

The Wonder of Salvation

2 Peter 1: 1-4

We have read the introduction of Peter's second epistle. It was written as he neared his death, soon to depart this life and meet the Lord he had faithfully served since the ascension. Knowing the end was near, one might have expected Peter to have taken a more somber tone, but there is a sense of excitement and great anticipation in the voice of the apostle. He had lived by faith, preached of faith, and now he awaited entrance into the Lord's presence by faith.

As Peter begins his second epistle, he longs to encourage believers in the faith and remind them of what they have received in Christ. Life will have its share of difficulties and struggles. There will be opposition and adversity along the way, but we are not without hope. In fact, our faith is nearer now than when we first believed. The saved are secure in Christ. We have obtained like precious faith and one day our faith will end in sight.

Peter knew this was all possible because of the provision of Christ. Salvation in the Lord offers much to the believer. I am convinced we have received far more than we realize! Our study today is by no means an exhaustive study of salvation, but it does reveal great assurance. I want to consider the [aspects](#) of salvation Peter discloses as we think on: [The Wonder of Salvation](#).

I. The Person of Salvation (1) – [Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:](#) Peter speaks of our salvation, the means of our precious faith, being obtained through our Savior Jesus Christ. All who are born again are aware of the person of Jesus Christ and His great sacrifice on our behalf, but it is good to be reminded of His coming. We are speaking of God incarnate, the only begotten Son of the living God, coming of a virgin womb, robed in flesh, in order to offer His body the substitutionary atonement for sin!

- Our salvation was not obtained by a mere mortal. The sovereign God humbled Himself in the form of a man in order to purchase our redemption and secure our salvation! [Phil.2:7-8 – But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:](#) ^[8] [And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.](#)

II. The Peace of Salvation (2) – [Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.](#) Some might argue that Peter was just being polite and gracious as he greeted the reader, but I am confident he knew the peace of which he spoke. He had walked with the Lord, declaring Him to be the Christ. He had experienced His glory on the Mount of

Transfiguration. Peter had witnessed the miracles and heard the Lord expound the Scriptures. He had also felt the agony associated with betrayal and denial. He had dealt with the guilt of sin and abandonment, and yet he had experienced the grace and peace of Christ. His failures had not been final. He had not been rejected because of his unbelief. He had been restored in the faith and went on to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

- Peter longed for all believers to experience such grace and peace. There would be failure and disappointment, but the grace and peace of Christ surpasses all disappointment and shortcoming! Our salvation does not rest in our abilities or righteousness; it abides in the finished work of Christ and His great righteousness being imputed to our account. When I consider the grace of salvation, knowing I am resting in Christ, there is peace that cannot be shaken! I am secure in the Lord. [Romans 5:1-2 – Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ^{\[2\]}By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.](#)

III. The Power of Salvation (3a) – [According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness...](#) Still speaking of the like precious faith we obtained in salvation, Peter makes reference to the divine power associated with our salvation. Salvation is not some haphazard event that transpires without any effort or notice. We are not saved by mortal means. We are saved by the divine power of God. [Romans 1:16 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.](#)

- Our finite minds cannot begin to comprehend the divine power of God. Can you begin to comprehend God standing on nothing and speaking all that we see and know into existence? Can you comprehend the fact that He exists simply because He is God, without any outside assistance or resources? He is the eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, God. His divine power is at work in our salvation! This is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. It is the same power that will one day resurrect our mortal bodies as Christ returns for the church.
- When I try to consider the power of God at work in my salvation, I am left without words. However, I rejoice to know that such power is more than able to deliver and keep my salvation according to His divine will and purpose! [Eph.3:20 – Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.](#)

IV. The Privilege of Salvation (3a) – [According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness...](#) Here Peter reveals a humbling thought that shows the grace and mercy of God in salvation. All salvation is a free gift of God's good grace to sinners who are unworthy and undeserving. In and of ourselves we were hopelessly lost. We had no means to

obtain the righteousness that God demanded. By His great love, and through His good grace, He made a way for us to be redeemed from sin and reconciled to Him. He sent His Son to die for our sin. When one comes to Christ in salvation, the debt of sin one owed is marked paid in full. The debt is canceled and righteousness is offered where sin and guilt once stood. We didn't earn it or deserve it. God has given grace which results in salvation.

- Isn't it amazing to think God would love us enough to do that for us? He could've left us in our sin and forced us to face the just consequences, but He freely gives salvation to those who will realize their need, repent of sin, and respond to the call of salvation. What a blessed privilege to be offered such a gracious gift!
- By the way, the grammatical make up of the phrase *hath given* reveals a past act with present, continuing benefit. Our salvation isn't simply an event of the past; it is a continual, present work in our lives, with continual an eternal benefit!

V. The Possession of Salvation (3b) – *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:* Salvation affords many benefits and Peter reminds us that in salvation we receive all we need pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge received at salvation. I don't know about you, but I am certainly glad the Lord didn't just save me and set me out to make it through the best way I could. He provides all we need to live lives that are pleasing to Him. He equips us for the journey. As we walk with the Lord, growing in grace and knowledge, we become more like Him. We are given all we need to glorify God while living in this life. *Phil.1:6 – Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

VI. The Promises of Salvation (4a) – *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.* Along with salvation comes an abundance of precious promises. They are too many to mention and certainly beyond our ability to grasp, but we can enjoy their certainty. We are assured of forgiveness of sin and eternal life in Christ through salvation. We are promised the indwelling and guidance of the Spirit of God. We are promised strength and wisdom for every task we face, each day we live. We are promised a home in heaven when this life is through. Every promise the Lord made, He will keep. We will receive every portion of His divine will for our lives and eternal destiny. There can be no doubt that a God who loves so much and possesses such power will keep His promises. *The promises of God are blank checks, drawn on the bank of heaven, signed by the Lord of glory, and given to us so that we can fill in our name, our need, and the "now" of our present emergency. For what more could we ask?*ⁱ

VII. The Provision of Salvation (4b) – Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Here we discover a great benefit and blessing to the believer. While our physical bodies are not saved, and as long as we dwell in this life we will battle the tendency to sin, we have been made partakers of the divine nature. In essence we have been made children of God, adopted into the family. We are viewed in light of the righteousness of Christ our Lord. God sees the saved as He sees His Son. We have been delivered from the condemnation of the flesh.

- One day we will lay aside this mortal body that is prone to sin and put on our new, glorified body as we meet our Savior and Lord in the air! For many of us, salvation occurred years ago, but we have not yet discovered the wonder and glory of it all! 1 John 3:2 – Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 1 Cor.15:51-57 – Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ^[52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ^[53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ^[54] So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ^[55] O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? ^[56] The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. ^[57] But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: I trust you have been enlightened concerning the wonder of salvation. I continue to be amazed when I consider all the Lord has provided and the great grace He has bestowed. His love was shown for all to see as Christ hung and died on the cross. He rose again triumphant over sin, death, and hell. That was all accomplished so we could experience salvation. I am thankful for the day the Lord revealed my need and I responded to Him by faith.

Salvation is a free gift, offered to all who will respond by faith to the call of Christ. Have you experienced salvation? If not, I trust you have considered what is available in Christ. There is no other way of reconciliation to God and life eternal. Will you respond to the call of God in salvation? Come as the Lord leads!

ⁱ John Phillips Commentary Series, The - The John Phillips Commentary Series – Exploring the Epistles of Peter: An Expository Commentary.