

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

The Greatness of Our Salvation

1 Peter 1:10-12

Part Three

There are two groups of people in this world. There are those who “walk by sight” and those who “walk by faith.” Those who walk by sight find that their lives are molded and shaped by what they can see. Those who walk by faith find that their lives are molded and shaped by what they believe.

One of the greatest benefits of receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and becoming a Christian is the fact that we are no longer forced to walk by sight and to be at the mercy of circumstances in order to find personal happiness. We enter into a whole new realm where by faith we are able to not only find peace in the midst of painful circumstances but even joy.

We have been studying the epistle of First Peter. In this letter Peter is writing a group of Christians who are undergoing severe persecution. Does he find them despairing without any sense of hope or self assurance? No, quite the opposite is true. Because of their faith in Christ and their hope of one day passing from the pain of this life into the glorious presence of Christ Peter finds this group of believers rejoicing. Consider **1 Peter 1:8** “**And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.**” This kind of experience is impossible for those who walk by sight, but it can be the norm for those who have placed their faith and trust in Christ and therefore have the future expectation of entering into a state of eternal blessedness through Him.

But in order for us to be able to find peace and even joy in the midst of trials, while we contemplate our salvation we must have come to place where we have an appreciation of that salvation. We must have come to the place that we value it. We must have come to the place where we treasure it. Our salvation must have come to the point in our lives where it captivates us. Unfortunately sometimes this is not always true for Christians.

Rather than thinking upon the fact that God so loved us that he sent His son to die for us, we think about how in the world will we be able to get a boyfriend. Rather than thinking upon the fact that Christ in dying upon the cross and took our judgment and guilt upon himself thus freeing us from the certain torment of hell we think about how in the world will we be able to go on a vacation this year. Rather than thinking about the fact that we have through our union with Christ become a child of God and joint heir with Christ with the certain hope of heaven we think about why doesn't our spouse show us more affection. **It is very difficult at times for our faith to supersede our sight.**

This is why Peter in **VV. 10-12** attempts to raise our consciousness of the preciousness of our salvation by looking at our salvation through the eyes of others. Sometimes it is necessary for us to look through the eyes of others in order to see the value of something which we may have over time begun to take for granted.

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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.**” The old testament prophets were being moved by the Lord to write concerning the coming Messiah. They wrote about his life of suffering and his violent death. They wrote about his resurrection and the kingdom that would follow. They wrote about the blessings that would come to those that would come under the effect of His rule. It was a salvation that they themselves longed to experience. So they made careful search and inquiry. What were they seeking? They were seeking to know “**what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating**” or as the NIV translation reads “**the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing.....**” They wanted to experience what they were prophesying about but it was not for them it was for who? For us!!! “**It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you.**” LET US NOT TAKE BLESSINGS OF OUR SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GRANTED.

He then went on to speak about the “apostles.” Look us look again at **V. 12** and continue to read “**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.**” Who were those that preached the gospel to the early church they were the apostles. Messengers sent out by Christ and the churches to take the gospel to the uttermost. These apostles valued the gospel so highly that they were willing to suffer in order that this gospel might be proclaimed. To them it was a treasure that needed to be shared with those who were needy. To those such as those who were reading this epistle. The Spirit who used the Old Testament prophets to predict sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow also used the New Testament preacher to proclaim the fact of His coming. The same Spirit prompted and authenticated the message of both.

The apostles, being knowledgeable of Old Testament prophecies concerning the suffering and the glories of the Messiah, 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 ----**

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(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 thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, nor allow thy 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. (30) 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.

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 imprisonments, 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 this glorious message.

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.”**

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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 be one of them.

What would it have been like from the beginning of time to be able to dwell in the presence of God a part of the heavenly host?

What would it have been like to be sent out by God like Gabriel to make divine pronouncements both of blessing and of judgment.

What would it have been like to be sent out to carry out those missions which had been pronounced? Manifesting supernatural power both in the establishment and the tearing down of kingdoms?

These are awesome thoughts, 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 metaphorically of a man stopping over to look intently into the law of liberty. 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 they 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 deserved. If we place on our salvation that value that it truly deserve 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.

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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.