

Studies in I Peter (23)

The Responsibility of Salvation

Introduction

- A. The Christian is a divine show-and-tell. The only reason we are believers is because of the amazing grace of God. It is that grace that Peter is describing in this section of his Epistle.
- B. Because he wrote to believers undergoing persecution and therefore serious trials -- Peter emphasized the practical benefits of daily obedience. He has shown us that we should obey God for the following reasons:
 - 1. Because of divine revelation, V16A.
 - 2. Because of the content of revelation, V16B.
 - 3. Because of personal accountability, V17.
 - 4. Because of redemption, Vs 18-20.
- C. In this sermon we look at the fifth reason why we should obey God -- namely because of personal salvation.

Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory, that your faith and hope might be in God. V21

I. The Divine Agency in Salvation: "Who by him do believe in God"

- A. Salvation is a gift because of the depravity and enslavement of unbelievers.
 - 1. We once belonged to Satan as a child belongs to the father, John 8:44.
 - 2. We once intuitively rejected all truth regarding spirituality, Rom. 1:18.
 - 3. We once were blinded to every facet of the gospel, II Cor. 4:4.
 - 4. We once were "darkened" and "blind" in regard to God and truth, Eph.4:18.
- B. Salvation is a gift because it cannot be earned by good works.
 - 1. As fallen we have no ability to do good works, Romans 3:10-12,23.
 - 2. As fallen we have no desire to do good works -- for God, Romans 3:18.
 - 3. As fallen our defilement corrupts and taints all we do, Isaiah 64:6.
- C. Salvation is a gift given by God to His elect.

- 1. The believer is one given by the Father to the Lord Jesus.

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37

- 2. The believer is one to whom the Lord Jesus has given spiritual life.

And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. John 10:28

- 3. The believer is one to whom the power of redemption has been given.

Redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ ... foreordained before the foundation of the world, but manifest in these last times for you, who by him do believe in God. I Peter 1:18-21

II. The Manifestation / Evidence of Salvation: "Who by him do believe in God."

- A. Believing is an indication of a relationship with God.

It is interesting to see that "Believer" is one of the titles given to the Christian in the Bible. While designating what the Christian does, or his basic characteristic, in particular the title indicates that the Christian is one who belongs to God. Note II Corinthians 6:15; I Timothy 4:10,12

- B. Believing is a personal and living trust in God -- as a person.

When the sinner comes to an awareness of his sinfulness and danger of eternal judgment -- he is also very aware of the presence of God. In the miracle of the new birth he surrenders to God and cries out to Him in faith. In that act his basic characteristic is born -- he is a believer.

- C. Believing is rooted in knowledge and expressed in decision and action.

Faith is never separated from truth. To believe is to make a decision, based on truth, with the determination to bring life into harmony with that truth -- by trusting in God. While the non-Christian can "turn over a new leaf" -- only the true believer can respond to important spiritual truths and do so by faith.

III. The Historical Provision for Salvation: "... that raised him up from the dead"

- A. Believing is based in the Resurrection -- as divine provision.

Blessed be the God and Father ... which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I Peter 1:4

- B. Believing is based in the Resurrection -- as Biblical content.

That if you shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Romans 10:9

- C. Believing is based in the Resurrection -- as personal identification.

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life . . . Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:4,11

IV. The Transforming Goal in Salvation: "That your faith and hope might be in God."

- A. The believer trusts God -- not himself, family, friends, or "luck."
B. The believer trusts God in the light of His promises -- not human resources.
C. The believer trusts God in the light of His commands -- not human directives.

Comment: It is overwhelming to realize that God has brought us into a living relationship with Himself. We are now involved in His eternal plan. He has our best in mind. He invites our trust. Peter warns us not to disobey Him.