

## **This Salvation**

### **1. Peter 1. 8 - 12**

#### **Introduction**

How many of us have grown up watching this? **(PP=PowerPoint)**

The Antiques Roadshow is a bit of an institution in many homes. What is it that draws us to watch it?

Is it the descriptions of how items have been made or the history behind the item? Or is it more the value of the item that intrigues us?

If you're like me, the best bit of the Antiques Roadshow is hearing how much something is worth. It really gets us.

The passage that we are looking at is loaded with this idea of value!

#### **Read v 8 – 12**

Please remember the context of the book.

#### **Author (PP) - Peter (v.1)**

In one of the last encounters that Jesus had with Peter, he told Peter to "Feed my lambs" (John 21) in response to Peter's answer that he loved Jesus. This is exactly what we find Peter doing in this letter.

#### **Audience (PP)**

To God's elect scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia (v.1)

This letter was written to people who made up the church of Jesus Christ in parts of the Roman Empire. For what reason was it written?

#### **Circumstances (PP)**

The word "scattered" in v.1 gives us the idea. As we know from Acts, the church & the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ was spreading through the Roman Empire as a result of persecution. As we saw last time, Peter was writing with the knowledge that the people who made up the church were undergoing and about to undergo persecution.

#### **Read v.6**

And we saw the purpose behind such persecution last time.

#### **Read v.7**

"...when Jesus is revealed" was where we ended last time and provides us with the entry point for this section.

Q – what are you focused on in your Christian life?

Having the right focus in our lives, as Christians, will mean that we don't lose direction! Sounds simple but what does this involve?

## Read v.8

Jesus was the focus for these believers.

In Tim Keller's book, Counterfeit Gods, the following statement is written **(PP)**:

"Family, work, relationships, money – we all make different choices about what's important to us in life. The problem is that all too easily we can find ourselves fixed on one thing to the exclusion of all else; the subtle temptation is always to take something that is good in itself and elevate it above all other things in the search for security and meaning ... Though we shrink from calling it idolatry, it is nonetheless true that we have made things into our gods."

I'd really recommend reading this. It is true that, all too easily, things other than God become our security. This is the challenge for us 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians – what is our security or rather what one thing, if it were taken from us, would threaten our identity & security?

For these 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians, Jesus Christ was their identity & focus. What does v.8 reveal about them?

### 1. Their Love (PP)

"Though you have not seen him, you love him"

In the midst of their trials & grief, they loved Jesus. This portrays a picture of devotion – they were utterly devoted to Jesus. As humans, we are built with emotion as part of our DNA & these Jewish converts adored Jesus from the heart.

### 2. Their Faith (PP)

If their love for Jesus Christ was resolute so too was their faith. Peter simply says that, despite not seeing Jesus with their physical eyes, they trusted in Him completely.

With everything that they were facing in life, they rested in the One who loved them, laid down his life for them & rose as proof that new life was found in him.

In John 20:29, Jesus said to Thomas:

"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus called these believers blessed; Jesus calls us as believers blessed! Do you realise that the blessing of God rests on you because you have trusted in Jesus without having seen him?

So the Gospel had impacted both their hearts and their outlook. The question now was: what was the result?

### 3. Their Characteristics (PP)

v.8 says that they were filled with inexpressible & glorious joy.

As chaos & uncertainty ensued around them, they had a deep-seated joy that could not be explained in words but was so tremendous that Peter describes it as "glorious".

All of this was because Jesus was their focus.

Please don't lose the fact that Peter is addressing the church. The church of Jesus Christ is not a building but a community of people. The thing that marked these exiles was:

- their love
- their faith
- their characteristics

How attractive they must have been as a community! The question that we must ask ourselves is how attractive are we as a Gospel community to the outside world.

But where was all this leading to?

### **Read v.9**

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Peter was able to show the plan behind their faith.

Notice that he doesn't say that:

They have received the goal of their faith, the salvation of their souls

**BUT** that:

They are receiving the goal of their faith, the salvation of their souls

The idea is one of a developing plan. The Christian life is a journey. When God saves us, we are completely forgiven and secure in Christ. However, God sets us on a journey of sanctification where our characters are shaped to be more and

more like Christ - hence the trials and situations that God allows to come into our lives.

This journey that we are on will lead to final salvation, which is the goal of our faith. We are not on an aimless journey as Christians but we are on a journey of purpose, which will end when we meet the Author of our salvation; when the impact of our salvation will be fully seen & we will finally be home!

Paul was able to say quoting from Isaiah:

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Cor. 2.9)

It really is going to be unimaginable!

But Peter has something to say about the means by which this salvation story has unfolded & those whom God has involved.

### **Read v. 10 – 12**

#### **1. OT Prophets (PP)**

The salvation story was revealed first to the OT prophets. God's salvation was no emergency plan but was one that was planned & delivered through those whom God chose.

Notice a number of things about the OT prophets:

#### **i. Their message was one of grace (v. 10 & 11)**

God's message to us is one of promised grace. This grace is bound up in a person – Jesus Christ. These prophets were looking forward to Christ. They understood that the Promised One would suffer but that he would also pour countless glories or benefits into his followers.

What are these benefits? ***Read Explore notes***

## **ii. Their intensity (v.10 & 11)**

They longed to know when the message that God, the Holy Spirit, inspired them to write would come to pass.

Q – can you feel the intensity of their search?

Q – how is our appetite when it comes to searching into God's word? Do we long to see God in a greater way?

## **iii. Their purpose (v.12)**

Notice the unity of the message. God's salvation plan is not disjointed between OT & NT rather it is a single message centred around God's desire to reverse the effects of the Fall & re-establish man's relationship with him.

The prophets were serving us, as ones who look back at the fulfilment of all the OT prophecies in Christ – his death, his resurrection, his re-establishing of a broken relationship with God! This is the gospel – the gospel is Christ! He is the good news.

And the good news of Jesus was being broadcast through:

## **2. NT apostles (PP)**

Please notice that, the same Holy Spirit that inspired the OT prophets, was using the NT apostles to deliver the same unified message – the good news of Christ!

There is an interesting set of words at the end of v. 12:

“Even angels long to look into these things.”

Q – What are these things?

**Read v 3 – 5** – this is the gospel!

### **Conclusion**

We started off by looking at the Antiques Roadshow. If nothing else, it is a show that allows people to discover what benefits have been passed onto them.

How much more this passage that we have looked at tonight.

We have looked into the love, faith & character of these NT believers. We have seen that their salvation would be complete one day. We have seen that this salvation story is one filled with grace by diligent men, whose purpose was to declare the greatest event mankind could ever hear – the message of a Father who gave His Son in order that a people who had no hope could be connected once again in everlasting community with him & his people through the Holy Spirit.

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