

TITLE: Satisfaction in the Sovereign Joy of Our Salvation (Part 3)

PASSAGE: 1 Peter 1:4-5

THEME: The Sovereign mercy of God fuels the sovereign joy of our salvation

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Read Passage

Technology can be a blessing but it can also be a bane

10:30 last night I lost all of my notes for this AM on my computer & had to start all over again which took me until wee hours of the AM.

Nevertheless it's good to be back in the saddle after missing last week w/what has been a persistent cold. So we pick up where we left off in part 3 of our study in 1 Peter [^].

May be wondering about the title . . .

Specifically "sovereign joy?" What's that all about? A take-off on what we spent quite a bit of time on in v. 2 "Satisfaction in the Sov. Source of our Salvation." Fact is, there's only one sov. in t/universe: God of t/Univ. God's Sov. is his Kingship - that He is in absolute control of everything that relates to his Kingdom, rule and authority. As we've seen in v. 2 - the Triune God is the Sov. author of our salvation. If that's true, he's also t/sov. author of our joy.

So, sovereign joy sort of stands in contrast to false joy

Lots of people in t/world claim to have joy & claim lots of sources for that joy - from self-esteem/self-love (which t/Bible condemns), to their careers, to their possessions, to false religions and philosophies. But that supposed joy isn't eternal because it doesn't come from an eternal source. It's not sovereign joy, it's fleshly joy which is no joy at all.

Sort of like having a diet of sugar and fat ("sounds like MY diet!"). That may bring a measure of temporal satisfaction for the short term, but in t/long term it's deadly. ISW - There are lots of things that claim to bring

joy, there's only one source of sovereign joy.

"The Sovereign mercy of God fuels the sovereign joy of our salvation"

By God's design our salvation is to be enjoyed by us to God's greatest glory and praise. Because JC satisfied t/wrath of t/Father on our behalf, we can be satisfied in JC.

Three times in John's Gospel Jesus spoke of the fact (not theory) that those who believe in him were to experience fulness of joy. John 15:11; 16:24; 17:13.

11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full.

13 "But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.

See same thing toward the end of our passage in 1 Peter (v. 8) {read}

Since that truth rests in an omnipotent, sovereign source (God) it transcends t/temporal (our circumstances).

I. The Elements of the Sovereign Joy of Our Salvation (3-9)

All that is our salvation, God's rescuing us from our sin through JC, is to bring us joy.

The first element of t/sovereign joy of our salvation ==>

A. It was Prompted by God's Great Mercy (3a)

Where it starts: God's M. moved Him to act on our behalf for our sov joy

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who ACCORDING TO HIS GREAT MERCY has caused us to be born again . . .

We can experience sovereign joy because of God's sovereign mercy!

B. It is Accomplished Through Our New Birth (3b)

This is t/moment of our regeneration // justification. When we are born again to new life in X.

...according to his great mercy [he] has caused us to be born again...

1. Note that: He has "caused us to be born again"

That's a doctrine of grace - He caused us to be born again (why it's grace)

a. Word is ἀναγενναω -

ἀνα (again) + γενναω (to beget or cause to be born). In t/Gk. text, t/active voice gives t/word almost t/sense of a title. Sort of like saying, "God the Birther" (points to his parentage). Like 1 John 5:1 ("**whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God**")

Our 1st birth gave us t/image of the 1st Adam, a fallen man. Our 2nd birth gives us t/image of the 2nd Adam, JC t/righteous. To be born once is to be born into a curse of death. To be born again is to be born unto a blessing: a living hope and an eternal inheritance (v. 4).

Last week I said that the moniker many believers use today is redundant: "I'm a born again Xn." Is there any other kind? To be B.A. is to be a Xn & to be a Xn is to be B.A. NT uses these concepts interchangeably.

I don't know if you saw the L.K. interview w/Jane Fonda 2 wks. ago. I was esp. interested knowing that some 5 yrs. ago t/story came out that J.F. had become a Xn. Some reliable sources had substantiated that claim. But I hadn't heard anything more in t/past few years, so I was quite curious. I found a transcript of the interview & as far as J.F.'s supposed Xnty is concerned, I was quite disappointed. At one point L.K. said to her, "You're not a born-again?" Her reply was, "I don't even know what that means."

Am I saying that you have to know all the terminology to be really saved? Of course not! But there was enough in that interview beyond this to give me great pause.

But you can't divorce sovereign joy and eternal hope from the new birth;

it doesn't exist apart from it.

1. A New Birth that Gives us Hope for the Present (3c)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy has caused us to be born again TO A LIVING HOPE . . . Why is it a living hope? Because it's a ==> **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . . .** kind of hope!

a. In this one verse we have life, life, and life

We have been born again (one life) to a living hope (another life), through the Res. (still another life). Three lives that all relate to one another and this is the foundation for them all.

Yes, t/act of God's greatest wrath has become the means of His greatest mercy.

Brings us to v. 4 (New birth not only gives us hope for the present)==>

2. A New Birth that Gives us an Inheritance for the Future (4)

Hope is only hope as it relates to the future. Once t/future is realized hope dissolves into reality. This is t/reality [^]

a. Note the prepositions in vv. 3-4 (x3)

" . . . [God] has caused us to be born again **TO** (εἰς) a living hope (could be purpose) **THROUGH** (διὰ) [genitive of means - by means of] the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **TO** (εἰς) an inheritance (result) . . ."

b. The Result is that we have an inheritance

(1) Word is κληρονομία-

Compound of κληρος (a lot as in a lottery) and νεμομαι (to distribute among people). That's t/idea: Orig. an inher. was a winning that someone received by lottery. Had much to do with chance. That

element of chance is eliminated in t/Bible.

Jewish members of Peter's aud. would ID w/this concept of inheritance. Same word (κληρονομία) was used in LXX to refer to t/partitions of t/land of Canaan which were allotted to each tribe of Israel (exception was t/tribe of Levi - t/Levites who had YHWH alone as their inherit.).

Just as Israel received an earthly inherit. (the land) so t/CH (us) receives a spiritual inherit. in t/heavenly city of God!

(2) To Receive an Inheritance you must be a what? Heir!

Biblically, that is *a gift that's granted by grace and/or by birth*. If you're not a son you may still get an inheritance but that's by t/grace and mercy of t/one giving it. If you are a son you are legally entitled to t/inheritance. That's what I mean [^]

(a) Note the context

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great [what?] mercy has caused us to be [what?] born . . .

We are heirs who receive an inheritance on the basis of God's mercy and grace as he has adopted us as His children, co-heirs with His Son, JC. That's rich (pun intended).

This is a true story that was in a news magazine late last year==>

About a family that had an heirloom dish. About the only value they figured it had was sentimental. The family's great-grandfather had picked up the plate during a trip to China in the early 1900s. Art experts sometime before the end of the year told them that the dish was Ming dynasty porcelain dating from the late 14th century. It sold at auction on Nov. 17 for \$5.7 million. [World, Dec. 4, 2004, 13]

It's like watching the Antique Road show. Some trinket someone picked up at a garage sale for 5 bucks is really worth 500,000! Most everybody's dream. To fall into great material wealth.

Someone said to me shortly after I came, "The last couple of pastors here

received inheritance money." Will that happen to me? I doubt it. That's not why I'm here anyway. But if it does or doesn't I already have mine, a much better one.

(3) You say, "What is it? What is this inheritance?"

According to Acts 20:32 and 26:18 it comes only to those who have been sanctified (cf. 1:2).

According to Galatians 3:18 it's based on promise, not law.

According to Colossians 3:24 it comes from t/Lord.

It's connected to God's predestinating purpose in our lives according to Ephesians 1:11. Verse 14 connects it to our redemption; v. 18 t/hope of our calling.

Jesus spoke of it in Matthew 25:34 when he said ==>

'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (It's the K.D.)

The writer to the Hebrews has much to say about our inheritance.

According to 9:15 it's eternal in nature & part of the New Covt. We inherit t/promises according to 6:12. It's our salvation, acc. to 1:14.

(a) What is it?

It's the K.D. / Promises / Our Redemption / Eternal salvation from sin.

It's what Peter writes about in 5:4==>

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

It's what Paul writes about in 2 Tim. 4:8==>

in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

(4) Nothing the world can offer can match that, can it?

Value of t/inher. is determined by the worth of t/one who gives it. A homeless man may give you his inher. which consists of no more than a dirty sleeping bag and a shopping cart.

Ask yourself t/question, "What is the worth of t/One who gives an eternal inheritance? What IS the value of that inheritance? You see, that's Mark 8:36 {read}. It's quite thought-provoking how t/search for and gaining of great wealth so often comes with great ruin.

Consider Lottery Winners. Seems that every few weeks, you hear some rags-to-riches story about some avg. Joe who wins it big in a lottery. But how often we also hear a riches-to-rags story about how it ruined someone's life.

Some of you may remember Jack Whittaker, who, a few years ago, won the richest undivided lottery jackpot in U.S. history — \$315 million. He was ecstatic. He promised to share his wealth with t/poor & t/CH.

Two years later, he'd been arrested, sued, ordered into rehab, accused of causing trouble at racetracks and nightclubs & saddest of all, watched his 17-year-old granddaughter die of a drug overdose. Whittaker won his fortune on Christmas Day of 2002. His granddaughter was buried on Christmas Eve, 2004.

His wife, Jewel afterward said, "I wish all of this never would have happened. "I wish I would have torn the ticket up."

Pondering that statement, one newspaperman wrote==>

"You wonder, one day, if someone will do that. You wonder if someone will come forward, winning ticket in hand, look at the swath of ruined lives, crushed marriages, exploded families and down-and-out former millionaires, and say, "You know what? It's not worth it." " [Mitch Albom, gathered on an internet search]

Of course, everyone is willing to take the risk. Like a worm dangling before a hungry fish, "Maybe, in my case, there won't be a hook."

Not just t/lottery. There are just as many cases of people who have gone from rags to riches by way of inheritance, the stock market, or some other venue.

In t/worst of cases t/fortune was corruptible, defiled (defiling). Even in t/best of cases this inheritance knows nothing of sovereign joy. Trying to find joy in it is futile; it's like trying to find gold at the end of a rainbow. Even in t/best of cases it eventually fades away.

(5) Now look at the next part of verse 4==>

... [We have been born again] to a living hope ... to an inheritance [that is] incorruptible and undefiled and unfading which is kept in heaven for you

The believer's inheritance is the only rags to riches story that never ends in disappointment!

(a) Peter uses three words in rapid fire succession to describe the nature of our inheritance

... [it is] incorruptible and undefiled and unfading ...

All 3 words are adjectives. All 3 are formed w/Alpha privative in Gk. (note the alliteration w/the letter "a"). Way this is put together is a classic example of t/desire to emphasize that whatever is being described is undescribable.

i. First Word - "incorruptible" ((ἀφθαρτος)

φθείρω (to destroy or corrupt) + α (a.p.). Same word is used in 1 Cor. 9:25 of t/believer's future reward, an incorruptible/imperishable crown.

ii. Not only is it "incorruptible" it's also "undefiled"

The word ἀμίαντος- means pure. Undefiled in a religious sense.

It's a word that was used to describe a mineral which was made into a fire-resistant cloth (like asbestos). Whenever that cloth was soiled it would be cleansed by putting it into a fire which would turn it pure white without destroying it. The Romans used that same cloth to wrap t/bodies of their dead in preparation for cremation. The fire would

penetrate it, burning the remains, but the cloth was not affected by the heat. It became the means by which the ashes were kept intact. [Ficket, 17]

That paints a good picture of t/nature of our inheritance. It's pure like t/cloth cleansed in a flame. It's unaffected by the fires of judgement.

iii. Thirdly - also "unfading" (ἀμάραντος)

Word is used in sec. Gk. to refer to a flower that will not fade away and die (plastic?). [MacArthur, 35]. Fam. botanical word "amaranth" comes from this Gk. term.

Peter, in 5:4 uses t/related word ἀμάραντινος. (connected to our inheritance when Jesus returns). Peter says when that happens, when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

We receive an unfading inheritance // crown - one that will never tarnish.

I think of my old weightlifting trophies. I picked one up yesterday. There are scuffs and scratches. It has faded (much like my body which ironically in fading away has gotten bigger - round mound of expound). Like t/college football player who continues to wear his all-star football jersey into his 30s and 40s and 50s. He's no longer football star. He's lost his physique and his hair, yet he continues to wear the Jersey that tells of glory days gone by - a Jersey that's 2 sizes too small, is stained, has holes in it, and that was once a brilliant white but has now faded away along w/the name and number on the back.

As I thought of this I thought of how many people have dreams that eventually fade away. Cemeteries are filled w/graves, many of which not only mark t/death of a life, but also t/death of a dream. Tragic.

But here's hope. Here's an element of the==>

I. Sovereign Joy of Our Salvation

That which

A. Was Prompted by God's Great Mercy

That which

B. Was Accomplished Through Our New Birth

A N.B. that gives us hope for t/present BECAUSE it gives us an inheritance for t/future - one that is ==>

... **incorruptible and undefiled and unfading** ...

(6) Not only that (look at the last line of verse 4==>

... **which is kept in heaven for you**

i. The word τηρέω- can be translated "to watch over," "to guard," "to keep," or "to reserve" (NASB)

Have you ever had a reservation that was cancelled? Or someone dropped the ball and lost the information?

Like the old skit - a man comes to claim his room at the hotel and the receptionist says, "I'm sorry, we are out of rooms." "But, I had a reservation" he replies. She looks at him and says, "Well, yes I understand." to which he says, "No, you don't understand. You see, inherent in t/word reservation is t/idea that when I arrive there's a room here with my name on it. That's why it's a reservation."

ii. That won't happen to you . . .

Perfect tense in t/Gk. text implies a timelessness to the reservation. Emphasizes that this is a done deal, a timeless sort of thing. These reservations were made in eternity past when your names were written in the book of life/chosen/predestined.

You didn't have to call them in. God did it for you. If God by His great mercy has caused you to be B.A. he's given you an inheritance, one that can never be cancelled or forfeited. No, it's kept in heaven, reserved for you. As long as you have been in the mind & plan of God there has been an inheritance reserved in heaven with your name on it.

The same word that Peter uses here is used by John in 17:11&12 where Jesus prays on our behalf and asks==>

... **Holy Father, keep them** (verb τηρέω) **in Thy name, the name which Thou**

has given Me, that they may be one, even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them (same word) in Thy name which Thou hast given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished . . .

Is that security? We have all kinds of security problems in this world. Billions of dollars are spent on trying to keep things secure, from t/internet to financial institutions, to airports. Is there any more secure place in the universe than heaven, the dwelling place of God?

No slick lawyer can defraud you of your prize. No dishonest businessman can jilt you out of what is yours. This is reserved, not on the earth, but in heaven. Reserved not by men but by God.

"You must first destroy the Godhead before you can quench the spark of the eternal flame that burns within the believer's bosom." [C.H. Spurgeon, Sermon: "A String of Pearls" No. 948, delivered on the Lord's Day Morning, August 28, 1870]

I. The Elements of the Sovereign Joy of Our Salvation (3-9)

A. It was Prompted by God's Great Mercy (3a)

B. It is Accomplished Through Our New Birth (3b)

1. A New Birth that Gives us Hope for the Present (3c)

2. A New Birth that Gives us an Inheritance for the Future (4)

A third element of the sovereign joy of our salvation==>

C. It is Preserved by God's Power (5a)

It is t/Sov. Lord of all creation who guards/preserves us unto sovereign joy. Look at verse 5 (bad verse break here - go back to verse 4)==>

.. [We have been born again] to a living hope . . . to an inheritance [that is] incorruptible and undefiled and unfading which is kept in heaven for you

Verse 5==>

who are being guarded by the power of God, through faith, for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

C. We are Preserved by God's Power

[you are] being guarded by the power of God

This is God's omnipotence which continuously protects God's elect from all harm.

Does that mean there's no suffering? Of course not, we will look at that next week. It does mean that **the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us** (Ro. 8:18).

It does mean that **all things work together for good for those who love God for those who are called according to His purpose** (Rom. 8:28).

It does mean (Romans 8:31-39) {read}

It does mean as Jude wrote in his great benediction, that ==>

[He] . . . is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy.

That's what it means to be ==>

C. . . . Preserved by God's Power

The word "Guarded" ==>

. . . [you are] being guarded by the power of God . . .

was a military term: "garrisoned." Present tense verb. We are being guarded. 24/7/365. God is always on duty; he never sleeps; he never leaves his post. We are continuously guarded by his omnipotent power.

BTW - there are 2 ways in which to guard something. You can guard against someone coming in & you can guard against someone leaving. A bank guards against robbers coming into the bank to rob it. A prison doesn't have that problem; a prison guards the people from within to keep them from leaving. Interestingly, this word can carry both ideas & both may be in view: We are guarded by God's power from attacks from w/o ("**flaming missiles of the evil one**" in Eph. 6). We're also guarded from leaving, that is, leaving t/sphere of His grace. That's John 10:28-29, that's Phil. 1:6, that's 2 Tim.1:12 {cite}

The wreath of victory shall never fall from your brow. We persevere by virtue of God's preservation.

C. *We are Preserved by God's Power*

1. Through Present Faith (5b)

... **through faith** ...

Faith is always the means (instrumental means of our salvation). We are saved by grace through faith. "BY" is the foundation or cause; "FAITH" is the means to the end.

Our continued faith, albeit wavering and imperfect, is evidence of God's preservation and power. If faith ceases or does not evidence itself in Xn grace & spiritual fruit, it is not saving faith. Saving faith perseveres by nature of God's preservation and if the perseverance isn't there then the preservation wasn't there in the first place.

2. For Future and Final Salvation (5c)

... **for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

a. Again, Note the prepositions:

We are kept "by" (ἐν) power, "through" (διὰ) faith "for" (εἰς) salvation.

Brings us back to the inheritance. The inheritance is our final salvation.

A ==>

... **salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

There are 3 aspects to t/word "salvation" in Scripture. There's Justification (definition/delivered from penalty of sin). There's Sanctification (definition/delivered from power of sin). There's Glorification (definition/delivered from presence of sin). That's what's in view here.

... **salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

It will be revealed yet future - when JC comes again in glory.

These are some of ==>

I. The Elements of the Sovereign Joy of Our Salvation (3-9)

A. It was Prompted by God's Great Mercy (3a)

B. It is Accomplished Through Our New Birth (3b)

C. It is Preserved by God's Power (5a)

Next week, our last point==>

D. It will be Evidenced by Persevering Faith (6-9)