

# Studies in I Peter (12)

## The Joy of Salvation

### Introduction

- A. In our study of Vs 3-5 we considered the apostle's description of salvation. We were reminded of our past (begotten), our future (inheritance), and our present (kept).
- B. We must always keep in mind the occasion of this epistle -- the suffering of the Christians in Asia Minor. The non-Christians among whom they lived had turned against them. Many of these believers would lose their jobs, their friends, and their opportunity to go to school. And many of them would lose their life.

### **I. The Grace of God in the Believer's Salvation, I Peter 1:3-2:10.**

- A. The description of salvation, Vs 3-5. (Lesson #11)
- B. The joy of salvation, Vs 6-9.

- 1. The reality of the believer's joy and trials, V6.

*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.*

Comment: Peter here points out the two dominant experiences these believers were going through: rejoicing and heaviness. They lived in the area of one of the first missionary fields of the early church. They had known revival as shown by Pliny's letter to Trajan. Although rejoicing because they were believers, they were also in "heaviness" because of the trials.

The words "if need be" are used by Peter to suggest that there may be a divine purpose in these trials. Perhaps they needed to be strengthened or given an occasion to learn the meaning of faith. We can always be sure that our trials will be used by God for our good and His glory if we let Him do His work.

- 2. The explanation of the believer's joy and trials, V7.

*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 honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.*

Comment: Every trial is a test of faith in that faith is the essential element involved in all facets of the Christian life. In such trials our response to God is either that of trust or doubt. We are here taught the great value of true faith -- the decision to accept and practice the Word of God in trust.

It is very important to understand that the word "trial" in this verse is not the same as in V6. Here the word means "to test so as to approve." Our faith, like the testing of gold" is shown to be genuine by what we do in the trial. And we must see that our faith is not only very valuable now but will bring praise to the Lord Jesus in eternity.

3. The response of the believer in joy and trials, V8.

*Whom having not seen, ye love, in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.*

Comment: How could these believers express such love, faith, and joy in their trials? It is because in the new birth we are given the ability to do the will of God -- and this verse is a fine sample of how to live the Christian life.

We have not "seen" the Lord Jesus -- but we know Him as Lord and Savior, and love Him even in times of trial. When our love is united with faith (yet believing), the result is a joy that cannot be described (unspeakable) and which brings glory to God.

It is important to understand the principle in this verse. When we learn to love the Lord Jesus, to believe Him in spite of trials, then we will know the experience of an unspeakable joy.

When we allow our life to be weakened by resentment, grudges, jealousy, criticism, or indifference -- then the Christian life is hardly worth living.

4. The evidence in the believer's joy and trials, V9.

*Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*

Comment: Peter reminds his readers that their love and trust in the Lord Jesus is an evidence that they are genuine believers. The grace of God in their life -- seen under the pressure of trials -- points back to their regeneration and forward to their meeting with the Savior.

The word "salvation" in this verse speaks of the grace and power that is manifested in the life of the person who believes in the Lord Jesus and has learned to walk in fellowship with Him. The emphasis is on the beneficial experiences of salvation. How dismal the Christian life is when we do not know such love, and faith, and joy.

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