

Begin “Timeless” Series

THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME

“Timeless Truths For Troubles Times”

1 Peter 1:1-12

We live in troubling times. Our economy, environmental disasters, and religious fanatics terrorizing our world. Life is and has always been discouraging since the fall of man; it's not just our day. Being a Christian in our culture is often difficult; being beaten up from without and corrupted from within.

Peter knows what we focus upon determines our happiness and peace of mind. Like fear, discouragement is contagious. Peter opens this book getting believers to get their focus off perceived problems to the Prince of Peace. Peter reminds us as God's children, ***“This world is not our home.”*** God calls us pilgrims in a hostile territory. We are in this world, but not of this world.

Three timeless truths for troubled times

I. God has chosen me to be part of His family.

“Dear friends, God the Father chose you long ago and knew you would become His children...” (1 Peter 1:2, LB)

A. Your salvation was no accident.

1. God the Father thought it. See the word elect. That is God choosing us.

“...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...” (Ephesians 1:4)

2. God the Holy Spirit wrought it.

“Through the sanctification of the Spirit.” That means God sought us and set us aside for a purpose: To be set aside for a holy purpose. We are utterly dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

That is He convicted us of our sinful state. ***“...sanctified of the Spirit unto obedience.”***

NOTE** We also have a part in our life. There is divine sovereignty and there is human responsibility. God’s choosing us does not do away with personal responsibility. It’s not who was elected, but how we are elected. We are elected through Christ. If you want to be saved you can be saved. ***“The Lord is not willing that any should perish.” “Whosoever will let him come...”

3. God the Son bought it.

“...sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...”

That is He cleansed us from sin by His blood.

***NOTE** As far as the Father is concerned, I was saved when He chose me in Christ, before the foundation of the world. As far as the Son is concerned, I was saved when He died for me on the cross. As far as the Spirit is concerned, I was saved one night in Stonewall, Oklahoma at the age of six. It took every part of the Trinity to bring about my salvation.

B. Your spiritual birth is into royalty.

1. Would your life be different if your natural parents were a king and queen?
2. The life of royalty is marked by:

- Power.
- Plenty.

NOTE** Your salvation is no accident. Before you asked Him to forgive you and come into your life, He chose you, ***“According to the purpose of God.” Not because of what I have done or who I was, but because of who He is.

“All honor to God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; for it is his boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again, so that we are now members of God’s own family. Now we live in the hope of eternal life because Christ rose again from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3, LB)

Timeless truth: No matter what happens, God loves me!

II. God is still working in my life.

“...and the Holy Spirit has been at work in your hearts, cleansing you with the blood of Jesus Christ and making you please Him.” (vs. 2, LB)

A. You may not see it or feel it, but God is at work in your life.

1. He is cleansing you: Refining us.

“...that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...” (vs. 7)

2. He is changing you: Refocusing.

B. Two benefits of God being at work in us.

1. He is blessing you: Giving you what you need, not what you deserve.
2. He is giving increasing freedom from fear and anxiety.
 - Peace with God: Understanding.
 - Peace of God: Exponential.

***NOTE** In Peter's day because Nero had burned Rome and blamed Christians for it, they were facing great persecution: burned at the stake, crucified, fed to wild animals. Satan meant it to silence the gospel, but it was like seed being spread.

Fleshly lust attracts our soul. That soul that is alive in Christ. We are not citizens of earth trying to go to heaven; we are citizens of heaven, sojourners on this earth. This world works on our mind, will and emotion. No wonder so many in the church are suffering from spiritual schizophrenia - trying to live with one foot on earth and the other in heaven. A double-minded man unstable in all his ways. Divided and miserable. Peace with God but knew little of the peace of God.

3. Don't be a sick saint or spiritual neurotic. You are at war.
4. When in a foreign country they say, "Don't drink the water..."

Timeless truth: No matter what happens, God will help me.

You may feel helpless, but you are not. The tome is empty – Jesus is alive!
"These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever!" (2 Corinthians 4:17, LB)

III. God has secured my future.

"And God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay." (vs. 4, LB)

"God in His mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting him..." (vs. 5, LB)

A. Our salvation is rooted in mercy.

1. Some believe you can lose your salvation.
2. That depends on how you think you got it. If you think you got it by works, you would be right to think you can lose it by works.
3. But the Bible says we get it by grace alone. It is not rooted in the merit of man, but in the mercy of God!

B. Our salvation results in a birth.

“...hath begotten us again...”

1. You can only be born again one time.
2. We are born into God’s family.
3. If the only thing that keeps you from wanting to sin is the fear of losing your salvation, I doubt you have ever been saved.
4. At spiritual birth I get a divine nature that hates to sin.
5. Before salvation we run to sin.
6. After spiritual birth we run from sin.
7. I have a desire to live out the Christ life.

C. Our salvation rests in a resurrection.

1. Because He lives I live.

“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

(Hebrews 7:25)

2. As long as Jesus is interceding, I live!
3. We celebrate the resurrection each Sunday.

“...who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:5) We are kept in God’s resurrected power.

“...to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...” (1 Peter 1:4)

Timeless truth: We as God’s child have an inheritance.

- It is incorruptible – that means it’s faultless; it can’t corrupt or decay.
- It is undefiled – that means it is flawless. No lawyer will find a hole in the covenant.
- It will not fade away – that means it is fadeless; infarction will not get it; government can’t take it away.

***KEY** Your inheritance is not heaven. Heaven is the safety deposit box. It is reserved in heaven. What is it? It is Jesus Christ.

“It shall be, in regard to their inheritance, that I am their inheritance. You shall give them no possession in Israel, for I am their possession.” (Ezekiel 44:28)

We are priests and God is our inheritance. If we understood who we are and what we have in Jesus, we would not be jealous of anyone. You don’t need anything when you have everything. *“We are complete in Christ and by Him every need shall be supplied.”* He is reserved in heaven for us and we are kept for Him.

Peter’s conclusion:

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him,

yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:6-9)

- **There are riggers in this fallen world.**

1. We walk a narrow road.
2. There are testings, trials, and troubles.

- **The restrain of life. “...for a little while...”**

1. It’s like gold in a furnace.
2. We are in the refiner’s fire.

“When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” (Job 23:10)

3. No jeweler was more careful with gold than the Father is with His children.

- **The result of life.**

1. The only thing the fire burned of the Hebrew children only had burned away what the world placed on them.
2. God is wanting to bless us.

IV. We will be saved out of this world.

A. We are headed to a destination.

1. He is going to come get us.
2. It will be worth it all when we see Him.
3. Heaven is beyond anything we can imagine.

B. The end of our faith is being in God’s presence.

1. There are times God knows we need to go through some trials.
 - To discipline us.

- To prune us for growth.
2. This world, however, is not our home.
 3. We have a living hope!

“The prophets who told us this was coming asked a lot of questions about this gift of life God was preparing. The Messiah's Spirit let them in on some of it—that the Messiah would experience suffering, followed by glory. They clamored to know who and when. All they were told was that they were serving you, you who by orders from heaven have now heard for yourselves—through the Holy Spirit—the Message of those prophecies fulfilled. Do you realize how fortunate you are? Angels would have given anything to be in on this!” (1 Peter 1:10-12, The Message)