

Choosing Joy

Added 9/28/20

For Sunday, October 4, 2020

Introduction

1st Peter

- For several weeks I've felt a burden to preach to you from this epistle
- We've studied it verse by verse on Wednesday's back in 2014
- Because of the time in which we are living, it's message is important to hear today!
- **A little background:** it was written by Peter to the church - but not to "a church" (e.g. Ephesians).
- Instead it is written to believers who had been scattered through persecution and were about to face difficult times
- They've lost their homes and jobs
- They've been driven away from their loved ones and possessions
- They have begun to suffer for the Lord.

Today

- Want us to use 1:6 as our text, and we will read through verses 3-6 for the message this morning

- We will (Lord willing) come back and look at vv7-11 next Sunday
- We may persist in our study beyond that
- Let's look at the entire verse for a second, and then use it as an outline **1**
Peter 1:6 *So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.*
- I see ...
 - A promise (Wonderful joy ahead)
 - A practice (Be truly glad)
 - A second promise (you must endure many trials for a little while)

The first promise

1 Peter 1:6 *There is wonderful joy ahead...*

- What a great promise!
- No matter what we are facing right now... the best is yet to come!
- There is great joy ahead of us!
- Old song *It will be worth it all / when we see Jesus / Life's troubles will seem so small / when we see Christ / One glimpse of his dear face / all sorrow will erase / so bravely run the race / till we see Christ*
- That song speaks about our future hope and joy - and was such a part of my childhood.
- We must remember there is joy ahead, and fix our eyes on that joy.
- A couple of weeks ago, we preached about Jesus who *for the joy set before him, endured the cross*
- Jesus kept his eyes on a future joy!
- Peter promises the same for a church that was enduring hardship and trial
- **Question:** has the enemy stolen our joy?

The practice from that promise

- The verse opens with this practice we are to incorporate into our daily life
So be truly glad!
- This is a call to us. We are called to be glad! (Again, in spite of the trials we are enduring!)
- Remember the people to whom Peter writes: they have already suffered and sacrificed and struggled.
- Peter kicks off his letter with a call to worship. See **1 Peter 1:3a** *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*
- Peter reminds them to rejoice and praise God
- **Please note:** if personal worship has fallen by the wayside - that's an indicator of trouble
- As Mike reminds us from **Psalm 118:24** *This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.*
- We must choose to be glad, making *the choice to rejoice!*
- God is worthy of praise! We should rejoice today!!
- One might ask *What do we have to rejoice about?* Peter answers that question in vv3-5, listing four things for which we can rejoice
- Let's work our way down through them

Born again

- **1 Peter 1:3a** *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.*
- Here is the first and primary reason to rejoice: we have been born again
- We couldn't help the way we were born
- From Adam we received a sin nature and are because of that nature alienated from God... enemies with him
- But God in his mercy took action by sending his Son Jesus.

- He took our sins and their punishment upon himself and paid the price thereof, dying on the cross.
- The greatest reason we have to rejoice - is that we've been born again.
- **Note:** The testimony of resurrection. We know that Christ died for our sins because he rose from the dead.
- Had Jesus merely died because of his own sin - there would be no resurrection. The wages of sin is death!

Great expectation

- **1 Peter 1:3b** *Now we live with great expectation,*
- Our great expectation is the resurrection from the dead
- We may be suffering and struggling here, but we have our expectation of resurrection.
- We will rise again
- Have we forgotten our hope? Have we forgotten we will rise again?
- Do we truly believe that we will live forever with the Lord? Has the enemy robbed us of this hope? It's no wonder we've been robbed of our joy

Priceless inheritance

- **1 Peter 1:4** *And we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.*
- All of heaven is ours - we are *joint heirs* with Jesus Romans 8:17 tells us. That which he will receive we will share
- **Note:** That verse goes on to say *provided that we suffer with him*
- Jesus tells us to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven (Matt 6) where moth and rust don't corrupt and thieves don't break in and steal.
- Everything here is temporary - and is subject to decay and destruction
- Our treasure is in heaven and won't change or decay

- I may not be wealthy here, but I have everything there! Be glad
- (Again - they'd had to forsake their earthly possessions - but rejoice: we have heavenly possessions!)

Shielded by His Power

- One final thing that should cause us to rejoice. See **1 Peter 1:5** *And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.*
- God is protecting us by His power!
- Remember his promise from our reading last week: **Isaiah 54:17** *But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed.*
- There is nothing the enemy can launch against us that is greater than God's power for us!
- No matter what comes - we are shielded by God!
- Remember his faithfulness to you in times past! He has always been there for you!
- See how he preserved Noah because of faith, or Lot, or person after person.
- Note: *Through faith!* The enemy is trying to steal our faith from us! (I've mentioned this frequently).
- Balak tried to hire Balaam to curse God's people - but he could not. Instead of cursing, he blessed God's people.
- But - apparently Balaam came up with the idea to seduce God's people using the Moabite women. Point: the enemy wants to lure us away from God and destroy us.
- He is working overtime to destroy and weaken our faith.
- We must remain strong in the faith! Be in the Word, be in fellowship with other believers. Turn off / eliminate the things that are sowing seeds of doubt.

- **Note:** Receive his salvation. We hold that by faith right now. When he appears, he will bring the salvation we've believed. We can't quit before the race is over!!

The 2nd promise

- We had our first promise: There is wonderful joy ahead
- We talked about the call to rejoice - and four reasons we should be joyful now!
- Let's conclude with the 2nd promise that's there: **1 Peter 1:6b** *Even though you must endure many trials for a little while.*
- Peter promises these believers (who have already suffered) that there are still trials that lie ahead
- There are difficult times ahead for the believer
- This should not cause us to fear
- Remember v6 - no matter what happens, we are shielded by God's power!
- Next week I want to continue our study of this passage
- We will talk about trials and their purpose in our lives.

Closing

For those who are struggling

- Pray for God's strength
- Shield them by faith!

Faith is weak

- Renew our minds

Homework

- Read through chapter 1 of this book
- Start every day with praise!
- End every day with praise!