

**SERIES: "CHOSEN AND EXILED"- - 5/5/24 (#3)  
PASTOR LEE**

This Most Precious & Glorious Gift: Salvation!

1 Peter 1:10-12 - (1) *Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, (11) inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. (12) It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.*

- This whole first part of this Chapter revolves around the notion and gift that is "SALVATION" ('born again')....re-read V3-5....which speaks of God's great mercy (and power)....this 'rebirth'....giving us the gift of a dynamic 'living hope' and through His resurrection, leading us to an "imperishable, undefiled, unfading" inheritance....saving us for all time. Let's re-ignite our excitement over this unfathomable God-given gift!
- Our SALVATION has ramifications....in our lives now as certainly going forward and onward for eternity....so a HUGE deal! Bigger than all else imaginable!!!
- But the unsaved don't have this gift....aren't even aware/conscious that it is missing....paying no attention to this unimaginably impactful, unseen void in their lives.

Stories With A Lesson...

- Pastor Lee relates the first part of a story about his daughter...very young...takes her on hurried K Mart shopping trip...she repeatedly tells Dad "I'm not doing good"...he, in annoyance and mis-focused, ignores/discounts her.
- Pastor Lee interrupts his story to make a related point regarding his friend -a non-believer who, despite Lee's best repeated efforts, could not accept the notion of Jesus and His wonderful, life transforming gifts ( including salvation) awaiting his simple faith. Indeed he professed never to think of spiritual things. However, when this very non-spiritual but very successful man was inches from destitution....he, with extreme casualness, asked Pastor Lee to "send up a prayer to the Big Guy". When things turned around positively, he just 'went about his merry life', still oblivious and never getting the message!
- Back to K Mart story...daughter continued repeating warnings that she's 'not doing good' while they waiting in cashier line. Finally(!), prompted by the innocent comment of another customer, he sees that his daughter's face is totally swollen. Reminded (indirectly) that earlier, at Church, again distracted and inattentive, he allowed her to have a cookie containing peanut butter that is a deathly allergic food for her.. panicky, he rushed her to hospital just in time.

Don't Be Distracted By 'Life' --- Seek God!

- The commonality in both stories: 'inattentiveness'.....distracted by life! Imagine the consequences of 'life distractions' and its magnitude, as it relates to SALVATION! Indeed, many of us are prone to it - -we may go to Church on Sunday- -participate in some Christian-based activity....but on the whole...what are we most diligently attentive to??? Could we be kidding ourselves? Are we possibly still separated from God? Is it our SALVATION....or..... our incidental , 'hurried-about' everyday lives that grabs our primary attention!?! Deep inside, you might be saying: "I'm not doing good" - -and not even paying attention to yourself!!!!
- Back to V 1, the **PROPHETS**, in context of SALVATION, spoke of the grace that would come. The promise of grace...ultimately in the form of a Savior...was prophesied over and over

all the way back to Gen 3:15. A promise of grace that even angels 'long to look' (see V 12 above).....angels that celebrate every single saved soul!

Through  
Christ;  
Be Saved &  
Reborn!

- SALVATION is so great.....we want it or everyone!! And we can profess /acclaim that faith/ salvation through Baptism. Into the water: a picture of being buried with Jesus; out of the water portraying our being raised with Jesus!...."newness of life"!!!! Pastor Lee encourages/invites all those unbaptized to publicly identify with Jesus Christ
- Post Script: On this morning, 35 people, encompassing both Services, responded to Pastor Lee's invitation and the Spirit's calling and came forward for Baptism!!!!!!!!!!!!

**BE ATTENTIVE TO WHATS MOST IMPORTANT!!!**

**\*\*\*SEEK GOD WHILE HE CAN BE FOUND\*\*\***

SOAP: Scripture- -Observation- -Application- -Prayer