

Topic: Rejoice in Your Salvation
Text: 1 Peter 1:3-12 (NIV)
Theme: “Three reasons to rejoice in your salvation”

Introduction

- Do you still remember the first few days or months or years when you got saved? The experience was so irreplaceable, wasn't it?
- Now over the years of being a Christian, do you still cherish your salvation? Is there still joy?
- Is your life sometimes filled with grief and trials? If it is, welcome to the club, you are not alone. I, for one, am a member.
- As we study the Word of God today, you will be surprised to learn that God allows trials and sufferings so He can work in our life, and that is how we will grow.
- Church, welcome to UTS – the University of Trials and Sufferings.
- Being a UTS student is one reason why you need to rejoice in your salvation.

I. SCOPE OF SALVATION

v9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls

v10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,

v11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.

v12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.

A. The scope of salvation wasn't meant for the OT people. (vv10, 11, 12)

1. V10 They searched intently and with the greatest care about the salvation, meaning they examined, explored, and enquired CAREFULLY about this thing called SALVATION.
 - (The Message) *v10-11 The prophets who told us this was coming asked a lot of questions about this gift of life God was preparing. The Messiah's Spirit let them in on some of it—that the Messiah would experience suffering, followed by glory.*
 - E.g. In *Isaiah 53* vividly described that the suffering Messiah: 1) had no beauty or majesty; 2) was despised and rejected; 3) people considered Him punished, stricken, and afflicted by God; 4) pierced and crushed; 5) oppressed; 6) cut off from the land of the living; 7) assigned a grave with the wicked.
 - In the same chapter the glorious Messiah was described as: 1) His days will be prolong; 2) the Father's will will prosper in His hands; 3) Will see the light of life; 4) He will justify many; 5) He becomes our intercessor.
 - The OT people had no full knowledge about God's grace, about fullness of the Spirit and His anointing, about the Blood of Jesus, about the church, about the believer's power and authority, about the Name Jesus and its power and authority.

2. V11 They tried to find out about the time (era) regarding the sufferings and the glorification of the Messiah.
 - (The Message) *They clamoured to know who and when.*
 - They had no full knowledge about who the Messiah would be, hence they rejected Jesus of Nazareth.
 - They did not know when He would be coming, no wonder, the Jews are still waiting for the first coming, not knowing that He is already on His second coming.
 - They expected for a strong ruler, a powerful monarch, an influential leader (like Obama, the most powerful man on the planet), and not just a carpenter, a man like pauper who did not have a home.

B. The scope of salvation wasn't meant for the angels.

V12c Even angels long to look into these things.

1. The angels were excited for something that did not belong to them – SALVATION OF MEN. When Jesus was born, hosts of angels appeared to the shepherds, praising God and saying, *“Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”* (Luke 2:13-14)
2. The angels were definitely not included in the salvation that Jesus had provided. Jesus DID NOT DIE FOR THEM. They have no power of the blood and of the Name of Jesus.
3. No doubt the angels were amazed on God’s plan of salvation. I believe that it wasn’t a secret to them when the Son of God disappeared in Heaven when the Spirit conceived Him. The angels must have surely missed Him for 33 years without the Son being in Heaven. (He went down to earth for an R& R: Redemption and Restoration of men.)

C. *The scope of salvation WAS meant for the NT people.*

V9 for YOU are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls

V12a It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but YOU

1. V9 You and I are the recipients of Salvation, NOT the OT people nor the angels.
 - The full benefits of God’s plan of salvation are all intended for Christians.
2. V12 It was revealed to the prophets, or they realized that salvation wasn’t meant for them, but for the BELIEVERS.
 - Hence, through this salvation, a believer has: 1) the ministry of the HS (as our Guide, Advocate, His the gifts and fruit); 2) the power and the authority that Jesus has delegated such as healing, blessings, forgiveness of sins; 3) the power of the blood and the Name of Jesus; 4) the mind of Christ; 5) the ability to see the whole view of God’s plan to mankind through the Bible.

II. SOURCE OF SALVATION

V7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

V8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

V9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- V9 talks about the end result of your faith, which is salvation.
- It, therefore, means that faith is the source or means of salvation.
- Ephesians 2:8 says that we are saved through faith; Hebrews 11:6 says that we cannot please God without faith.
- The question is: What is faith.

A. Definition of Faith

V8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy

1. To see is to believe is an old adage. Sometimes, to base your trust on sight or vision is deceiving and fatal:

(Illustration: A ship's captain who one dark night saw what looked like the light of another ship heading toward him. He sent a signal message to the on-coming ship:

"Change your course ten degrees south."

The reply: "Change your course ten degrees north."

"I am a captain. Change your course south."

"I am a seaman first class. Change your course north."

"I say change your course south. I'm on a battleship!"

"And I say change your course north. I'm in a lighthouse.")

2. The "GENERIC" definition of faith is found in *Hebrews 11:1*
"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (KJV)

3. *(NLT) "Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."*
4. Words that are coming out of our mouth are what we hope for, and that is your faith, and that is what will actually happen. So, when you say that your job or study is stressful, it will not get any better by complaining. If we say "I have no money" (which I am always guilty of), cash will not flow in.
5. *(The Message) Romans 4:17 When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do.*
6. The "SPECIFIC" definition of faith is found in *1 Peter 1:8*, which is more descriptive. *You love Him though you don't see Him, you believe in Him though you don't see Him, and YET you are filled with an expressible and glorious day.*

B. Faith, which has greater value than gold, is tested (or proven).

(NLT) v7a These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.

1. When gold is heated in fire, the dregs and impurities burn away. What remains is PURE gold. The same is true with our faith, it is being tested by trials OR DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES OR ODD SITUATIONS.

Illustration on belief and faith: A tightrope walker who walked across the Niagara Falls, a waterfalls that separates the US and Canada. Standing on the American side, he yelled to the crowd: "Does anyone believe I can cross the falls holding just this balancing pole?" NO ONE ANSWERED.

... After crossing the falls and reached the Canadian side, EVERYONE CHEERED. He asked: "Does anyone here believe that I can do it again while holding a chair?" FEW PEOPLE RAISED THEIR HANDS.

... When he reached again the American side, EVERYONE CHEERED, WHISTLED, APPLAUDED. He asked again: "How many believe I can cross it with a wheelbarrow?" THE MAJORITY CHEERED WILDLY AND RAISED THEIR HANDS.

Then he said, "OK, who will be the first one to get in?" EVERYONE WAS QUIET AND NO ONE RAISED A HAND.

2. Applauding was an act of **believing**, getting in to the wheelbarrow is an act of **faith**. When your belief sinks to your heart (**getting into the wheelbarrow**), then that is faith.

C. Faith is tested through many trials while here on earth.

(NLT) v7b So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

1. When your faith stands the test of trials, it will bring much PRAISE, GLORY, HONOR (PGH) from Jesus, Himself.
2. So, NO PAIN, NO GAIN, NO TRIALS PASSED, NO PGH!
3. When I was new in the Lord, I asked for trials, and God answered my requests. Trials became part of my life since then.

III. SIGNIFICANCE OF SALVATION

V3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

V4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

V5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

A. Salvation brings new birth through God's mercy.

V3b In his great mercy he has given us new birth

1. *John 3:3* A man must be born again to see the kingdom of God

2. This new birth means you need to be born twice and death in between. First birth: from your mother. Then death to sin. Second birth: from the Spirit.
3. A person who is not born again was born only once and will die twice. First death: physical death. Second death: spiritual death.
4. *V3b* The new birth is achieved through God's mercy.
5. The two meanings of MERCY: 1) Favour or compassionate or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy; 2) the discretionary power of a judge to pardon someone or to mitigate punishment, especially to send to prison rather than invoke the death penalty.
6. This means, that strictly speaking, we are all enemies of God, but He chose to give us favour/compassion/kindly forbearance instead of sending us to prison or to invoke the death penalty.

B. Salvation brings a living hope through Jesus' resurrection.

V3c into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

1. If Jesus remained in the grave, then THERE IS NO living hope for all of us.
2. (The Message) *v3c* and have everything to live for
3. (NLT) *v3c* Now we live with GREAT expectation (like, we expect for BEST protection, for PERFECT healing, for answered prayers, for the BEST job, for the HIGHEST mark at school, for COMPLETE deliverance.
4. *Colossians 1:27 "Christ in you, the hope of glory"*

C. *Salvation provides an inheritance that lasts for eternity is shielded through faith*

V4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

1. Jesus promised a mansion for each of the believers (*John 14:2*)
2. As adopted children of God, we become co-heirs with Jesus (*Romans 8:17*), who is the Father's heir.
3. Whatever Jesus has, we have.
4. Jesus has delegated His power and authority to the believers in binding and loosing in heaven and on earth (*Matthew 18:18*)

Conclusion

V6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Christians are not bullet-proof in terms of grief and trials, BUT there are enough reasons to rejoice in your salvation:

- The SCOPE of salvation covers only you, as believer. Jesus died for our sins and lived again during our times. It's scope doesn't include the angels nor the OT people.
- The SOURCE of salvation is ONLY by faith, which is tests by trials, hard times as gold is tested by fire to remove the impurities.
- The SIGNIFICANCE of salvation is that it brings NEW BIRTH, LIVING HOPE, and INHERITANCE.