

A Salvation Like No Other

1 Peter 1:10-12

Pastor GL Wong

A common response to suffering, whether big or small, is self-pity. It is a type of prideful response. *The reason self-pity does not look like pride is that it appears to be so needy. But the need arises from a wounded ego. It doesn't come from a sense of unworthiness, but from a sense of unrecognized worthiness. It is the response of unapplauded pride.*' – John Piper. Suffering + Unapplauded pride = Self-pity. The solution to self-pity is to exchange unapplauded pride for humility. As God seeks to humble us, He also tells us that we cannot save ourselves. Self-pity is not God's plan for us; it is knowing deeply His salvation for us.

The Wonders of God's Salvation:

1. The Amazing Grace

'...the grace that was to be yours...' v10

Peter described the grace of God as something that was predicted and prophesied long ago in the Scriptures by the Old Testament prophets (v11). Inspired by the Holy Spirit, they predicted not just the suffering of Christ as our Saviour, but also the glories that would come after His resurrection. Jesus Himself confirmed this after His resurrection (Luke 24:25-27). The Old Testament Scriptures that were written hundreds and thousands of years before the birth of Christ ultimately pointed to Jesus Christ (Mic. 5:2). If God can connect the dots over thousands of years to achieve His purposes, He can easily connect the dots over decades to achieve His purposes for us. It is only when we can fully trust this God that we can find the courage to abandon our self-salvation project and receive His salvation for us.

2 additional thoughts on God's grace:

#1 It is extremely thoughtful – Salvation was lovingly and thoughtfully planned by

God, with years of anticipating our needs and desires, as His plan to us. God loves you more than you love yourself!

#2 It ensures a good ending – the prophecy about grace and the prediction about Christ (vv. 10-11) were heading the same way: all suffering will end in glory, just as Jesus was glorified in His suffering. This grace that is given to us has a good ending! God's salvation is amazing grace!

2. The Awesome Privilege

'It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you in the things that have now been announced to you,' v12 Peter revealed an awesome privilege: all of the Old Testament prophets and their ministry were not for themselves or their generation, but ultimately for all the believers after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament prophets were serving us through their writings. Jesus echoed this truth (Matt. 13:17). The Old Testament prophets had greater reason to envy us, who have received this gift by grace through faith.

'...through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.' v12

The same Spirit that inspired and gave power to the preaching and proclamation of the gospel now moves in our church today. The gospel was not for angels, but for mankind. Like the Old Testament prophets, the angels also long to delight in the gospel. Salvation is an awesome privilege!

3 Applications:

1. Repent of self-pity
2. Receive God's compassion for you
3. Re-anchor yourself in God's word