

## **“Living Hope, Part 3: Salvation Appreciation”**

**1 Peter 1:10-12**

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**April 25, 2010**

**Main Idea:** We are strengthened as we consider our privileged position as recipients of such a great salvation.

### **The Prophets Who Prophesied (verses 10-12a)**

1. Who were the prophets? They were men like Moses, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel and David. They were called by God, brought into His divine council, and invested with the Holy Spirit. They were divine spokesmen who were divinely commissioned ambassadors, sent by God, to speak authoritatively on behalf of God.
2. They prophesied about the grace that we have received through Jesus Christ. But they only understood that grace in part. They were intrigued by what they did know, so they searched and inquired carefully and intently wanting to know what person, what time frame, what circumstances the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating that the Messiah would suffer and be glorified.
3. However, their prophecies were not serving themselves, but Peter’s original readers and, by extension, us.

### **The Angels Who Long To Look. (verse 12b)**

1. Angels were no strangers to God’s plan of salvation. They were there announcing the birth of Jesus; they were there when He rose from the dead and when He ascended into heaven. But because they have never sinned, they will never experience the gift of salvation.
2. However, the holy angels *are* able to perceive that our great salvation is worthy of their intense interest.

### **The Object of Their Intense Interest (verse 11b)**

1. What the prophets predicted and into which the angels longed to look were *“the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.”*
2. The writings of the prophets enlighten us and strengthen us.  
Psalm 22.1, 16-18 *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? ... For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”*

Isaiah 53.3-6 *“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces. He was*

*despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that has brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned each one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."*

3. But now through the Apostles and others, the good news, the gospel of the sufferings and glories of Jesus Christ, has been announced to us. And *"because the sufferings and glories of our Redeemer are the main subject of the Gospel, they should be much in our thinking."* – Leighton-Thomas
4. Just as the sufferings and glories of Christ are the substance of the gospel message, they also serve as an example for us to follow because trials of various kinds await us. Peter knew that the best way to encourage and strengthen his fellow believers in the midst of trial was to remind them of the gospel and of the glories that followed.
5. But sufferings are not the final word. In Jesus life, his sufferings were followed by the glories of resurrection, glorification, ascension, and his seating at the right hand of the Father, in that position of glory that He had with the Father from all eternity. The same is true for Christians. Our suffering will be followed by the glory of eternal life, of life forever in the presence of our Savior.

### **Fellowship Starters:**

1. Leighton-Thomas wrote, *"Because the sufferings and glories of our Redeemer are the main subject of the Gospel, they should be much in our thinking."* How can a regular reflection on the sufferings and glories of Jesus strengthen your hope and encourage your faith?
2. Peter knew that the best way to encourage his fellow believers was to remind them of the gospel. How can considering the sufferings of Christ strengthen you through trial and adversity?
3. Robin taught us that the same glories (i.e., resurrection and ascension) that followed Christ's sufferings await the Christian. How can considering the glories that await us in heaven strengthen you to persevere through trial and suffering?
4. John Bunyan, in *Pilgrim's Progress* wrote, *"Then [Christian] stood still awhile to look and wonder, for he was very surprised that the sight of the Cross should ease him of his burden...He looked, therefore, and looked again, even until springs in his head sent water flowing down his cheeks."* Do you ever take time to stand at the cross and the empty tomb and marvel at your great salvation? What do you appreciate about your salvation? For what are you grateful?

5. Be intentional to set aside time to wonder at such a great salvation. Sing songs and read passages of Scripture that stir gratefulness and appreciation for all that Christ did and accomplished on your behalf.