

Cornerstone Church

November 6, 2016

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: Lock-Grip Faith via Salvation
Knowledge

Today's Passages: 1 Peter 1:10-12

[10] Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, [11] inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. [12] It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. (1 Peter 1:10-12 ESV)

Introduction

Main point: When experiencing suffering for your faith, realize that we, New Covenant Christians, are vastly more privileged than even the greatest of Old Testament saints like Moses or Daniel.

They suffered harshly without knowing that their misery would someday be rewarded by the reception of eternal glory, eternal life, and eternal bliss (joy).

Review:

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5 ESV)

Here is Our Salvation:

1. We have been born again.

(John 3:3-5 ESV) Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

(1 Peter 1:23 ESV) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

- Being born again by the power of the Spirit allows us to be able to see the Kingdom of God. Those who have not been born again cannot see Jesus for who He is (at least in the sense to see Him enough to love Him)

(1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

- Being born again means we will never experience eternal death **not of perishable seed but of imperishable,**
- Being "born again" is something that happens to us prior to conversion. Just as we did not choose to be physically born, so we did not choose to be spiritually re-born.

(John 1:13 ESV) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

(James 1:18 ESV) Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

(Ezekiel 36:26-27 ESV) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Therefore, while enduring harsh persecution, we are emboldened in our faith knowing God was merciful to us in

giving us a new heart, a heart we did not deserve, while our persecutors will most likely get what they deserve, eternal damnation for their sin and rebellion against God.

2. We have been saved from the penalty of our sins.
(1 Peter 2:24 ESV) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
(John 3:36 ESV) Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Here is what the prophets said about their own hunger for answers: vss. 10-11 above

(Isaiah 6:10-11 ESV) (God to Isaiah) Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.” Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said: “Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste,

Here is (a portion of) what the prophets prophesied about our salvation/grace:

(Isaiah 53:11 ESV) Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

(Jeremiah 31:33-34 ESV) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Somehow Jesus informed the prophets that they were not prophesying for themselves or even their own generation but for us.

[12] It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven,

This amazing gospel is an amazing wonder to angels. They love and long to look at the results of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. **things into which angels long to look.** Why? Because:

1. Christ did not die for fallen angels (demons). Their choice to rebel cannot be forgiven.

(Matthew 25:41 ESV) “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

The Scriptures clearly state that Christ died for humans not angels.

(Romans 5:18-19 ESV) Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

2. That means that elect angels are not forgiven because there was no need for them to be forgiven. Therefore they cannot experience what it means to be forgiven although they see the contrast daily between unforgiven demons and forgiven humans.

Conclusion

We are more privileged than the OT prophets (even Moses, Daniel and Isaiah) because we are experiencing the salvation realities they could only ponder and guess at and we are more privileged than the angels because we have been forgiven and they have not been forgiven.