

Refined by GOD

1 Peter 1:6-9

Psalms 66:1-13

1 Peter 4:12-19



25 August 2024

A Letter from Christ (1 Peter 1:1-2)

- The Servant: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 - To ignore the letter of Peter is to **reject** Christ and **reject** God. (Luke 10:16)
 - **THINK HARD:** Can one be saved if they **reject** Christ?
- The Addressees:
 - ① Pilgrims who have been dispersed by persecution
 - ② Elect according to the foreknowledge of God.
 - ③ Sanctified (set apart) by the Spirit.
 - ④ For OBEEDIENCE.
 - ⑤ Sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - His life, death, resurrection, and ascension
- New Testament terms for God's people.
 - ✓ Christians - 3x ✓ Believers - 2x
 - ✓ Saints - 62x ✓ Servants - 53x
 - ✓ Elect/Chosen - 14x).

To A Living Hope (1 Peter 1:3)

- What does this hope look like? - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4.
- ALL this motivates the ELECT to please God (2 Cor 5:9; Col 1:9-11); pursue holiness (Hebrews 12:14); purify themselves (1 John 3:3; 2 Cor 7:1); persevere to the end (Matthew 24:13; Romans 8:25; Hebrews 6:11-12); groan for Christ's return (Romans 8:23-25)

JOY (1 Peter 1:6, 8)

- (v. 6) "**greatly rejoice**"
- (v. 8) "**joy inexpressible**"
- (Luke 2:10-11) The angel brought the shepherd's "good tidings of GREAT JOY".
- (Matthew 2:10) When the Magi saw the star, "they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy."
- (John 15:11) Christ came to FILL US with JOY!
- (Galatians 5:22-23) God sent His Spirit and the fruit of that Spirit is JOY!
- Do we have THIS kind of JOY?

IN THIS . . . You Greatly Rejoice! (1 Peter 1:6)

- "in this" - - - verse 1-5

- “greatly rejoice” – *agalliao* {ag-al-lee-ah'-o} – “exceeding joy”; “be exceedingly glad”
– see Matthew 5:11-12; Luke 10:20; 1 Peter 4:13.
- “in this **you** greatly rejoice” We rejoice that . . .
 - We are God’s chosen, His elect. (v. 2; Eph 1:4; 1 Peter 2:9)
 - We are “set apart” by His Spirit. (v. 2; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Thess 2:13)
 - We were saved unto obedience. (1 John 2:29-3:10; 1 Peter 1:14; Rom 6:18)
 - We are sealed with the blood of Christ. (Heb 9:19-22; Exodus 12:13)
 - We have been begotten again by God and we are the children of God.
And, if children, then heirs of God. (v. 3; James 1:18; John 1:12-13)
 - ★ **To A Living Hope** (1 Peter 1:3) A hope that motivates the ELECT to persevere! (Romans 8:25; 2:7; 12:12; Lamentations 3:25-26; Hebrews 6:11-12; 10:36; 12:1-3)
 - We have an inheritance reserved for us in heaven where it is incorruptible, undefiled and will never fade away. (v. 4; Ephesians 1:11, 14; Colossians 1:12; Hebrews 9:15)
 - If children then heirs of God and coheirs with Christ. (Romans 8:17)
 - Some aspects of our inheritance:
 - ★ A city built by God. (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16)
 - ★ A mansion prepared for us by Christ. (John 14:1-6)
 - ★ A feast/banquet in our honor! (Luke 12:37; Revelation 19:7-9)
 - ★ No more pain, etc.. (Revelation 21:3-5)
 - ★ A seat on Christ’s throne. (Revelation 3:21)
 - ★ New glorified bodies. (1 Cor 15:42-44; Philippians 3:20-21)
 - ★ GOD HIMSELF! (Psalm 73:25-26)
 - We are kept by God Himself and God Himself will and has guaranteed us getting to heaven. (Philippians 1:6; John 10:27-29; Jude 1, 24; Romans 8:31-39; Psalm 121; John 17:15)
 - GOD Himself GUARDS and WATCHES OVER His ELECT to INSURE that they get to His Heaven.
 - “kept” – PRESENT TENSE; PASSIVE VOICE
 - Salvation is the work of God from beginning to end! (Rom 8:28-30)
 - What God began HE will finish! (Philippians 1:6)
- ALL this motivates the ELECT to persevere! (Romans 8:25; 2:7; 12:12; Lamentations 3:25-26; Hebrews 6:11-12; 10:36; 12:1-3)

Necessity of Suffering/Refining (1 Peter 1:6)

- Suffering is part of being a Christian!!
 - ★ John 15:18-20; Acts 14:22; Philippians 1:29; Romans 8:17; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4; John 16:33)
- Peter, moved by the Holy Spirit, enlightens us about our suffering:
 - ① “Only for a little while” (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
 - ☆ Do not compare at all with the glory which is ours!

- ☆ “but for a moment” compared to an eternity of being in the presence of God. (Psalm 16:11)
- ② “if necessary” – when it serves a purpose! (Romans 8:28)
 - ☆ GOD works ALL things “according to the counsel of His will”. (Ephesians 1:11; Job 23:13-14)
 - Some Reasons for God’s refining ----
 - ① To keep us humble. (Deut 8:3; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
 - ② To get us to set our minds on things above rather than the things of earth. (Col 3:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17)
 - ③ To prepare us to comfort others. (2 Cor 1:3-7)
 - ④ To discipline us for our sins. (Hebrews 12:5-12; Deut 8:5; Psalm 119:71, 75; Prov 3:12, 24; Rev 3:19)
 - ⑤ **To develop our character!** (Romans 5:3-4)
 - ⑥ To produce perseverance in us. (James 1:2-4, 12)
 - We **need** endurance in order to receive the promise! (Hebrews 10:36; Matthew 24:13)
 - ⑦ To keep us dependent on Him. (Proverbs 3:5-7; 2 Cor 12:9-11)
 - ⑧ To prepare us for something greater! (Jeremiah 12:!)
- ③ “grieved” – see Hebrews 12:10-11; **Psalm 66:12; 89:30-32.**
 - ★ **Many of God’s disciplines of His people revealed for our learning were NOT small – for example, 70 years of captivity!** (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10; 2 Chron 36:21-22)
- ④ “various trials” – James 1:12
 - “various” *poikilos* “many colors”; “manifold”
 - Peter uses the same word to describe God’s grace! (4:10)
 - **Hence, no matter what the tribulations or trials that come upon us God’s grace is sufficient!** (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

God Is a Testing God (1 Peter 1:7)

- Throughout the Old and New Testament we find God “**testing**” us!
 - Exodus 15:24-26; 16:4; 20:20; Deut 8:1-3, 16; 13:3; Genesis 22:1; 2 Chron 32:31; Psalm 81:7; 66:10; 11:4-5; Proverbs 17:3; James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:7; 1 Cor 11:19; Judges 2:21-22; 3:1-4!!
- “genuineness” is *dokimion* {dok-im'-ee-on} “the proving”; “that which is something tried or proved”; “a test”.
 - ★ This Greek word is used to test precious metals by burning away the dross (impurities). (**Proverbs 17:3; Job 23:10**)
- “more precious than gold” – NOTE gold perishes but a genuine faith is eternal!
- It is through the testing of our faith that our faith grows.
- A faith that is NOT tested is not a God-given faith and not a faith that saves.

Will Our Faith Bring Glory to Christ (1 Peter 1:7)

- While we are here on Earth we will suffer for our faith. (John 16:33)
- GOD will continually **test** or **refine** us with troubles, tribulations, and trials. (Psalm 119:75)
- Those who persevere to the end (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Hebrews 6:11; James 1:12) will receive praise, glory, and honor from God!
- We ought to make our aim to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant . . .” (Matthew 25:21-23; Romans 2:7, 10, 29; 1 Cor 4:5; 2 Cor 10:18)
- This praise, glory, and honor will come to the ELECT at the second coming of Christ!
- contrast Luke 18:8 - counterfeit faith - many - Matt 7:21-23

Inexpressible Joy (1 Peter 1:8)

- “inexpressible” “impossible to describe with mere words!”
- Like us, these saints never saw Christ but **loved** (obeyed) Him! (John 14:21, 23-24; 14:15; 15:10)
- Like us, these saints never saw Christ but **believed** in Him! (Hebrews 11:13-16)
 - ★ Christ’s words to Thomas, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. BLESSED are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)
- Their faith came NOT from sight, but believing the **written** Word of God!
- Their faith was the “fuel” for their GREAT JOY!

The End of Our FAITH – Salvation (v. 9)

- Peter was speaking of a PRESENT REALITY!
- One’s faith leads to a continual victory over the pleasure and power of sin – rescue (salvation)! By God-given faith all disciples are OVERCOMERS! (1 John 2:14; 5:4; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7)
- ★ **ONLY OVERCOMERS GO TO HEAVEN!**
- (Romans 8:37) We are “more than conquerors through Him who loved us!”

Persevering through 2024

- ① Can we describe our joy in being saved as GREAT and INEXPRESSIBLE?
 - ★ John 15:11; Romans 15:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:16.
- ② We must set our minds on things above and not on things and circumstances here on earth. (Colossians 1:1-3; 2 Cor 4:18)
- ③ We must persevere/overcome. (Rom 8:25; Matt 10:22; 24:13; Hebrews 6:11)
- ④ God has designed life to be full of tribulations, trials, and trouble but has PURPOSE in all things. GOD’s design is remove all dross from us and to perfect our faith. (Job 5:7; 14:1; John 16:33; 2 Tim 3:12; John 15:18-20; Philip 1:29; Ephesians 1:11; Rom 8:28; Psalm 66:10; Daniel 11:35; Zech 13:9)
- ⑤ We ought never to “waste” a single trial that comes our way! (Job 23:10)