



“A Time To Rejoice”

1 Peter 1:3-9

Begin by reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

We are tempted during a *time* like this to become frustrated with the way our lives have been interrupted. It seems that all our plans we have been looking forward to over the coming days have been postponed or cancelled and there is seemingly no certainty about when things may return to normal.

It is in these *times* that we may find ourselves **complaining** about the situation we are enduring. We find ourselves **complaining** about the way different people are approaching their response and how these actions are affected our own lives and well-being. It is easy to display **anger** at leadership from our local business, church leaders, government officials, as well as at our state and national leaders. Of course, we have witnessed **fear** and **anxiety** sweeping across our nation and the world as people become unsure of what is happening now or what the future may hold. In these *times* we become **overwhelmed** and **perplexed** with the amount of information that is being presented and digested... that seemingly changes every day.

Although we are people of faith, truly born again by the grace of God, we are inclined to act in these ways just as the rest of society. Is this the mindset the Lord desires of our lives?

In our passage of Scripture from the Bible (1 Peter 1:3-9), we find Peter writing, under inspiration of God, to a group of people who are living in an uncertain world. Believers were living in a *time* where persecution was common (4:12), and even expected because their Christian values were different than that of the world. Feelings of fear and anxiety, being overwhelmed and perplexed, anger and criticism would be expected as a natural response to the *time*.

And yet, what we find from Peter is an encouragement to REJOICE WITH JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY!

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith even the salvation of your souls.”
-1 Peter 1:8, 9

How can this be?

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We Can Rejoice In Our Salvation (vs. 3-4)

Regardless of what the situation in our lives is like, knowing that we have been saved by the grace of God gives us reason to rejoice!

Knowing that Jesus died by way of the cross, was buried, but then rose again brings to our lives great hope!

We Can Rejoice In Our Security (v.5)

It is extremely comforting to know that my salvation is not dependent on my ability to keep it! If that were the case, I would live in constant fear of not being able to live up to standard God sets.

Salvation is the gift of God given freely to anyone who “shall call upon the name of the Lord” (Romans 10:13).

Just as my Salvation does not depend on my merit or work to obtain it, keeping my salvation does not depend on my merit or work.

Knowing that my salvation is permanent gives me great reason to rejoice and live each day with joy.

We Can Rejoice Knowing That This Difficult Time Is A Temporary Season (vs. 6-7)

Peter reminded these believers that, although they were dealing with circumstances that brought “heaviness,” they could be encouraged when they remember that this condition was just for a season.

The trials that they were enduring would give opportunity to bring praise, honor, and glory to the Lord.

In our life today, our circumstances are not what we would have chosen. Some things are proving very difficult and frustrating. And yet, we can rejoice knowing that we are “looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” (Titus 2:13)

Instead of acting in fear, frustration, anger, etc., we can take this *time* to seek God. We can use this *time* to rejoice in the Savior. We can use this *time* to grow in our relationship with our Savior. We can use this *time* to seek to serve God and minister to others. We can use this *time* to bring Praise, Honor, and Glory to God!

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