

21S16 1st Peter 1:6-12

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. So, get comfortable, get your coffee or tea or water and settle in for our talk.

I hope everyone is doing well.

Today we are continuing our series on 1st Peter.

The author is the Apostle Peter. Most scholars believe this letter was written sometime in AD60-64. The main theme of 1st Peter is Holy Living for those suffering persecution. This letter was written to Christians living in the Roman Empire and facing persecution because they follow Jesus.

I'm reading from the International Children's Bible (ICB) today, I like the plain English in this translation. Let's read 1 Peter 1:6 (ICB). *⁶This makes you very happy. But now for a short time different kinds of troubles may make you sad.*

What is the "THIS" that Peter is talking about in v. 6. Well last time in v. 5 he talked about salvation. So, the "this" is salvation. So the thought of "salvation makes us very happy.

But... ever noticed that good news often comes with a "but". Peter gives us the "but". Troubles are coming. We are all going to face trouble. In fact the people Peter was writing to were facing great persecution by the Romans and many others. People were asking, what is the point of following Jesus if it means facing persecution, torture and even death. Peter wants us to keep our focus on Jesus and the ultimate prize which is heaven.

Let's continue reading 1 Peter 1:7 (ICB). *⁷These troubles come to prove that your faith is pure. This purity of faith is worth more than gold. Gold can be proved to be pure by fire, but gold can be destroyed. But the purity of your faith will bring you praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ comes again.*

Peter goes further, saying the trials we face give us the opportunity to show our character just like gold is purified by fire, our faith is strengthened by trials. Tests of our faith necessary and beneficial to us.

One goal of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

The words translated as faith and believe are all from Greek words derived from a form of the word "pistis" meaning faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness. These words mean to convey we have a confidence in our Lord. We can trust our Lord. And through our faithfulness to Jesus, we will receive salvation for our souls.

Why do you think bad things still happen to us today? We aren't in heaven yet. We live in this broken world and bad things are going to happen. But we can have hope no matter what happens to us, because we aren't there yet we aren't living in God's perfect place, but we know we will.

Let's read 1 Peter 1:8-9 (ICB).⁸*You have not seen Christ, but still you love him. You cannot see him now, but you believe in him. You are filled with a joy that cannot be explained. And that joy is full of glory.* ⁹*Your faith has a goal, to save your souls. And you are receiving that goal—your salvation.*

Peter is commending us about our faith, because we have not seen Jesus with our eyes, like he had but we still believe. Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends, he knew Jesus, lived with Jesus.

What does Peter say makes us happy and hopeful? The knowledge we have eternal life with Jesus, of course.

Peter says faith is believing... believing in what? Our belief is in Jesus. And we believe, God will save us from this broken world and bring us into His perfect one. No matter what we are facing, Peter tells us there is something much better waiting for us.

Let's continue reading 1 Peter 1:10-12 (ICB). ¹⁰*The prophets searched carefully and tried to learn about this salvation. They spoke about the grace that was coming to you.* ¹¹*The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets. And the Spirit was telling about the sufferings that would happen to Christ and about the glory that would come after those sufferings. The prophets tried to learn about what the Spirit was showing them. They tried to learn when those things would happen and what the world would be like at that time.*

¹²*It was shown to them that their service was not for themselves. It was for you. They were serving you when they told about the truths you have now heard. The men who preached the Good News to you told you those things. They did it with the help of the Holy Spirit that was sent from heaven. These are truths that even the angels want very much to know about.*

Peter is making the point that all scriptures point to Jesus. The prophets foretold it. And, the new Christians had been told by "men who preached the Good News". The Holy Spirit enabled these men and prophets to speak these things, so that we could hear and understand. Peter says, these "truths". We can trust this message because it is "truth". Proclaimed over hundreds of years when Peter wrote this. Now over 2,000 years and it's still "truth" we can trust.

so, How can we get through the hard times we are facing now? Well, Believing our story will end with a happily ever-after. Just like every great story, our story, our story will end with the best Happily Ever After of all, if we trust Jesus. In heaven with Jesus, the one we love.

As we go through our week, think about what we believe. We believe God can do anything. We believe He can bring *us* into His Perfect world in the end. Concentrate on how that makes you feel. God can do anything, God will bring us to Him someday. And that's a pretty good Happily Ever After. Trust Jesus and let the troubles of this world melt away

Let's Pray.

I hope you are enjoying our study of 1st Peter. I truly love this letter of Peter's. I hope you will join me for the rest of this series

Thank you for joining me for Students @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at kip@punla.org. I appreciate your feedback. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.