

Sunday Morning Message

October 18, 2020

1 Peter 2:1 – 12 – Purchased by the Grace of God

Series – 1st and 2nd Peter - *Experiencing God's Grace In the Midst of Suffering*

Text – 1 Peter 2:1 - 12

Congregational Reading – 1 Peter 2:9 - 12

Introduction

We have been studying Peter's letter to the saints of God in the first century who were struggling and suffering for many reasons, but primarily because of their faith in Christ. We have noticed as we have studied this first letter of Peter that even though these Christians were being persecuted because of their love for Christ, they were also experiencing the marvelous grace of God through their difficulties. The message that I want us to see through our examination of these epistles is that God's grace will always be sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9) for whatever pain or heartache that we are called upon to endure as we serve the Lord in these perilous last days.

As we concluded our examination of chapter one in the last message, we were given some practical advice from the Lord regarding some very practical things we should do when go through periods of trial and suffering. We saw that we should:

1. Prepare ourselves mentally for trial – putting our game faces on.
2. Pass the time fearfully – looking unto God for strength.
3. Purpose to love each other passionately – we are all going through this together.

Now in the first half of chapter two, we will see that, by God's grace, we who are saved are different from everybody else, set apart from the rest of the world. Peter uses the word, "peculiar" (περιποίησις – *peripoiēsin*), in verse nine, is used. We use that word today mostly in a derogatory way to indicate that somebody is strange or different – perhaps unique; but in the Bible, the word carries the idea of being special, or belonging exclusively to someone. Here, the idea is that we who are saved belong to Christ and are his exclusive property. We are a purchased possession:

*"For ye are **bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:20)*

*"Ye are **bought with a price**; be not ye the servants of men." (1 Corinthians 7:23)*

And because we belong to Him, we not only have special privileges, but we also have unique responsibilities. God has higher expectations of us, and because of his grace, we are equipped and enabled to meet those expectations.

I. We Have Partaken (tasted) of Salvation (vs. 1 – 3)

Verses 1 – 3 are transitional verses. The word, “wherefore,” connects us to the discussion in chapter one. Verses 23 – 25 of chapter one discuss the new birth, which is only possible because of the Word of God (see 1 Peter 1:23 – 25). Verse three of chapter two also alludes to the fact that we have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

The psalmist, David, said:

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." (Psalm 34:8)

The word taste indicates that these readers of Peter’s letter had partaken of the grace of God – they had experienced the new birth – they were saved. But the word also carries the idea of just an initial sampling. When we taste something and “see that it is good,” we naturally want to taste some more. The new birth is just the beginning of the journey. We need to go deeper in our faith. Peter will conclude his second letter with the encouragement:

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

A. Because We Have Tasted We Should Cast Aside:

1. Malice – maliciousness, desire to injure.
2. Guile – deceit, sneakiness
3. Hypocrisies – not genuine; like an actor who is playing a part
4. Envy – desiring to have what someone else possesses or to be what someone else is. Usually it involves criticizing or bringing the object of our envy down in reputation. The religious leaders were envious of Jesus.
5. Evil Speakings – defamation or backbiting

Illustrate – Thumper the Rabbit said: “if you don’t have nuthin’ nice to say, don’t say nuthin’ at all.”

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Ephesians 4:29)

B. Because We Have Tasted We Should Consume More of the Word of God

We cannot grow apart from the Word of God.

Job said:

"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." (Job 23:12)

Jesus said:

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

If we are going to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, then we will need to spend time with the Lord through His word.

1. In our daily devotions.
2. In our corporate services and studies.
3. We need to memorize Scripture, and meditate upon it, and then share it with others.

The writer to the Hebrews had this idea of growth in mind.

As a matter of fact, if we develop a taste for the sincere milk of the word, we will eventually grow to the place where we desire strong meat also:

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Hebrews 5:12-14)

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit." (Hebrews 6:1-3)

II. We Are Part of the Building Where He is the Chief Corner Stone (vs. 4 – 8)

The “to whom” in v. 4 is “the Lord” from verse 3. He is the living stone, the chief cornerstone upon whom the Church is built upon.

Notice also that three times in these five verses the word, “precious,” is used in reference to the Lord Jesus. He is precious, but notice in verses 4 and 7 that not everybody sees Him as precious. To us who believe, He is the chief cornerstone, but to the lost He is the stone that was rejected by the builders. This was prophesied hundreds of years before the birth of Christ:

"I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:21-23)

"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."
(Isaiah 28:16)

Daniel prophesied about a stone made without hands, speaking of Christ, that would crush all of the godless kingdoms of the world, and would eventually grow into a great mountain that would fill the whole earth (Daniel 2:31 – 45).

The Apostle Paul also expounded on Christ being the chief cornerstone:

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22)

The Lord is the chief cornerstone, the apostles and prophets were the foundation, but we are the building.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus used the illustration of a small rock and a large rock (or mountain) in his discussion with Peter regarding the Church:

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (Πέτρος - petros), and upon this rock (πέτρα – petra) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
(Matthew 16:18)

III. We Are Peculiar to the Lord (vs. 9 – 12)

We have already discussed the meaning of the word, “**peculiar**,” but now let’s consider other words that describe our relationship with Christ.

Notice that we are also **picked** (chosen – v. 9). God chooses for salvation every person who comes to Him through faith.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)

We are also royal **priests (v. 9)**. We have born-again into the royal family, and through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have access to the Father.

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." (Hebrews 10:19-22)

Notice - we are also “an holy nation.”

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:" (Philippians 3:20)

We are citizens of Heaven (v. 9 – *a holy nation*). We are merely ambassadors for the Lord down here on the earth.

There is a contrast made here in these verses between the Christ rejecters and true believers.

Notice also that the church seems to be in view here. In v. 10, the Bible says that they were not a people in the past, but now are the people of God.

Paul gives us three classifications of people:

"Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:" (1 Corinthians 10:32)

Before Christ there was no church; there were only Jews and Gentiles; but now there is a new group made up of both saved Jews, and saved Gentiles.

Because we belong to the Lord; because we are a holy nation; a peculiar people:

A. We Should Bring Glory to God (v. 9 – “shew forth the praises”)

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:11-14)

B. We Should Break Away From the World and Our Own Fleshly Desires (v. 11)

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. ... And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:16-18, 24-25)

C. We Should Behave Like Christians, Especially in Front of the Lost (v. 12)

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

"Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." (Philippians 2:14-16)

Conclusion

We belong to the Lord. There are a lot of awesome benefits that come with that classification, but there are also some responsibilities that come with those privileges. Because we have been purchased, we ought to give Him His money's worth. We ought to bring Him glory and honor. We ought to be able to separate from this ole' wicked world and say no to our fleshly desires. We ought to be able to behave like Christians in this dark and wicked world. In these crazy days, the world desperately needs to see

something bigger than their circumstances; something that is above the chaos that is permeating their world. They need to see Christ, and they can only see Christ if we show Him to them. These perilous days that we are living in are indeed difficult, but we must remember that they present to us an unprecedented time to put Christ on display for the world to see. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to show people Christ.

People have already figured out that the government cannot fix this broken world, but God can. We need to shew them the power of God, and the grace of God through lives that are stable in the midst of uncertainty; lives that are hopeful when others see nothing but despair. We need to be courageous when so many are literally drowning in fear and anxiety. We need to demonstrate our faith in the Lord in front of a very godless culture. What this world needs is Jesus, and we have the awesome opportunity to shew them Christ. We are peculiar; we belong to Jesus. Let's reflect that fact to the world around us.