the prophets. And they were there when the Father sent the Son to earth and revealed his saving plan for humanity through him. The angels understand enough about salvation to rejoice in heaven when one sinner on earth repents (Luke 15:10).

But the angels will never experience God's salvation. Fallen angels are kept in bondage until judgment (1 Peter 3:19-20; Jude 1:6); there is no salvation for them. The writer to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus took on flesh and blood in order to save humanity: "for surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham" (Hebrews 2:16). So, angels can only "long to look" at God's salvation of undeserving humanity (1 Peter 1:12). They do not know what it is like to experience the relief, the joy, the liberation and the wonder of being a saved sinner. You do. What a privileged position to be in! What inexpressible joy! Let us take comfort in knowing that no matter what we may lose in this life and however we may suffer because of our faith in Christ, we are more privileged than either prophets or angels.