

1 Peter 1:3-5

Our Uplook Should Transform Our Outlook

The Work of God in Our Past/Future Should Produce Persevering Praise
Even in the Face of Our Worst Problems on Earth

Purpose Statement of the Book of 1 Peter (2:11-12)

As spiritual aliens/short-timers on Earth, Christians should not be controlled by our emotions/feelings but we should consistently live our faith centered on our Lord Jesus Christ so that unbelievers who slander us because we are believers will see the reality of Christ in our lives and ultimately glorify God by coming to Him in faith.

Believers in Christ Should Profoundly/Persistently Praise God Because of His Working in Our Past to Effect Our Salvation 1:3

God the Father: the Author/Architect of Salvation (Election)

God the Son: The Active Agent of Salvation (Redemption/Resurrection)

God the Holy Spirit: The Activating Agent of Salvation (Common and Efficacious Grace)

The Terms “Grace” and “Mercy” are Related but are Not the Same Thing

1: Both are expressions of God’s love

2a: Grace is unmerited favor, blessing we do not earn/deserve

2b: Mercy is favor extended in view of the pitiful status of the recipient

3a: Theologically “grace” highlights our inability to save ourselves

3b: Theologically “mercy” highlights our gross guilt/spiritual status before God

He caused us to be born again (Titus 3:4-6)

He = the subject of the clause-He produced the action of the verb

Born Again = the theological term is “regeneration” which is “the impartation of everlasting spiritual life to the sinner who believes in Christ.”(Titus 3:4-7)

The Three Tenses of Salvation in the Life of a Believer

1: Past: we have been saved from the penalty of our sin (justification)

2: Present: we are being saved from the power of sin in our lives (sanctification)

3: Future: we will be saved from the presence/effects of sin (glorification)

to a living hope (faith directed forward and/or the object of that faith), the NT word is elpis = an eager anticipation about something in the future to/with a view toward our possessing a “living/dynamic” positive expectation now about our (eternal) future in the blessed/loving presence of our Savior God.

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

only a resurrected Savior can give mortal human beings everlasting life, His resurrection is one of many things that make our Lord Jesus Christ unique:

His genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17)

His virgin conception (Matthew 1:18-25)

His perfect +R life (Hebrews 4:14-16)

His death as a SAS: Substitutionary Atoning Sacrifice (Leviticus 16 Yom Kippur)

His resurrection = LBSR: Literal, Bodily, Supernatural Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15)

Believers in Christ Should Profoundly/Persistently Praise God Because of His Working in Our Future (an Effect of) Salvation 1:4-5

Our Living Hope (v3)....Anticipates Things Like Our Obtaining a Heavenly Inheritance:

Which is imperishable, undefiled and which will not fade away, reserved in Heaven for _____ . (if you're a believer put your name in the blank)

_____ is protected by the power of (the Triune God) through faith for a(n aspect of your) salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

VERSE 6: In this (the past/future aspects of salvation in 1:3-5) you greatly rejoice even though now for a “little” while, you have been distressed by traumatic experiences...

Take This To Heart

Appreciation for What God Has Done for Us in the Past and Anticipation about What God Will Do for Us in the Future is Essential for Christians Whose Faith is Under Fire.

Believers are Not Called to Deny the Reality/Pain of Present Problems But We Can Prevent Them from Overwhelming Us by Putting Them in Perspective within the Frame of Our Past and Future Realities/Blessings in Christ.

To Christians in Crisis the Word of God Says: In Your Worst Earthly Traumas, Tie Off Both Ends (Fore and Aft) of Your Spiritual Boat...and You Can Ride Out the Storm Knowing the Sun/Son is Coming!