Because Jesus Conquered Death

I Peter 1:3-9
4-4-2021



Introduction:

*** Because Jesus conquered the grave you and I have the following blessings:**

Because Jesus conquered death...

I. We have a <u>LIVING HOPE</u> (v. 3c)

Because Jesus conquered death...

II. We have an <u>ETERNAL INHERITANCE</u> (v. 4)

Because Jesus conquered death...

III. We have a <u>SECURE SALVATION</u> (v. 5)

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IV. We have a <u>REASON TO REJOICE</u> (v.6-9)

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"The opening paragraph (1:3-12) setting forth the glories of our salvation in Christ, provided a solid [doctrinal] foundation for Peter's series of exhortations that were intended to strengthen and stimulate the suffering readers." (Highboard, p. 28)

V. 3
"Blessed" - *eulogatoos =* eulogy; to say a good word about!

Reasons why God is to be blessed [praised, adored, honored] no matter what the circumstances**:**

Bless Him because you have received:

AN UNDESERVED MERCY (v. 3a)

Don't ever ask God to give you what you deserve! If we all got what we deserved, we would all end up in Hell!

"Mercy" - a compassion or pity which motivates someone to withhold judgment on someone to whom it is due.

Both grace and mercy flow out of God's love (Eph. 2); mercy being God's keeping from us what we deserve, grace being God's giving to us what we don't deserve.

"Abundant mercy" - God is *"rich in mercy"* (Eph. 2:4).

A NEW BIRTH (v. 3b)

"Begotten us again" - the word means to give birth again (Jn. 3:1ff), to cause to be born again. The aorist tense points to a specific point and time in the past when this miraculous birth took place. A once and for all time birth. (note: Jn. 3)

"Begotten again" - this word is only used by Peter (cp. v. 23).

*** Because Jesus conquered the grave you and I have the following blessings:**

Because Jesus conquered death...

I. We have a <u>LIVING HOPE</u> (v. 3c)

"<u>Unto</u> a lively hope" - the result of the new birth is a living hope.

To hope is to have <u>confidence</u>.

To have a living hope is to have a confidence that will not let you down.

Many in our world who put their trust in something or someone other than Christ have a "hope," but they don't have a living one; theirs is dead! Ours is alive!

Proof? Jesus lives!

"By the resurrection" = by means of, or through Christ's resurrection is where our life comes from! How? Because of our union (oneness) with Christ, we too share what He has! He lives; we too shall live! As a matter of fact, we are considered already resurrected because the future reality is so guaranteed (SEE: Eph. 2:4-7).

Our "hope" will never fail because our Savior can never fail. His resurrection guarantees our resurrection.

He <u>is</u> the life (Jn. 1:4; 5:26; 6:39; 1:25; 14:6; Rev. 1:18).

Because Jesus conquered death...

II. We have an <u>ETERNAL INHERITANCE</u> (v. 4)

"Inheritance" - to receive a portion of land, property, real estate, and possessions, etc., either by birth or gift.

Our inheritance is received by both means.

"Incorruptible" - imperishable; something with no ability to decay or be destroyed, ruined, corrupted, or disintegrated (cp. three imperishables - God - Rom. 1:23; Crown - I Cor. 9:23; our resurrected bodies - I Cor. 15:52)

Our future inheritance will not be corrupted by rust, termites, floods, fire, or age!

"Undefiled" - unstained, pure. Our inheritance is not marred by vandalism, graffiti, and <u>sin</u>!

"Fadeth" - Gk. *amarantos* - cp. "Amarith flower" Our inheritance will never wither, shrink, or shrivel up like a flower. It will never end.

"***Reserved" -*** kept, guarded. God has made the reservations and He is keeping the reservations and no one can wipe our name out of the books!

"In Heaven" - J.W.'s deny that believers have an eternal residence in Heaven.

Because Jesus conquered death...

III. We have a <u>SECURE SALVATION</u> (v. 5)

"Who" - refers to ":you" (v. 4).

"Kept" - to guard, to watch over.

"Kept" - a military term meaning to put a garrison around. The <u>passive</u> participle shows that we <u>don't</u> keep ourselves saved!

"The power of God" - Our security rests not on humans might or power, but on God's mighty power.

"Through faith" - lit. because of or by means of faith.

In response to faith, God seals and secures our salvation.

Faith is not a work, it is a refusal to trust our works but to trust the work of another.

Faith is an empty hand that reaches out and is filled.

"Unto salvation" - The goal and purpose for which God guards us is toward salvation from the final judgment and wrath to come!

"Salvation" = deliverance, rescue

"Revealed" = unveiled, disclosed; opened up for clear view (cp. 4:13).

"Last time" - a specific point of time. Most evidently a reference of the Rapture.

Because Jesus conquered death...

IV. We have a <u>REASON TO REJOICE</u> (v.6-9)

ILLUS: The rejoicing (jumping, hands raised, hugging, screaming, shouting, hoot & hollering, and celebration) of the baseball World Series winners.

Such rejoicing is nonsensical in light of eternity and in light of things of real value. It was vanity! What was gained? A team trophy? A ring? Extra pay? A fleeting flood of fame? Nothing of any real substance!

Four Reasons to rejoice:

A. I can rejoice in light of God's gracious salvation (3-6a)

V. 6

"Wherein" - refers to *"the last time"* and all of the undeserved mercy, new birth, living hope (v. 3), eternal inheritance (v. 4), and secure salvation (v. 5) to be ultimately experienced at that "*last time."*

These blessings of God give the believer a strong basis for rejoicing!

B. You can rejoice despite trials by knowing that God is refining your faith
(v. 6-7)

V. 6
"Rejoice" - an active, energetic, vivacious, bubbly joy.

"Rejoice" - To rejoice greatly.

--Because of <u>God's goodness and salvation</u>

Luke 1:47 -*"And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior"*
Rev. 19:7 -*"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready."*

Acts 16:34 -*"And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."*

--Irrespective of circumstances

Mt. 5:12 -*"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."*

V. 6-7

Note the similarity and contrast between I Peter and James.

I Peter starts the epistle by mention our victory in Christ and then goes to trials; James starts the epistle by mentioning the trials we face and then how to victoriously deal with them.

"Temptation" **-** (*peirasmos)* = a test designed to prove one's character.

This type of test is caused by the world, flesh, or devil and is (from Satan's vantage point) designed to make one fall and sin!

In the context of I Peter, the temptations came to the believers via the persecution and opposition of the unsaved world.

Regarding temptations:

1. They exist presently (*"now")*

2. They don't last forever (*"for a season"* = for a little while)

> Trials do not last forever. God "keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. If we rebel, He may have to reset the clock, but if we submit, He will not permit us to suffer one minute too long" (Wiersbe, p. 393).

3. They are unavoidable (*"if need be")*

4. They cause grief (*"heaviness" =* sorrrow, distress)

5. They come in different types (*"manifold"* - various)

6. They have a good purpose (from God's vantage point)

"That [in order that] the trial [dokime - test to prove genuineness] of your faith. . . might be found unto praise, and glory, and honor..."

"Manifold" -

Will your faith stand the test of "dark days, disappointments, sorrow, criticism, rebuffs, physical pain, unrecognized service. . ." (Anderson, p. 16).

V. 7

Every trial is a test of our *"faith"* (cp. Ja. 1:3 - *"Knowing that the trials of your faith...")*

Trials don't so much build faith as they reveal faith and refine faith.

Truths about your "faith" -

1) Faith will be tested

2) Faith is precious and valuable (more so than *"gold")*

Gold perishes (when God melts this earth, the gold will disintegrate, but faith has an enduring, lasting effect and

value).

3) Faith like gold is <u>refined</u> through the fire (God speaks of *"fiery trials"* - 4:12)

Job 23:10 - *"But He knoweth the way that I take; when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*

"Tried with fire" - at that time of history, Hero was literally testing the faith of many Christians by fire.

I heard recently that they have invented a modern method of refining gold. They send an electrical charge through the gold and this expels any impurities. The resultant gold is clear as crystal! The Bible said this 2,000 years ago! (Rev. 21:21 - *"the street of the city was pure gold, as it were <u>transparent glass</u>*"

"Like physical muscles which must be exercised in order to be strengthened, our faith must be exercised if it is to grow strong" (Barbieri, p. 38).

It has been said that the eastern goldsmith kept the metal in the furnace until he could sere his face reflected in it. So our Lord keeps us in the furnace of suffering until we reflect the glory and beauty of Jesus" (Wiersbe, p. 393).

Even veteran Christians have trials; sometimes greater ones. Why? The measure of trials may depend on God's purpose for a particular individual.

"Equipment used in lunar (and other outer space) exploration is much more thoroughly tested than materials to be used in a car" (Anderson, RBP, Adult Instructor, p. 15).

4) Faith's true value will be evident at Christ's second coming

May our enduring faith bring praise, glory, and honor to Christ at that momentous day!

"While we may not be able to rejoice as we look around in our trials, we can rejoice as we look ahead" (Wiersbe, p. 393).

Who will ultimately receive the glory because of your faith? Christ will!

Paul's objective was that Christ should be magnified in his body *"whether through life or death"* (Phil. 1:20).

"Appearing of Jesus Christ" = The *apocalypsis* or revelation of Jesus. The Rapture is not some secret, unseen, unobservable event. When the Rapture comes, the world will not be left guessing as to what happened!

At that point, His glory will be revealed, and the world will be shuddering in terror (I Thes. 5:3; Rev. 6:16-1i7).

C. You can rejoice because you see Christ through eyes of faith (v. 8)

"The reference to the Lord Jesus reminds Peter that, even in his day, few Christians had been privileged to see the Lord" (Barbieri, p. 38).

Those believers were willing to suffer for someone they had never seen! How? Through faith.

"Whom" - referring to Jesus Christ (v. 7).

"Having not seen" - no one today sees Jesus Christ.

His "appearing" is future (v. 7).

The last apostle to see the risen Christ with mortal eyes was the Apostle Paul (I Cor. 15:8 - *"And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."*

"Having not seen" - we didn't see Him in the past . . . ***"Though now ye see him not" -*** we are not seeing Him in the present.

We see through eyes of faith! *"We walk by faith and not by sight" (*II Cor. 5:7).

We do not have to see Christ to love Him and believe in Him.

To not see and yet believe is more blessed than seeing (Jn. 20:20; cp. II Cor. 5:7).

"Ye love" - (*agapao)* - this ability to have love for Christ comes from Christ.

Don't leave your *"first love"*! (Rev. 2)

"Yet believing, ye rejoice" - Our ability to rejoice, even in the midst of

adverse circumstances comes from our belief, our faith, our hope, our confidence in the trustworthiness of God's promises.

"Believing, ye rejoice" - The measure to which we believe will determine the measure to which we rejoice!

Much faith = much rejoicing
Little faith = little rejoicing
No faith = no rejoicing

"Joy unspeakable" = inexpressible joy; a joy that can't be put into words. A joy the world cannot perceive and cannot have. Not even angels can know the joy of a redeemed sinner!

Our rejoicing is not only inexpressible, but it is ***"full of glory"***!

We rejoice because we literally "have been filled with glory." This glory refers to the high and exalted position we have in Christ. It also points to the guaranteed glory that will transform our mortal bodies in the future. (Rom. 8:28-30).

"This inexpressible joy is really a little taste of heaven (glory) that God permits us to enjoy while we are still here on earth" (Barbieri, p. 38). We don't have to wait till Heaven to enjoy our salvation.

Charles Spurgeon used to say, "Little faith will take your soul to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your soul."

A "full of glory" joy is a joy that is not <u>earthly</u> or "worldly" but is from above!

D. You can rejoice because you know the final outcome at the end of your life (v. 9)

Salvation is in three tenses:

Past - We have been saved

Acts 26:18"*To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."*

Present - We are saved (Eph. 2:8)

Future - We will be saved

(Rom. 13:11 - *"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed";* cp. I Jn. 3:2)

"The end" = the goal or completion; the finish line; the end result.

"Faith" in Christ will not let the believer down; we will receive God's promise of salvation.

"The salvation of your souls" = The deliverance or rescue from perishing.

Our souls will not be lost and damned. Nothing is more important to us than our souls (Mk. 8:36 & 37), and nothing is as guaranteed as God's promise of salvation.

Don't look to the "right now" when going through trials, but to the goal (end) of your faith - your complete and final salvation.

CONCLUSION: