

Studies in I Peter (3)

Peter-- The Making of a Man of God

Introduction

- A. We have considered how closely Peter's salvation and call are related to our salvation and call. All of us share the same foundational truths.
- B. As we study Peter's life we see the development of God's will in both Peter's understanding and practice. He was led, step by step, into a deeper life of fellowship, faith, and fruitfulness.

III. Peter's Confession of the Deity of Jesus Christ.

Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? . . . And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock (testimony) I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Matthew 16:13-18

1. Background: Near the end of His ministry, the Lord Jesus took the disciples to a fourth retirement. For months they had observed His miracles, heard His teaching, and experienced His power in both life and service. Only now were they ready for an important step forward.
2. The preliminary question: "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" The disciples answered - John the Baptist (resurrected), Elijah, or Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. The answer indicated the respect of many -- but not the truth.
3. The personal question: "But whom say ye that I am?" The Lord Jesus is asking each of the disciples for their confession. When Peter took the lead and answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" he was speaking for each of them.
4. The interpretation: "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." The Savior reminds them that they were the objects of God's sovereign grace. The clear-cut evidence of such grace was their belief-confession. Our belief and confession today is the evidence that we have been chosen by God and through the new birth now belong to Him.
5. The explanation: When Peter confessed that the Lord Jesus was the Christ, he affirmed that He was the One God had promised, throughout the Old Testament, to send into the world as the Redeemer. John also made the same confession in his Gospel.

But these (the seven miracles) are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name. John 20:31

6. The instruction: As the promised Messiah (the Christ) the Lord Jesus was and is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament promises. In particular He was and is the consummation of the prophetic, priestly, and kingly movements.
- a. Jesus Christ is our Prophet.
- 1) The promise -- *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee (Moses), and will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.* Deut. 18:18
 - 2) The fulfillment -- *For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you . . . Unto you first, God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.* Acts 3:22,26
 - 3) The application -- One of the greatest evidences of the Fall is our ignorance. Our sinfulness has resulted in deception -- we do not know we are lost -- we do not know the meaning of sin -- and we do not know God. The Lord Jesus has come as our Prophet to bring divine revelation to us. Have we heard Him?
- b. Jesus Christ is our Priest.
- 1) The promise -- *The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.* Psalms 110:4
 - 2) The fulfillment -- *For those priests were made without an oath, but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent. Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better covenant.* Hebrews 7:21,22
 - 3) The application -- The wages of our sin is spiritual and physical death. The Lord Jesus came as our priest to pay our penalty, suffer our judgment and set all those who believe free from the sentence of death. Have we confessed to Him?
- c. Jesus Christ is our King.
- 1) The promise -- *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold thy King cometh unto thee...* Zechariah 9:9
 - 2) The fulfillment -- *On the next day much people . . . took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna, Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.* John 12:12,13
 - 3) The application -- A further result of our fallenness and sin is found in how meaningless life has become. We have so much and yet it means so little. Jesus Christ has come as our King to enable us to know and do His will. Is He our King?

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