

The Salvation Of Believers

1 Pet. 1:1 – 2:10

Introduction

Recipients of great things, if they are not careful, can easily forget their benefactors. If that happens, it usually is a sign of ungratefulness and selfish living. We are recipients; God is our Benefactor. In opening his first letter, the apostle Peter eloquently describes all that God has done for us **(1 Pet. 1:3-12)**. He has looked on us in mercy **(1:3)**. He has given us an inheritance **(1:4)**. He has saved our souls with His redemptive plan schemed long ago **(1:9-12)**. **1 Pet. 1:13 - 2:10** teaches how we are thus indebted to Him because of His goodness. We are not to be conformed to our former lusts **(1:14)**. We are to be holy **(1:16)**. We are to love our brethren **(1:22)**. We are to long for His revealed word **(2:2)**. We are to offer ourselves in spiritual sacrifices, being a royal priesthood **(2:5,9)**. Indeed, the salvation of believers in God is the most precious and valuable of gifts to humanity.

1. How did Peter describe himself as he begins the letter? **(1:1)** To whom did he write? **(1:1)** Using a Bible atlas, try locating the areas he mentions.
2. How does Peter refer to his readers? **(1:1)** What is significant about this? **(cp. 2:11; Heb. 11:13)** *Thought question:* do you think these were Gentile or Jewish Christians, or a mixture of both?
3. At the end of **1:1**, Peter also identifies his readers as the “elect” or “chosen.” Be prepared to define what this means, especially in light of Calvinistic error. Use other passage(s) to support your answer.
4. *Research question:* using **1:2**, and other supporting passages, show how the entire Godhead is involved in man being “chosen” for redemption.

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Lesson 2

5. How does Peter begin to extol or praise God in **1:3-5**? What particularly does he mention in **v. 3**? How would Peter personally know the importance of regaining a “living hope”? What terms are used to describe our inheritance in **v. 4**? What else does God do for His elect believers? **(1:5)**

6. What other benefits are ours because of our living hope? **(1:6-7)** In what sense does Peter describe these “trials”? **(cp. 2 Cor. 4:16-18)** What is the benefit of experiencing such tests? **(v. 7a; cp. Jas. 1:2-4)** What happens at the end of such trials? **(v. 7b)**

7. What else does faith in God allow the chosen believer to do? **(1:8; cp. Jn. 20:29; 2 Cor. 5:16)** What is the final outcome of such faith? **(1:9)** How does **v. 9** complete the thought begun back in **v. 2**?

8. How does the apostle further describe this “salvation” in **1:10-12**? What did the prophets do? **(vv. 10-12a; cp. Dan. 7:13-16)** Concerning what did they prophesy? **(v. 10b; cp. Jn. 1:17)**

9. What did they seek to know? **(1:11; cp. Acts 1:6-8)** Who is the “Spirit of Christ”? **(1:11; cp. Rom. 8:9; Gal. 4:6)** What did He reveal? **(1:11; cp. Isa. 53:3-12; cp. Acts 3:18; 26:22-23; Lk. 24:25-27)** *Thought question:* how does this verse help support the pre-existence and deity of Christ?

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10. What was revealed to these prophets? **(1:12)** How are their prophecies connected to gospel preaching? What other "interested parties" does Peter mention in **v. 12**? *Thought question*: think about this verse along with **Lk. 15:10** & **Heb. 1:14**, and summarize the interest of angels in man's salvation.
11. In beginning to address our obligations to the God who saved us, what 3 things does Peter say we are to do? **(1:13)** What is meant by the expression, "gird up the loins of your mind" [NKJV] and why would this be the best place to begin? **(cp. Prov. 4:23; 23:7; Dan. 1:8; Mt. 12:34-35; 15:18; Rom. 12:1-2)**
12. How are believers to be seen? **(1:14a)** Compare to **Eph. 2:3** and be ready to discuss the differences. To what part of our life are we to refrain? **(1:14b; cp. Rom. 12:2)** How would these be times of ignorance? Particularly, why would this passage not refer to Jewish Christians? **(cp. Rom. 3:1-2)**
13. Not only are we not to return to our lustful lifestyles, but in what direction are we to be changed? **(1:15; cp. 1 Thess. 4:3, 7)** Be able to provide a good definition of "holy." Why are we to live in such a way? **(1:15a, 16)** Where is this quotation found in the Old Testament?
14. In what two ways is God portrayed in **1:17**? What does Peter tell us about God as Judge? Given these truths, what should be our response? **(cp. Lk. 12:4-5)** Again, what does Peter emphasize about our physical lives on earth? **(cp. 1:1; 2:11)**

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15. If **1:16** admonishes holiness based on God's holy character, and if **1:17** encourages holiness based on God's role as our Judge, then in what way does Peter exhort holiness in **1:18-19**? *Thought question:* what would such holiness seen in the believer show on his/her part?
16. What does "redeemed" mean? (**1:18**) Our redemption is not based upon what things? (**cp. Psa. 49:6-7**) Upon what is it based? (**1:19**) How does Peter characterize that lifestyle from which we were ransomed? (**1:18b**)
17. How is Christ's blood described? (**1:19; cp. Lev. 4:32; 22:17-22**) *Thought question:* what "transition of thought" do you see from **1:18** to **1:19**?
18. How is Christ Himself described in **1:20**? (**cp. 2 Tim. 1:9-10; Rev. 13:8**) Based on this characteristic of Him, how does that benefit His followers? (**1:21; cp. 1:3**)
19. What action on the part of believers in Christ is discussed in **1:22-23**? Having already discussed God's part in saving man in **1:3-12**, how does Peter emphasize the "human element" in man's salvation in **1:22**? What kind of love is enjoined upon us? (**1:22b**)
20. What makes our salvation, our love for brethren possible? (**1:23**) What terminology does Peter use to describe our relationship? (**cp. 1:3; Jn. 3:3, 5**) How does Peter describe the word of God? (**1:24-25a**) How does he sum up his exhortation in **1:25b**?

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21. Because of our regeneration **(1:23)**, what are we instructed to do? **(2:1)** What do you think is meant by the phrase "...putting aside..."? Be prepared to discuss the meaning of each of the 5 items Peter mentions in **2:1**.
22. Having already used the metaphor of a new birth **(1:3, 23)**, how does Peter use it again, and what image does he portray? **(2:2)** How is God's word described? What does partaking of it produce? Be able to connect this back to what was taught in **1:9**.
23. What do you think is the apostle's point in **2:3**?
24. From the figure of milk, what image does Peter begin to develop in **2:4**? How is Jesus described? In what sense(s) is He a "living" stone? How was He viewed by men? By God?
25. Likewise, what are followers of Christ called in **2:5**? What eventuates from following Him? What do you think is this "spiritual house"? (Use other passage(s) to support your answer.)
26. How does Peter show this is according to God's plan? **(2:6)** Where is this found in the O.T.? *Thought question*: What is "Zion"? Why will the one who puts his trust in Christ not be "disappointed" or "put to shame"?

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27. Because this "Stone" is precious **(v. 6)**, how do believers benefit? **(2:7a)** In what sense does Peter use the term "believe"? What about those who do not believe? **(2:7b-8)** To not believe is equivalent to what condition?

28. Be able to define "a stone of stumbling" and "a rock of offense." **(2:8)** How would Peter painfully know the meaning of a "rock of offense"? **(cp. Mt. 16:23)**

29. Why do some stumble at the word? **(2:8b)** Be able to explain why this does not teach what Calvinists would assert.

30. In contrast again, how does the apostle describe followers of Christ? **(2:9)** Where else is this contained in the Scripture? Be prepared to describe the following, using other supporting passage(s):

a chosen race _____

a royal priesthood _____

a holy nation _____

a people for God's own possession _____

31. What is the expressed purpose for our being blessed? **(2:9b; cp. Eph. 5:8; 1 Jn. 1:5,7)**

32. How else does Peter describe those who are God's people? **(2:10)** From where does he quote? How does Paul use the same passage elsewhere? **(cp. Rom. 9:25-26)**