

1 Peter 1:10-12

Reflection Guide

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.

Remember the big point of 1 Peter: stand firm in the the true grace of God in Christ! What is the true grace of God?

- You have been loved before time
- His mercy has been given to you
- You have been born again
- You have been given a living hope
- You have an inheritance, kept for you
- God is keeping you and using your trials to purify you.
- You'll receive all that Jesus deserves
- **TODAY: you have a very precious position by God's grace.**

Peter is talking about the work of God in saving us and making us His own and the fullness of our salvation to be realized for all eternity. Following on the Reflections from last week, today: Have you considered the preciousness of our position in Christ?

Concerning this salvation: the prophets.

Peter is referring to the Old Covenant guys...Moses, David, Isaiah. These were men and women who were called to their task by God...no one woke up one day and set a career trajectory to be a prophet But God spoke directly to them and The Holy Spirit was upon them ...they were divine spokesmen for God...Ambassadors. They were close to God, informed by God Himself, but they were not omniscient. God gave them messages to speak to His people in their time and their place but they were also future oriented in their messages at times.

Peter says that they were aware that what they were communicating was something that they didn't fully understand. They searched / inquired - this was purposeful, diligent effort. They most likely searched the earlier Scriptures and their own prophecies to find out more about this 'salvation' and 'grace' that they were predicting, in particular the "sufferings" and "glories" of the Messiah. Israel was longing for him... speaking of Him.

They were hoping to know when and through whom this salvation was to take place. They did not get a clear answer from the scriptures or from the Spirit, but "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,"

So What?

The Gospel, the work of God in bringing you salvation is not something dreamed up by delusional followers of a wandering Jewish man in the 1st century. Its roots are in the eternal mind and will of God Himself and God was serving you when He inspired His prophets of Old to speak to His people back then.

These prophets, these great men and women chosen by God desired to know the fullness of what God was saying when He had them speak of the coming Messiah who would suffer and who would be glorified...but God didn't fill them in. And now you and I are the recipients of what these great prophets wanted so desperately to understand!

**How does your eagerness for the gospel compare to the prophets?
What do you think made them so eager to see and experience the fullness of the gospel?
What are we missing?**

Concerning this salvation... things into which angels long to look.

The angels have a different vantage point, so it must mean that in some way they have still now a holy desire to see how the glories of the gospel play out in the lives of God's people. Even as Peter is writing and you and I are reading the angels are longing, desiring to look into these things and understand them more fully. Wayne Grudem:

"angels - who see ultimate reality from God's perspective - find Christians to be objects of intense interest, for they know that these struggling believers are actually the recipients of God's greatest blessings and honored participants in a great drama at the focal point of universal history."

Angels who are already in God's presence are intensely interested in God's grace and the recipients of it. How does this elevated the gospel in your mind? Are we so familiar that we are no longer in awe?

Strength to Endure

As aliens and strangers, the world may look at us and call us weak minded, ignorant, marginalize you and mock you. How are we to stand strong? Be ever more present and in awe of the gospel the way the prophets were and angels are. The "greatest" messengers of God, both in heaven and earth, did not know God's grace as well as we do. There must be massive value and power in God's grace! J.C Ryle:

"We have a race to run. Without there will be fightings, within there will be fears; there will be snares to be avoided, and temptations to be resisted; there will be your own treacherous hearts, often cold and dead and dry and dull; there will be friends who will give you unscriptural advice, and relations who will even war against your soul; in short, there will be stumbling-blocks on every side, there will be occasion for all your diligence and watchfulness and godly jealousy and prayer, you will soon find that to be a real Christian is no light matter."

This was the burden of the writer of Hebrews.

12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

So we are in a race, not a sprint, more like a marathon or a [Spartan Death Race](#). There are obstacles on every side...snares set out to trip us up...our own sin clings to us like that wet sweaty shirt and burdens weigh us down...

Consider the folks mentioned in Hebrews 11. These guys like you and I, were going through various trials. Many of them were being mocked and treated poorly b/c of their faith. their lives changed and surprise...people didn't just embrace it.

They needed to be encouraged. And how were they encouraged? LOOK UNTO JESUS, HE ENDURED THE CROSS and is sitting AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. This means and Jesus has accomplished our salvation and now is sitting in authority next to God the Father, interceding for us and ruling over us to keep us in Him!

The wisdom of God in eternity conceived of a way for the Love of God to satisfy the wrath of God without compromising the justice of God and hereby make salvation possible for sinners like you and me and he did it through the sufferings of His Son Jesus and the glorious resurrection.

What a God! What a savior! What a salvation! What a Precious position.

Where would you say you are weak right now?

How can we help strengthen _____ in this area with the gospel word right now?

What scripture comes to mind?

What is true for _____ that he/she may have forgotten?

Where are we "weak" as a Community? Family, Ambassador, Servant, Disciple?

What do we need to remember about the gospel to be strengthened here?