

"CHOSEN AND EXILED" - - 4/28/24 (#2) PASTOR ROB

We're Made
For
Another World!

- PRELUDE TO MESSAGE: Pastor Lee pays tribute to the entire Pastor Team and highlights Pastor Rob's recent, very notable accomplishmentearning a Masters in Divinity Degree! Congratulations!
- MESSAGE BY PASTOR ROB: Reviewing the final portion of last week's message about joy and salvation (1 Peter 1:1-5), he reiterates C.S. Lewis's quote: "IF WE FIND OURSELVES WITH A DESIRE THAT NOTHING IN THIS WORLD CAN SATISFY, THE MOST PROBABLE EXPLANATION IS THAT WE WERE MADE FOR ANOTHER WORLD." So, we're *from* this world but we're *made* for another world....the tension in this world is: we desire the 'joy'... the 'satisfaction' of life....but we invariably struggle....yet, in eternal salvation, these 'wants' are realized!

Joy In
Jesus &
Salvation!

1 Peter 1:6-9 - (6) *In this you rejoice, though now, for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, (7) so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ (8) Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (9) obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

- So this passage opens with the word "REJOICE" (joy in salvation)... a word repeated in V 8 (rejoicing in love and faith through Jesus). 'Pre-translation', we know the original literal word conjured up an *inexpressible, utterly intense, unfathomable joy*. As believers, we can have this same joy....a joy not of this world!!!
- The passage, effectively, represents - not commands- - and not warnings- but ingredients of pure joy.a joy so much greater than the more mundane, earthly joys we gladly but just temporarily experience (eg.....Spatzle story...) So we have a recipe for joy...inexpressible, unearthly, continuing, intense salvation kind-of-joy based on the reality of Jesus.

Realizing
That Joy!

- In seeking that kind of unfathomably intense joy, there are three ingredients:
#1. LIFE IS SHORT!
#2. IF YOU KNOW JESUS, YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY RICH!
#3. JESUS IS REAL!

Life's Trials
Cannot
Steal It!

- Re: #1, V 6 refers to the grief caused by life's trials (big and small)....yet....as believers, know that you can and you will grieve...that's ok... yet you can still have intense 'salvation joy'. This is a key theme of 1 Peter.
- V6 also refers to "if necessary"...alluding that these trials aren't mere 'random chance'. God's hands are purposefully in these difficult experiences. Forget the "why God" questions. God's in control! These trials both test the genuineness of our faith AND increase the strength of our faith.
- Re: phrase: "little while".....remember, memories are short....and life itself is short ('1000 year perspective')

Keep
Perspective
!!

- Re: #2, V 7....If you know Jesus, you are rich ...eternally so!!! its OUR GOD who says faith has more value than all the gold in the world....While not necessarily intuitive.....so true!!! (kings, celebrities, business titans, etc.....if they don't know Jesus, they are poor!!!

-Re: #2, 2nd part of V7.....'...resulting in praise and glory and honor, etc.'gold has value but our faith makes us infinitely richer; though it has not yet been revealed to us.

Center On
Christ/Eternity

Col 3:1-4 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is in your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Let Faith In
Jesus
Guide You In
Daily Life!

- So, if you know Jesus, invest in your faith and do so with Christ as your vision. God says, while your faith may be hidden to the world, IT IS REAL and not hidden to God...He sees you as you exercise your faith in Him.even in the most mundane aspects of our lives. See all things in the lens of Christ and His love, recognizing, again, that life is short yet you are eternally rich.

- #3, Again, Jesus is real! See V 8. Peter is speaking as a person/apostle who actually had seen Jesus (past tense)...versus the people of Turkey who are the recipients of this! Peter letter who must rely on faith but knew, unequivocally, that He was real.
- How rationalize the notion of faith? We do it, non-spiritually, as a matter of course everyday. Eg. Gravity, X-rays, love, George Washington...all things we cannot see but believe in! So we have the innate capacity for faith....as did these early people who relied on a messenger (Peter) and related historical proof just like us. Our faith is not based on a myth but supported by history and gifted to us by His grace.
- Faith, as well, is supported by so much evidence (open your eyes!) Look to the sheer complexity of the universe, creation, even our own existence....all of which confound the mind absent our Creator.

Christ Is
Real -- Δ --
Salvation
Is Real!

No
Excuses!

Romans 1:20 - For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Trust
Him!

- So there is no 'plausible deniability...no excuses...if 'seeing is believing', you see it all around you! Evidence abounds!!! Pastor Rob relates 'debate story'....apologist verses atheist/evolutionist...no contest!....atheist/evolutionist was a 'no show'....because his stance (ie. We are here 'by chance') could not hold and he knew it!!!!
- V 9....Jesus is Real! And your faith will result in the salvation of your souls! And eternal life!! Present tense.....this is not just a gift for the future; it starts now ...as you put your faith and trust in Him!

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

REJOICE: IF YOU KNOW JESUS, ETERNAL LIFE STARTS NOW!