

1st Peter

Christian Life Assembly

Fall 2014

Jim Hoffman



Class Open House

10/17/14

Jim and Jackie's

6:00 PM

31 Stone Barn Road

Mechanicsburg, Pa





1st Peter

- **God is protecting and insuring our salvation.**
 - **We need no protection from death – death takes us straight to Heaven.**
 - **Persecution can't rob us of our salvation – that tends to make our faith stronger.**
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1st Peter

- **So what is God protecting us from?**
 - **He is protecting us from the only thing that can rob us of our salvation – unbelief.**
 - **Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. NIV**
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1st Peter

- So how does this protection happen?
- Luke 22:31 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. 32 But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”
- Romans 8:26 – 27 "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."





1st Peter

- **In verse #6 Peter says “Be truly glad” and this is his preface to talking about the trials and testings that were ahead.**
 - **Glad? Yes, because in those trials they would have their faith proven to be genuine.**
 - **Maybe that’s the best way to prove to ourselves that we believe?**
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1st Peter

- **“even though you must endure many trials for a little while.”**
 - **We must have some context here – MUST endure MANY trials for a LITTLE WHILE.**
 - **And we are to be glad about this? Yes, because it provides us an opportunity to prove we are saved.**
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1st Peter

- **Consider this as well – God has a design and a plan at work in our suffering and trials. (Joseph)**
 - **Allow me to speak plainly – if life with Christ would be better without the trials, that is the way it would be.**
 - **We only think that trials, pain, and suffering are detestable because we have not seen eternity without the benefit of them.**
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1st Peter

- **Verse #7 - 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. 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.**
- **Speaking of their faith, Peter says, “It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold.”**
- **Ezek 22:17 Then this message came to me from the Lord:
18 "Son of man, the people of Israel are the worthless slag that remains after silver is smelted. They are the dross that is left over—a useless mixture of copper, tin, iron, and lead.”**





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- **When our faith is tested, it can have the effect of bringing out the best in us.**
 - **Copper, tin, lead, and the like are not worthless – they just aren't the best.**
 - **Trials and suffering just may be the most certain way to have our best come forth for God.**
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1st Peter

- A truth not to be ignored here is this – sometimes it is the will of God that we suffer.
 - 1st Peter 3:17 For it is better, *if it is God's will,* to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.
 - 1st Peter 4:19 So then, *those who suffer according to God's will* should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.
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1st Peter

- **God superintends all that goes on in the life of the saint to the point that what happens is His will.**
 - **Others may sin against us, others may cause us great distress, but they are only permitted to do so by God. (Job)**
 - **He has a plan, a will, a design for each of us that can only be understood by faith.**
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1st Peter

- **1st Peter 1:8** You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.
- In the midst of trials, we still have Jesus, and against all human reasoning, we can have joy in one so near despite the fact that we've never even seen Him.
- The world looks on and thinks "that makes no sense" yet to us it all seems so right because we know we've been made for another time and space.





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- **We have this sense of love for someone we've never seen, but it is not without a basis – and that basis is our faith and nonetheless real to us.**
- **Why? Because we've been made alive spiritually and we perceive Jesus with our spirit.**
- **Heb 2:8-9 You gave them authority over all things." Now when it says "all things," it means nothing is left out. But we have not yet seen all things put under their authority. 9 What we do see is Jesus, who was given a position "a little lower than the angels"; and because he suffered death for us, he is now "crowned with glory and honor."**





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- Joy inexpressible?
 - Joy is beyond happiness – happiness is primarily driven and governed by what happens to us.
 - Joy is governed by our sense of what has happened for us.
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- **So what is this joy that cannot be expressed?**
- **And why can't it be expressed?**
- **Is it like John 14:27 "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."**





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- **8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. 10 This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. 11 They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward. 12 They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.**
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1st Peter

- **Our reward for trusting Jesus by faith is our salvation –**
 - **Soteria – Greek for salvation. Means rescue or safety (physically or morally).**
 - **The question of the ages – do I need to be rescued? Am I in some danger that I do not know about?**
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- **It is almost universally true that until one knows they need to be saved, they will not be saved.**
 - **In America, we walk around feeling rather safe almost all of the time – safe from dangers we can see.**
 - **In the world, many walk around just one heart beat from Hell and most have no awareness of the danger they are in.**
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- **The O.T. prophets wondered about the things they were given to say about salvation and had to settle for the truth that what they were saying was for some future generation.**
 - **Surely Isaiah had to wonder about what he was given in chapter 53 – he must have asked, what, why, how, who, and other iterations of the same kinds of questions.**
 - **How can this be?!!!**
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- **Isaiah 53 10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. 11 When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.**
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- **And the scriptures also tell us the Angels have a desire or curiosity about this salvation God works for men.**
 - **Since Angels are holy, they must surely look at what God has done for man as rather strange.**
 - **When Adam fell, they no doubt assumed man would go the way of Lucifer – but they were wrong.**
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- **The Angels would rightly judge that man's fate should have been sealed by the fall.**
 - **However, in the case of fallen man, unlike the case for fallen angels, there is redemption made possible via a salvation secured by faith.**
 - **The Angels of Heaven are interested spectators when a human soul trusts Jesus.**
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Questions

