

Peter's Message Delivered to You

Message Notes

Php 3:10,11

that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who...are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

in order to obtain an inheritance which is

- imperishable
- undefiled and
- will not fade away,
- reserved in heaven for you,

(who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

It is in this

you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith even though tested by fire, may be found to result in

- praise and
- glory and
- honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

I am reminded of what James says concerning these various trials that we are told that we should only expect:

James 1

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing

---and though you have not seen Him, you love Him,
--and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him,
you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

As to this salvation, (which is also the salvation that James dealt with in his letter

James 1

21 Therefore putting aside all filthiness and [all] that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

As to this salvation, Peter said that the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings with respect to Christ and the glories to follow.

It was revealed to the prophets that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven  things into which angels long to look.

Therefore,

- gird your minds for action,
- keep sober in spirit,
- fix your hope (you remember what the hope is) completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- As obedient children, do not be conformed to the way in which you used to live before you understood these things

but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

And since we address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

For Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but He has appeared in these last times for our sake—we who believe that God raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory,

so that our faith and hope are in God.

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God. 24 For David wrote in the Psalms

“ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ABIDES FOREVER.”

And this is the word which was preached to you.

Therefore, we must put aside

- all malice and
- all guile and
- hypocrisy and
- envy and
- all slander,
- like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, since you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

And coming to Him as to a living stone, --rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For we can know that Isaiah wrote: "BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe.

But for those who choose not to believe, we can know that David said: "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"

And Isaiah further wrote: "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for those who choose not to believe stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

You are all familiar with the passage wherein God told Moses to say to Israel as they arrived at Mount Sinai, very shortly after they were redeemed out of Egypt: But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, Now Peter tells us this same thing

And we have become a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession so that we might proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light;

you know that we were once NOT A PEOPLE, but now we are THE PEOPLE OF GOD;

at one time, we had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now we have RECEIVED MERCY.

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. A few weeks ago we saw what those fleshly lusts are.

Immorality, impurity., ect...Paul warned in Gal. 5 that people who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God!!

And that is what we are talking about here—inheriting the kingdom of God. That is what is the summation of Peter’s message to us—the kingdom of God, an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for us, who are protected by the power of God through faith—concerning that salvation which is to be revealed in the last times!

For these reasons, you must

Keep your behavior excellent even among those who do not believe these things, so that in the thing in which they may slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

And though we can act as free men, we should not use this freedom as a covering for evil, but instead, we should use our freedom as bondslaves of God.

A bonds slave is a person who...

- Honor all men;
 - love the brotherhood,
 - fear God,
 - honor those in authority over us.
 - Employees, be submissive to your employers with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.
- For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

What credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

Did you know that you have been called for this purpose, (the purpose of suffering) since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, as it was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah concerning Christ’s suffering:

WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

- while being reviled, He did not revile in return;
- while suffering, He uttered no threats, but

- kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Isaiah went on to prophesy that Jesus would Himself bear our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds we were healed.

For we have continually strayed like sheep, but now we have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Wives, do you know that Peter instructs us to follow Christ's example of suffering, when it comes to our relationship with our husbands? He says:

I Peter 3:1, 2

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

He goes on to say that we should not let not our adornment be merely external ٞ braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but he tells us it should be the hidden person of the heart -- with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

You husbands likewise... Likewise to what? Dan pointed out a couple of weeks ago that the likewise refers to the "just as Christ suffered, you too have been called to suffer. You, too, should DIE TO SIN AND LIVE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS. And remember that the Apostle Paul said that men are to:

Ephesians 5

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; 26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...

28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also...

Peter makes it clear that you are to live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a co-heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

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Let's sum up what Peter has said thus far:

let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kind-hearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

Back to the inheritance which is reserved in heaven for us...

Then Peter quotes from another Psalm which David wrote. I would like to read that part of the Psalm which Peter quotes:

Psalm 34

11 Come, little children, I will teach you the fear of the Lord

12 Who is the man who desires life, And loves [length of] days that he may see good?

13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.

14 Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace, and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth.

And after quoting a portion of this wonderful Psalm, Peter continues to encourage us by asking a question:

And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. **AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,** 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you

But we should give this account of hope with gentleness and reverence;

We should also keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

For Christ also died for sins once for all,

the just for the unjust,

in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you  not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience  through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

Teach about baptism!

Php 3:10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

So now let's get serious about understanding the suffering we are to do— it is about dying to the flesh...

Since Christ has suffered in the flesh (leaving us an example of how we are to suffer) we must arm ourselves also with the same purpose, because...

he who has suffered in the flesh (died to the flesh) has ceased from sin,
--If you walk in the spirit, not in the flesh, you will not sin! You will live! Because sin brings death, but...

We must do this because...of the judgment that soon is to come, wherein Jesus will call us all upward, and will judge between the living and the dead... Not any non-Christian will be at that judgment...yet, living and dead...

The end of all things is at hand; **WE ARE LIVING IN THE END TIMES! VERY SOON, WE WILL SEE THE SALVATION THAT IS TO BE BROUGHT FORTH IN THE LAST TIMES.**

Remember what the writer of Hebrews said of Jesus' second coming:
Hebrews 9:28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

And so Peter encourages us to be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. He tells us, above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Peter continues to tell us what we should do:
Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God;
whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

I Peter 4

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

14 By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 15 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Peter, quoting Proverb 11:

I Peter 4

18 AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?

Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Just as Christ did as He suffered, leaving us an example as to how we are to suffer back in chapter two---

I Peter 2

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously...

Because of all of this, Peter exhorts the elders, as a fellow elder and a personal witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, He tells the elders to shepherd the flock of God, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you elders will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Younger men should be subject to the elders;

and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

You humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

To Him be dominion forever and ever. And shouldn't Peter know this personally? Having been perfected through suffering, confirmed, strengthened and established!

Well that was the essence of Peter's first letter. He turns up the heat, so to speak in his second letter, which was sent not too many years after his first letter.

And by the way, both of these letters were sent to a people who had been well established in the Word of the kingdom. Both of these letters were sent to a group of people among which Paul had personally ministered for three whole years! Three years where, according to Acts chapter 20, he had taught them day and night with tears! Speaking to them about both the gospel of the grace of God, and the good news concerning the coming kingdom.

Peter also notes at the end of this second letter that Paul had also wrote letters to this group of people:

Ephesians, Colossians, Galatians, all regions of the same area wherein Peters letters were sent, and then

I and II Timothy, while Timothy resided in Ephesus.

And Peter points out at the end of his second letter, that the contents of Paul's letters to them, (as well as the contents of all his letters) were about the same subject matter as both of Peter's letters, in particular his second letter, which was wholly about the coming of Jesus in His Majesty! His coming kingdom.

Do not be deceived! A few weeks ago in the message THE PATH TO GLORY we discussed the fact that the path to glory is the laying down of the fleshly deeds. We saw that living by the flesh we would DIE!

But what does it mean TO DIE??? How could we, who are saved, who know and understand truths concerning LIFE IN THE KINGDOM, when Jesus comes to set up His Glorious throne, and we can sit as His right hand and be a CO-HEIR with Him, ruling as

His wife over a restored order of things...in the coming age...which is what this FUTURE SALVATION is all about ...THIS FUTURE INHERITANCE...

Do not be deceived??? Deceived about what?

Look what Paul warns the people at Corinth in his second letter...

II Corinthians 11

2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. 3 But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

There was not time to finish this talk. Perhaps another time...