

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

The Greatness of Our Salvation 1 Peter 1:10-12 Part Two

Our salvation is described in the New Testament as a treasure and yet Christians so often times come to the point in their lives where they begin to take it for granted.

If we as believers begin to lose sight of the preciousness of our salvation. We will be vulnerable to the same volatile roller coaster ride of emotions that the world is subjected to as they pass their various circumstances. For us as believers, if we understand the preciousness of our salvation, and do not take it for granted it is quite possible for us in all the circumstance of life to not only find comfort with our soul.

It is a wonderful thing for us as believers no matter what we pass through to know that it is well with our souls and to appreciate the infinite value of such a realization.

In First Peter the apostle is attempting to help the Christians he is writing to know how they can righteously and victoriously respond to persecution. At the heart of that response is an appreciation of the gospel. In **1 Peter 1:10-12** the apostle is attempting to stimulate that appreciation by helping them to see how their salvation is viewed through the eyes of others.

He started by letting them see how their salvation in Christ was valued by the Old Testament prophets. This value was communicated by their careful search and inquiry of Prophecy. Let us read **1 Peter 1:10-12.** “**As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, (11) seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.**”

This morning we are going on to the next two groups. Again hopefully as we have the opportunity to view our salvation through the eyes of others we hopefully will be moved in our spirit to give the value to our salvation that it rightfully deserves.

THE APOSTLES

The greatness of our salvation was further magnified to the recipients of this letter by the response of the apostles to the unfolding fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy. The apostles in the midst of the unfolding fulfillment of messianic prophesy preached the gospel. And did so, as the readers of this epistle knew, in the midst of great persecution. Look at **V. 12** “**... in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.**”

Let us first of all look at the phrase “**in these things.**” The “**these things**” refers back to **verse 11** to the “**sufferings of Christ**” and the “**glories to follow.**” The “**these things**” in other words refers to Messianic Old Testament prophesy. It refers to the things that the Old Testament prophets had predicted would happen sometime in the future regarding the coming Messiah.

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Messianic prophecy having once been proclaimed by the Old Testament prophets was once again being proclaimed. But not as something that was eagerly anticipated but rather as fulfilled. Who was doing this? The verse tells us that this was being done **“through those who preached the gospel to you.”** Those who had preached the gospel to them were the apostles. Not necessarily just those who had been sent out and commissioned by Christ but also those who had been sent out and commissioned by the churches.

The verse goes on to say that these apostles announced the good news “by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.” Their preaching was “by” or “in” a power beyond themselves. The Holy Spirit used them as His agents and empowered their preaching. The Spirit who used the Old Testament prophets to predict Messiahs coming also used the New Testament preacher to proclaim the fact of His coming. The same Spirit prompted and authenticated the message of both.

These individuals being knowledgeable of Old Testament prophecies were able to see very clearly their fulfillment in Christ. Those fulfillments appear to have given to the apostles greater confidence in their proclamation of the gospel. It reminds me of Peter's words in **2 Peter 2:19** which says, **“And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.”** Imagine how you might have felt as you watched the prophecies concerning the Messiah being fulfilled in front of your own eyes. Wouldn't that have fired you up. Wouldn't you have found yourself being convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the gospel you had embraced was in fact more sure? The prophetic word made more sure was impossible for the apostles to contain. They found themselves being propelled to share the gospel. The gospel for them became a message that people needed to pay attention to as a lamp shining in a dark place.

We see this very dynamic of the gospel being shared in conjunction with fulfilled Old Testament prophecy in Peter's very first sermon on the Day of Pentecost. **Acts 2:22-33** **“Men of Israel listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know---- (23) this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. (24) And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. (25) For David says of Him, ‘I was always beholding the Lord in my presence; For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. (26) Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover my flesh also will abide in hope; (27) Because the wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, nor allow they holy One to undergo decay. (28) Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou wilt make me full of gladness with thy presence.’ (29) Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (3) And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to Him with an oath to seat one of His descendants upon His throne, (31) he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. (32) This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. (33) Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.” These individuals had the privilege of being on the front lines of fulfilled prophecy were excited about the salvation that they had received when they had placed their faith in the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

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How important was this gospel which was confirmed by the prophetic word, to them? Consider the experience of the Apostle Paul as described in **2 Cor. 11:23-28** “**Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonment's, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. (24) Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. (25) Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. (26) I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; (27) I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. (28) Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.**” The gospel was of such value to the apostles that they were willing to suffer greatly in order to proclaim throughout the world including in the area of Asia Minor where these believers Peter was writing were living.

The Old Testament prophets demonstrated the value that they placed on the salvation that would be brought to us through the Lord Jesus Christ by making careful search. The Apostles demonstrated the value that they placed on the salvation that would be brought to us through the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ even in the midst of extreme persecution.

THE ANGELS

These are not the only two groups that Peter mentions. Look again at **V. 12** “**It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven ---things into which the angels long to look.”**

Those great and glorious realities concerning the Messiah that fascinated the prophets and engaged the energies of the messengers of the gospel also are the objects of intense angelic interest..... Some of us might think it would be neat to be an angel. It might be that you have wondered what it would be like to one of them. But have you ever taken time to consider how the angels feel about us? Those who have been born again by a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. What are some of the questions that they may be asking? I wonder what it is like to be saved? I wonder what it is like to be the recipients of grace and to be forgiven? What would it be like to be adopted as sons and have a special place in heaven prepared just for you?

The word “long” (EPITHUMOUSIN) denotes strong interest or craving. This is the same word that is translated lust in the New Testament. The present tense portrays a present, continued inner yearning to comprehend. The term does not imply that the desire cannot or should not be fulfilled, but it does mark an enduring angelic effort to comprehend more of the mystery of human salvation.

“to look into” (PARAKUPSAI) portrays the manifest interest of those angelic beings. The verb literally means to bend over or forward to examine more closely. In **Luke 24:12** and **John 20:4-11**, it is used of the bodily posture of individuals at the open tomb of Jesus. In **James 1:25**, it is used metaphorically of a man stopping over to look intently into the law of liberty.

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The angels in 1 Peter are pictured as watching the unfolding of the drama of human redemption to understand it more fully. Peter seems to imply that angels stand outside the redemptive realm and cannot understand it in terms of their own experience. Clearly that value it but are unable to personally experience it.

CONCLUSION

We need to appreciate the salvation that we have received in Christ. A salvation that has been the prophets had made careful search of, the apostles proclaimed, and the angels long to look into.

Are we prepared this morning to not take this salvation for granted but place the value upon it that it deserves? If we place on our salvation the value that it truly deserves there will never be a time even in the midst of the most difficult of circumstances that we will not be able to pause and find possession of that salvation a source of comfort and even a source of joy.

May this be our testimony to the world!!! MAY THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION STAND OUT TO THE WORLD AS A POWERFUL TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE VALIDITY OF OUR FAITH.