

Studies in I Peter (13)

The Greatness of Salvation

Introduction

- A. The very foundation of life, for everyone, is rooted in the character of God. For the believer there is no greater source of comfort.
 - B. Peter, to encourage the believers in trial, reminds them of this truth by pointing out how God revealed Himself in redemption and salvation.
- 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. (Lesson #12)
 - C. The greatness of salvation, Vs 10-12.

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you. Searching, what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, which things the angels desire to look into.

1. Greatness revealed -- in prophetic prediction.

Almost from the days of the Garden of Eden the Holy Spirit has led some to speak of God's provision for salvation and to predict the birth, life, death, resurrection, and rule of the Redeemer - Jesus Christ.

Illustration: The Prophet Isaiah (720 B.C.)

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:6

2. Greatness revealed -- in apostolic explanation.

When the Savior came the prophetic period ended and the apostolic period began. The Lord Jesus chose certain men to be with Him and to represent Him. We read their declarations in the New Testament.

Illustration: The Apostle Paul (50 A.D.)

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures. I Corinthians 15:3,4

3. Greatness revealed -- in Holy Spirit enablement.

The Holy Spirit used prophets and apostles to reveal the truth and authenticated them by giving them unusual gifts. He also opened the hearts of those who heard so they could understand.

Illustration: the warning to the Hebrews.

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him. God also bearing them witness, both with signs, wonders, and different miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will? Hebrews 2:3,4

4. Greatness revealed -- In angelic inquiry.

Angels do not know all things and learn by observation. They seek to know the meaning of Scripture and the believer's salvation.

Illustration: Paul's comment regarding angels.

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God. Ephesians 3:10

5. Greatness revealed -- in the description of salvation.

a. The character of salvation -- "salvation."

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus (Savior), for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

Salvation is a deliverance from the penalty (past), the power (now), and the presence (future), of sin.

b. The explanation of salvation -- "grace."

For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8.

Grace is the divine gift of unmerited favor.

c. The basis of salvation -- "sufferings of Christ."

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. I Peter 3:18

Jesus Christ died as our substitute. He suffered in our place.

d. The result of salvation -- "the glory that should follow."

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. I Peter 1:8

"Glory" is God's character, will, and power seen in the believer.