

Further Thought Questions

- 1) When you think of salvation, which is most significant to you, the past, present, or future sense of salvation in Scripture? Why?
- 2) How is each aspect of salvation important for your personal walk with Jesus Christ? How can the overemphasis of one aspect of salvation actually cause a platform for sin in our lives?
- 3) The Christians to which Peter is writing were suffering a temptation to give into the culture around them in order to avoid persecution, humiliation, and embarrassment. How do you relate to those pressures in your daily life (school, work, family, marriage, etc.)?
- 4) It is interesting that the prophets of God sought to understand who Jesus Christ would be and what He would be about (1st Peter 1:10-12) as they searched the Scriptures. As they anticipated His first coming, they knew a great number of things. However, they didn't know when He would come, and they didn't know all the circumstances which would be in place when the Messiah would come. Amazingly, we are in the same position as we anticipate Christ's Second Coming. We know a lot, but at the same time, we don't know some key things about His next coming. In the midst of this, we are given salvation and we are given persecution (both). How do these things work together in relation to Christ's anticipated coming?
- 5) What is a greater temptation, the allure of pleasure (sex, money, vices), or the avoidance of pain/consequence (cheating, lying, stealing)? Which is a bigger issue in our culture? Which is a bigger issue for you?

Future Salvation

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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.

~ 1ST PETER 1:18-19 (NASB)

1) Foreknowledge ~ God's Divine Intention

- A) 1st Peter is written to a massive geographical area which covered approximately 129,000 square miles (1st Peter 1:1). In comparison, California covers about 159,000 square miles.



- B) The letter is written to those who were "aliens, scattered..." (1:1). In the immediate sense, this would have referred to Christian "foreigners" (literally) in Asia Minor.

- C) However, Peter is also relating all Christians to the concept of "diaspora," the scattering of the Jews into exile and captivity in the Older Testament. The concept of "aliens, scattered..." carried with it the understanding of turning our backs on God, scattered because of sin and rebellion against God.

- D) But, in some of the clearest Trinitarian language of the Bible, Peter assures those who are "aliens" that God is at work for the better good of His chosen people (1:2). The church exists by God's eternal and divine initiative!

2) Blessed Be the God & Father Of Our Lord Jesus...

- A) 1st Peter 1:3-12 is a single sentence filled with phrases which derive from a singular clause at the beginning of the sentence, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (1:3).

- B) This doxology is meant as a reminder and encouragement to remain steadfast in our relationship with Jesus Christ because of the eternal and imperishable inheritance of salvation which will be someday realized (1:3-5).

- C) The Bible speaks of salvation in three different tenses:
 - i) **Past** ~ as having already happened (2nd Timothy 1:9, "we have been saved"). This sense of salvation is usually used in relation to when a person was first saved by God, the point of regeneration.

- ii) **Present** ~ as currently happening (1st Corinthians 1:18, "we are being saved"). This sense of salvation usually emphasizes the ongoing work (or working out) of salvation.

- iii) **Future** ~ as though it will not happen until the future (1st Peter 1:5, 9). This sense of salvation usually emphasizes hope in the future, the reality that salvation will not be complete until judgment and eternity future.

D) God provides salvation from eternity past (foreknowledge) to the believer (past tense) through union with Jesus Christ (regeneration), which is experientially worked out (sanctification) in a daily manner (present tense), and will be perfected (hope) at the judgment of all mankind (future tense).

E) It is this **great salvation**, so extraordinary and amazing, which Jesus Christ has provided through His life, death, and resurrection. It is this **great salvation** which all the prophets looked forward to in the Older Testament (1:10-12). It is this **great salvation** which has been given to YOU in Jesus, a salvation which angels themselves cannot perceive (1:13)! **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

3) Rise Above The Circumstances Of This Life

- A) In light of such a great salvation, Peter calls on Christians (aliens in their world), to withstand the distress of "various trials" (1:7-8), and be ready for action (1:13)! Christians, despite the circumstances, are to cling to such a great salvation and BE HOLY (1:13-16).

- B) This holiness is rooted firmly in God's Word, which never dies (1:24-25), and is the source of our knowledge of obedience to such a great salvation (1:17-23). God's Word will not perish!