

1ST PETER

Peter follows his opening greeting with a wonderful word of encouragement. Let's not rush through it too quickly, for it contains what should be a wealth of encouragement for us today, as well.



CHAPTER 1:3 –5

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

What has God given us?

What assurances do we find here?

What is the coming salvation that he's referring to?

How do you think this salvation will be revealed?

Reading on, Peter says this knowledge should make a difference to our present outlook in life.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

What is the feeling that fills our hearts when we know that we are saved and what flows from us as a result?

How can we love someone we have never seen?

Points to Ponder

Do you think you are a joyful person? If not, why not?

What is it that suffering and trials develop?

Twice in this section of Peter's letter, he speaks of salvation as though we have not yet received it. Other scriptures such as Ephesians 2:8, 2nd Timothy 1:9, and Titus 3:4-5 tell us we have been saved. How do we make sense of that?

