

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

### **Salvation Joy 1 Peter 1:6-9 Part Three**

Jesus called His disciples the light of the world. As light we should stand out from the rest of humanity. We should be seen as distinct from those who do not know Jesus. How can this distinction be made?

Certainly one of the ways Christians can be distinguished from the world is by their practices such as reading the Bible, praying, going to church and even sharing their faith and certainly hopefully all these things are true of your lives. But if this is all that distinguishes are lives from the lives of those who do not know Christ then we have not packed our faith in a way that will be attractive to our neighbors, our friends, our families, or fellow workers.

Those who do not know Christ do not become attracted to Christ because we are reading the Bible, or praying, or going to church, or even sharing our faith. They are certainly more attracted to Christ through the way we live.

If we are going to stand out from the world let it be by the fruit of the Spirit which is described for us in **Gal. 5** such as love, joy, and peace.

Let us consider the experience of joy. Whereas the world has a joy that is very fragile based on their circumstances by an large. Our joy hopefully would be based on an abiding faith which allows us to remain joyful in the midst of persecution.

The theme of the First Peter is “The proper response of Christians to suffering.” As we have developed this book we have seen “thanksgiving being expressed to our heavenly father for our salvation” in VV. 3-5. We are now considering 5 different aspects as joy related to our salvation that hopefully would be our constant abiding experience that will set us apart from the world especially in the midst of trial. Salvation and joyful celebration go together. **WHAT ARE THE ASPECTS THAT WE HAVE ALREADY LOOKED AT?**

1) JOY COMES FROM THE CERTAINTY OF SALVATION..... READ 1:6

2) JOY COMES FROM A PROVEN FAITH

3) JOY COMES FROM A PROMISED FUTURE HONOR .....  
FUTURE HONOR

This proven faith will result in future blessing. Look at **V. 7** again, **“that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** A proven faith is valuable because it will in fact result in something truly wonderful. And what is that? Praise , Glory, and Honor.

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But praise, glory, and honor for who? ..... For the Lord? Or for those whose faith has been proven? Look at **1 Peter 5:4** “**And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**” In this particular passage elders are being addressed. And what are they told they will receive for faithful service at the revelation of Jesus Christ?, “**the unfading crown of glory.**” We have seen that a proven faith will result in praise, glory, and honor. We have asked ourselves the question, “Praise, glory, and honor for who?” For the Lord? Or for those whose faith has been proven? From the context of the epistle it would seem reasonable to conclude that it is for those whose faith has been proven.

We may say, “But this is not right.” It is not us who should receive praise and glory and honor from the Lord rather it should be us who is giving praise and honor and glory to the Lord. But we need to understand that, “in honoring He is honored, in glorifying He is glorified, and in praising He is praised.”

There is a hymn entitled “Wonderful Grace of Jesus” and the words go like this, “Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin; How shall my tongue describe it, Where shall its praise begin? Taking away my burden, Setting my spirit free, For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, Deeper than the mighty rolling sea; Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, All sufficient grace for even me; Broader than the scope of my transgressions, greater far than all my sin and shame; O magnify the precious name of Jesus, Praise His name.” As the Lord pours out His grace upon His children invariably it results in praise being lifted up to Him. This has been a part of my experience, and it is also what we find that the Word of God teaches.

In **Eph. 1:5-6** it says, “**(5) He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, (6) to the praise of the glory of His grace.**” Notice the phrase “**to the praise of the glory of His grace.**” It is the scriptural expectation that has the glory of the Lord’s grace is manifested toward us, that praise on our part is the natural byproduct. When those who have had their faith proven receive AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE LORD’S GRACE praise, glory, and honor, heaven is going to be filled with what? .....PRAISE TO THE LORD!!!!

When is this going to take place? Let us again look at the verse. It says, “**that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**”

There are three different terms used in the N.T. in relation to the second advent of Christ: PAROUSIA, APOKALUPSIS, AND EPIPHANEIA. The term translated “revelation” in this verse is the word APOKALUPSIS which literally means “uncover or unveil.” All three terms are used in a general and not a technical sense and are descriptive of both the rapture and the glorious return of Christ to the earth. In order to determine how they are being used in a particular passage you have to look at the context. We are presently in what we call the church age. It is the present hope of the church that Christ will soon return to catch us up into the air. This is referred to in **1 Thess. 4:13-18**. Following this event we believe that a period of tribulation will take place upon the earth.

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After this period of tribulation is completed the Lord will again return but this time He will descend to the earth with His church and establish the millennial kingdom. All three terms can be interchangeably used for either of these two events. The rapture has particular interest to the church, and the return of Christ to the earth following the tribulation has particular interest to tribulational saints.

To which event does APOKALUPSIS (“revelation”) refer to in this context? This epistle is addressed to the church therefore we would have to conclude that the revelation of Jesus Christ is referring to the event of the rapture. Those who have had their faith proven and whose faith has been found genuine will receive praise, and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ or AT THE RAPTURE.

How are we to understand the terms praise, glory, and honor? There may be some overlap in the terms but I will attempt to distinguish these terms in a very broad sense.

1) PRAISE: In what sense will we receive praise from the Lord? ..... “praise” denotes the “recognition or approval” that Christians will receive from the Judge. It is the reward of public commendation.

Will this commendation be audible? The chances of it being audible are in fact very good. After Jesus was baptized **Matt 3:17** tells us that Jesus was publicly commended with these words, **“This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”** This is not the last time that Jesus was publicly commended in this way. In **Matt. 17:5** after His transfiguration again we hear the voice of His father saying, **“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased, listen to Him.”**

If the Lord chooses to commend us publicly in this way at the revelation of Jesus Christ there might be the words that we will hear. According to the parable that is found in **Matt. 25:14-30** we hopefully will hear the commendation **“Well done, thou good and faithful slave.”**

This will be an outstanding day for the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we graduate from the school of hard knocks of planet earth having our faith tested and yet found true the Lord is going to move to the lectern during the commencement exercises and He is going to address us very likely with words that are very similar to the words that we found in **Mt. 25, “Well done, thou good and faithful servants.”**

What else will we receive?

2) GLORY: It is the manifestation of all that we have and are in Christ. At this point in time we appear rather ordinary. We have bodies of flesh and blood. Our eyes at times our blood shot, our hair may be graying or even thinning, our speech rather common, our thoughts at times may even be confused. But the fact of the matter we are extremely special people.

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Look at **Romans 8:18-21** “**For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.** (What is this glory that is to be revealed to us?) **(19) For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God** (The glory that is to be revealed to us is the revealing of the sons of God. Who are the sons of God? WE ARE). **(20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.** (The glory of the children of God is the revealing of God’s children as sons. No longer will we be ordinary but rather glorious. Fashioned in the very likeness of our resurrected and living Lord. If there is any doubt of this fact let us ....)

Look at **1 John 3:2** “**Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.**” The day we see our Lord and are raptured into His presence is the day that we will be transformed into the Lord’s likeness. **THE DAY WHEN WE ENTER INTO OUR GLORY. THE GLORY OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD.**

At my father’s in laws funeral a men’s quartet sang the song, “Oh, that will be glory for me.” The words to the second verse are these, “When by the gift of His infinite grace, I am accorded in heaven a place, just to be thee and to look on His face will through the ages be glory for me. O that will be glory for me glory for me, glory for me ; when by His grace I shall look on His face, that will be glory , be glory for me..... Hopefully whenever you here the words of that song you will understand more clearly what they mean.

Not only will we receive praise (audible public commendation), and glory (the manifestation of our true essence as the children of God but we will also receive.....)

3) HONOR: Certainly honor communicates value and the value that the Lord will place on those who faith has been proven will be communicated by an audible public commendation, and also by the manifestation of the glory of the sons of God but in addition to this there will be the bestowal of additional honor through the giving of rewards.

**Rev. 22:12** “**Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with me, to render to every man according to what he has done.**” (1 Cor. 3:2 John 3:8).

### CONCLUSION

Salvation and joyful celebration go together.

1. Joy comes from the certainty of salvation (1:6)
2. Joy comes from a proven faith (1:7)

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### 3. Joy comes from a promised honor (1:7)

There is a day coming when He pours out upon our lives praise, glory and honor. This outpouring of grace upon His church will erupt into a celebration of praise that has been unparalleled in the history of the church. The heavens will be FILLED WITH A JOYFUL CELEBRATION.