

Studies in I Peter (29)

The Privilege of Salvation -- The Believer is a Part of God's Plan

Introduction

- A. In this section of his Book, Peter emphasizes the meaning and content of the grace of God. He describes salvation from many viewpoints.
- B. In the passage before us the benefits of salvation -- certain privileges are presented. In 2:5 it is the privilege of being a member of the Church. And in our text (2:6) it is the privilege of being involved in God's great plan of the ages.
- C. Because Peter's readers were going through persecution -- his emphasis would bring spiritual strength, stability, thanksgiving, and purpose of life to them. We need the same benefits today.
- D. The text --

Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious, and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded (ashamed). I Peter 2:6

I. The Old Testament Authentication: Wherefore ... Scripture

Peter quotes Isaiah 28:16 to remind his readers, and us, that the foundation of Christianity, the content of the Bible, and the provision of divine grace -- are not only rooted in God's eternal plan -- but also in history.

- A. God has a plan and He is working it out in history.
- B. The authority for what we believe is not grounded in human laws -- but in divine revelation -- the Scripture.
- C. Peter's reference to Scripture is a good example to us. We must pattern our belief and practice in the Bible.

II. The Explanation of God's Sovereign Work: Behold, I lay in Sion

The word "Behold" is stated to call our attention to the greatness of this work. God declares (Isaiah 28:16) what He will do in sending the Lord Jesus into the world as Redeemer.

The word "Sion" specifies the area of Jerusalem and the people who lived there. The emphasis is again on history. The Lord describes Himself as being active in the affairs of mankind.

- A. We must "behold" the work of God for only here do we have the source and content of truth. To live disregarding the Word of God is to be a fool.
- B. The initiative of God is a great comfort to the believer. All through the Bible we see Him at work -- creation, revelation, redemption, salvation, and we look forward to the time when He will come for us.

III. The Description of the Lord Jesus:

A. The Lord Jesus is called -- "a chief corner stone"

The corner stone, in the day the New Testament was written, was that which determined the angles and lines of both the foundation as well as the superstructure of the building.

The Savior is given this title to remind us of His centrality in all the work of God.

1. He is the truth (John 14:6) and every angel and person will be made to bow before Him. Believers will be given reward or loss -- and made to enter Heaven. Unbelievers will be judged and confined to Hell to suffer eternally. John 5:27-29; Philippians 2:10,11; Revelations 20:11-15
2. The standard for all belief and practice is found only in the Lord Jesus. What comfort comes to the believer to know forgiveness and acceptance by the One to Whom all authority has been given.

B. The Lord Jesus is called -- "elect"

The word means "chosen." The thought before us reaches back into the eternal decrees of the Father. In human language we can say -- the Lord Jesus volunteered to come and die in our place and the Father responded by choosing Him to be the Redeemer.

Wrapped in this word is the fullness of divine love and grace. When all of us could justly be confined to Hell forever -- a plan was made that involved a suffering beyond our comprehension -- so we could be redeemed. No wonder Peter stated "Neither is there salvation in any other" (Acts 4:12).

C. The Lord Jesus is called -- "precious"

This word means "valuable" or "important." The emphasis is upon the value of the Lord Jesus as the "elect corner-stone."

1. What great value to know that Jesus Christ is the revelation of truth. We have in Him the basis for faith and action. We never go wrong in choosing to practice the Scripture.
2. What great value to know that Jesus Christ is our Redeemer. Through believing in Him there is unlimited power for cleansing, forgiveness, peace, support, wisdom, acceptance, and purpose in daily life.

IV. The Promise to all Believers: He ... shall not be confounded"

The word "confounded" can be translated as "not being ashamed." Peter here states the great truth that there is nothing in the Savior, His Word, or His will -- that will cause a Christian to be ashamed.

Whatever we may have in our past or our daily life of weakness and shame is not due to the Savior -- but to ourselves. When we obey Him, as He has spoken to us in the Bible, and live for Him -- we will find answers to the puzzles of life. The Lord Jesus will never make us ashamed.