

Life, Liberty, and the “Purchase” of Happiness

1 Peter 1.6-9

The Bible themes of joy in suffering and peace in conflict are much more realistic both in light of the failure of our organized society to produce happy people and the impossibility of the search for ways to produce the ideal state wherein happiness reigns supreme. Peter's first Epistle is a marvelous illustration of the Christian experience of joy, written, as it was, against the somber background of persecution and suffering. Peter informs his readers that their joy will come through their faith, their hope and their love.

1. In This – FAITH – You Have Great Joy

It is ***the object of faith*** which determines the results of faith (1 Peter 1.3-5).

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 1 Peter 1.6

Peter then proceeds to speak of how our ***faith grows***.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1.6-7

'Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. Luke 22.24, 31-34

The Peter considers ***the goal of faith***.

These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1.7

For you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1.9

2. In This – HOPE – You Have Great Joy

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. 1 Peter 1.6-8

Concerning this salvation ... the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 1 Peter 1.10-11

3. In This – LOVE – You Have Great Joy

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. 1 Peter 1.8

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?'

'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.'

Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'

Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love me?'

He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.'

Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.'

The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?'

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.'

Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.' John 21.15-17

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