

"Kept By The Power Of God For Salvation Ready To Be Revealed At The Last Time"

1 Pet. 1:5-8

Introduction:

- A. Peter wrote his first epistle to encourage Christians in the first century, and for all succeeding generations as well, who were undergoing great hardships due to severe persecution. He begins with a reminder of the reward God has planned for the faithful, which he calls an inheritance which is incorruptible, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for us.
- B. But he doesn't stop there. The rest of his thought through verse 8, speaks of the power by which God will work in the Christian's life to keep or guard our souls so that they might be fit and prepared for the salvation that's ready to be revealed in the last time. So, there can be no doubt about this fact—we can't and won't make it to heaven just on our own; we need the power of God to help us.
- C. However, the power of God to keep us isn't unconditional. This passage doesn't teach, and neither does any other, that once a person becomes a Christian, he's saved in a way that he can never be lost and there's nothing which he can do to affect his eternal salvation one way or another. There are certain things that we must do through which God's power works.
- D. These verses outline some things God has commanded us to do through which we're TITLED.

I. *We Must Have Faith* - v. 5

- A. Most people, and especially most Christians, understand that faith is an essential ingredient in coming to God that we might be saved from sin - Heb. 11:6
 - 1. Certainly, the "steps of salvation" as we outline them (F-R-C-B) are taught in the Bible
 - 2. Yet one of the dangers of presenting them this way is that it may leave the impression that once a person has believed in Christ and obeyed the gospel, he's done with "faith"
- B. However, all of us really know that this isn't true
 - 1. The fact of the matter is that our entire lives as Christians must be founded upon and involve faith - Rom. 1:17, 2 Cor. 5:7
 - 2. It's extremely important that every day we travel on our journey from earth to heaven, no matter what happens, we we're characterized by faith, because God operates through our own faith to help keep us
- C. The same principle is true in this as in salvation - Eph. 2:8
 - 1. In the matter of being saved from sin, grace is God's part (sending Jesus to die for our sins), faith is our part (meeting God's terms to accept His grace), so it's by grace through faith
 - 2. Likewise in the matter of being kept for eternal salvation, the power to make it possible is God's part, but the faith to connect with that power is our part, so that we're kept by the power of God THROUGH FAITH.

II. *We Must Have Joy In The Lord* - v. 6

- A. A lot of people, and sometimes even Christians, wonder what we have to be joyful about.
 - 1. They see the world around them going down the tubes; they feel that their own personal lives are the pits; they know that people are suffering poverty, disease, oppression, and death. It looks as if everything is out of control
 - 2. So they ask, "What is there to be joyful about?"
 - 3. Well, just think of Jesus--He left heaven and came to earth to save mankind; however, His own people rejected Him, and even though He was only trying to help them and had done absolutely nothing wrong, they got so mad at Him that they had Him crucified.

4. Not everything that happens to us is joyful, but just as Jesus was able to look through His sorrows to the joy of providing salvation for mankind by His death on the cross, so by God's grace He's provided something in the future for us that we can see through our sorrows and look forward to - Heb. 12:1-2
- B. Therefore, we can always rejoice: - Phil. 4:4
 1. No, we don't rejoice because of iniquity or evil or even suffering; but even when we're experiencing those things, we can still rejoice - Matt. 5:11-12, Acts 5:41
 2. No matter what happens to us, there's always something for which we can rejoice. "Rejoice, the Lord is King...."
- C. When we think of all that God has done for us, first in blessing us generally with the things which we need for life on earth, but more importantly with salvation in Christ and the hope of heaven, Christians are to be overflowing with joy, and this will help keep our faith strong.
 1. Even God's people in the Old Testament understood this - Neh. 8:10
 2. It's this kind of joy that brings stability in the face of the manifold trials that Peter mentions and helps God's power to keep us for eternal salvation.

III. *We Must Have Endurance In Trials* - V. 7

- A. Our faith is tested by the various trials that we experience as Christians in order to prove its genuineness and worth
 1. Unfortunately, there are some whose faith is without deep roots
 2. In time of trial they fall away - Matt. 13:20-21
- B. However, if our faith is strong and genuine, the trials that we're subjected to will help to produce patience - Jas. 1:2-4
- C. Again, the very purpose of the book of 1 Pet. seems to have been to encourage Christians to exhibit steadfastness or perseverance in their trials - 1 Pet. 4:12-16
 1. In spite of the false Abundant Life doctrine of the "Health and Wealth" gospel, God has never promised that His people would escape troubles
 2. Rather, His intention is that we endure and overcome our trials, thus developing perseverance that will help us to be kept by God's power for eternal salvation

IV. *We Must Have Hope* - V. 7

- A. The "revelation of Jesus Christ" in this v. refers to the appearance of Christ at His 2nd coming, which is the focus of our hope for the future - Tit. 2:11-14
- B. Through the eyes of faith, we mustn't allow ourselves to become focused on the things of this world but the things of heaven - Col. 3:1-2
- C. This kind of perspective will help motivate us to keep ourselves pure and not yield to the enticements of this world so that we can be prepared to meet the Lord when He returns - 1 Jn. 3:1-3
 1. In other words, keeping our eyes upon our heavenly hope is part of the Lord's plan for us to be kept by His power for eternal salvation

V. *We Must Have Love* - V. 8

- A. We're taught to love the God: Mk. 12:30; Jesus is God: Jn. 1:1-3; since He's the second person of the Godhead, we must certainly love Him
- B. But why?

1. In addition to the fact that all things were made through Him, including everything that we need for our physical lives on earth
 2. He also loved us enough to give His life as an atonement for our sin - 1 Jn. 3:16
- C. But how can we love Him if we've never seen Him?
1. Never seen George Washington; how can we respect Him as the first President of our nation?
 2. Because of the testimony of history
 3. A young man whose life is saved by a heart transplant from another who died and donated his organs will never see that donor; how can he appreciate such a gift?
 4. Because of the testimony of others--the doctors, his own family, the deceased person's family - Jn. 20:29 (how possible?)-31
- D. We love Jesus because of the undeniable testimony of what He did for us, and the more we love Him, the more God's power will keep us to that salvation ready to be revealed at the last time

Conclusion:

- A. If you and I are Christians, we don't have to fall into sin and be lost. We can be kept by the power of God to the salvation ready to be revealed in the last time if we'll live by faith, be filled with joy, endure our trials, keep our hope set on heaven, and love Christ with all our hearts.
- B. If you're not a Christian, you can start on the road to eternal salvation by obeying the gospel of this Jesus Christ who died for us so that you can be saved from your sins: Acts 2:38...