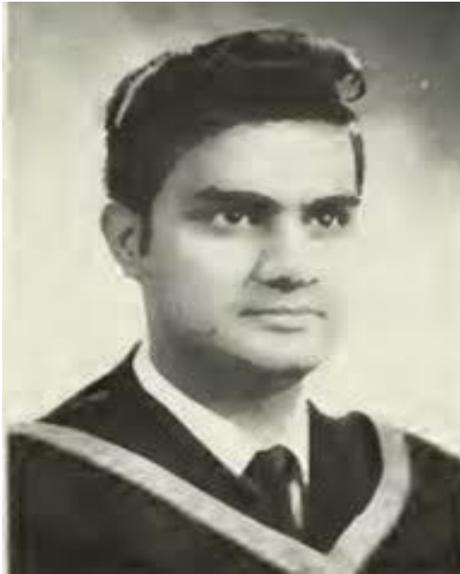


I Peter 1:1-7

The Journey to Heaven



- When a person becomes a Christian, Jesus changes you
- Jesus forgives you of your past sins
- Jesus makes you into a different person, a new person
- There was a 17 year old boy that lay on a bed in a hospital
- He had just tried to take his life, commit suicide



- For the summer months we will be looking at I Peter
- This short book was written by Peter, the leader of the Disciples of Jesus. Jesus walked on water, Peter tried to walk on water and failed
- Peter told Jesus that he wouldn't go to the cross and Jesus rebuked him
- And his biggest failure was that
- Peter denied Jesus 3 times



I. God Working in Salvation

Vss. 1-2



- Peter was writing to Christians in the area of modern day Turkey
- Christians have heaven as home so we are to be strangers on earth
- God's elect is a way of saying they were God's children
- There is also the idea that God chose us to be his children



- There is an opposite idea that we choose God
- That is, we put our faith in Jesus for salvation
- Both ideas are found in the Bible



Could it be both?

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

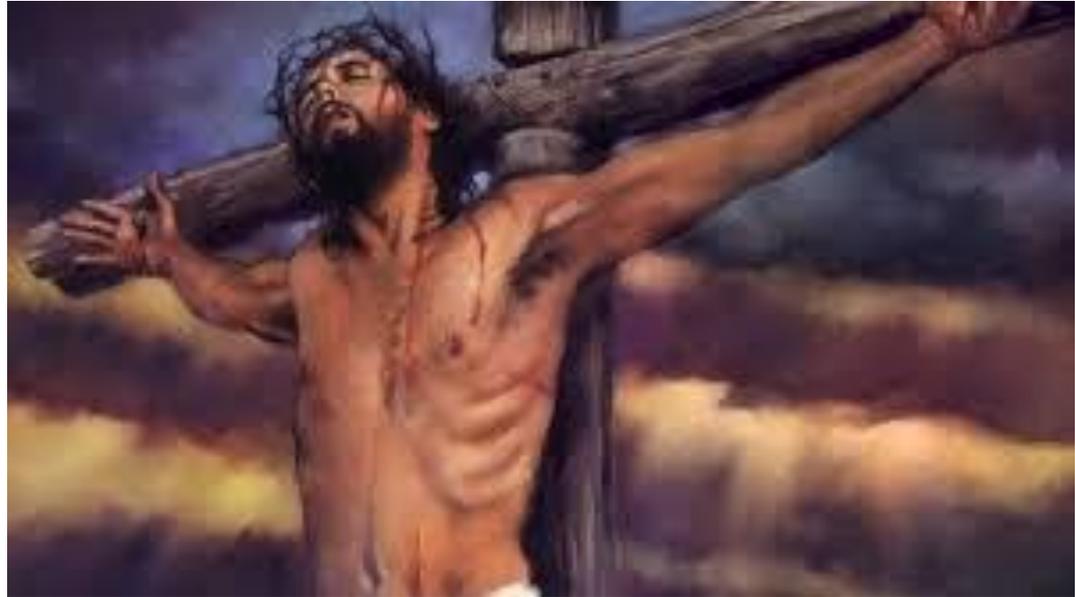
John 1:12

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world God chooses me and I choose God Eph. 1:4

- And God's Spirit is at work in a person's life
- Jesus said, *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth* John 16:13
- The truth of God's Word, the Bible tells us how to be holy
- The word sanctify means to "make holy"

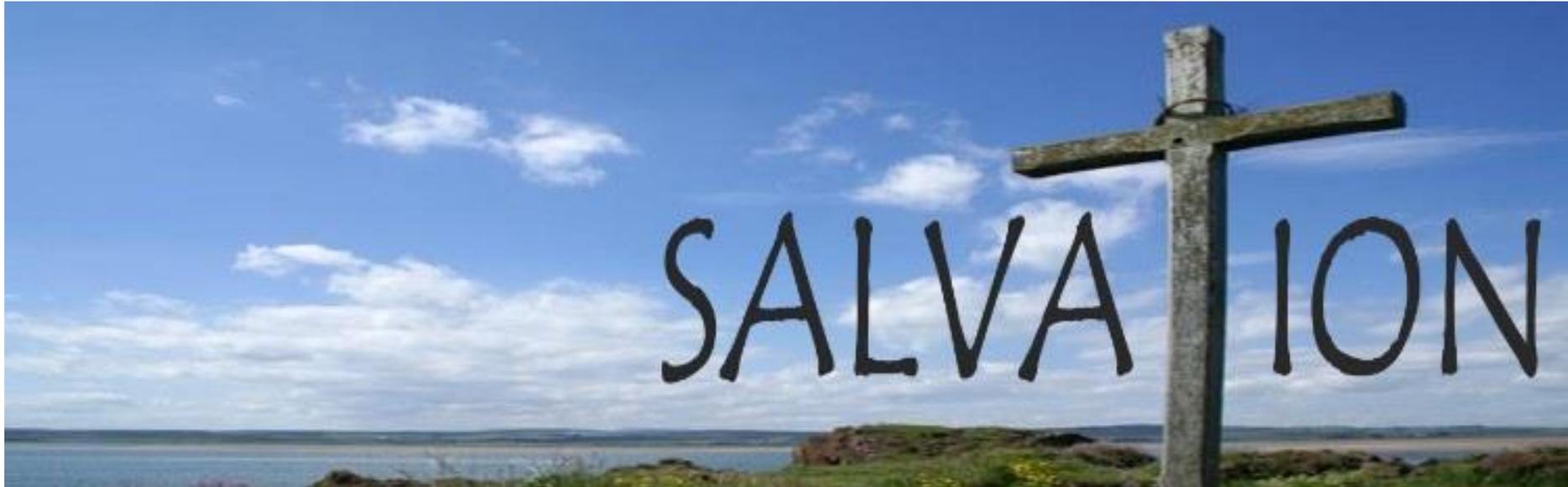


- When Jesus went to the cross he died for your sins and mine
- He was the sacrifice for our sins as he shed his blood
- Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins
- He died once for the sins of the world
- And he offers you eternal life



II. How Does Salvation Work?

Vss. 3-5



- It was God's plan all along to save mankind of their sin
- And God gives you salvation freely, that is eternal life
- By his great mercy, he is the only one who can give it to you
- You can't earn it, you can't say that you are good enough



- Jesus died on the cross and then rose from the dead-resurrected
- And Jesus offers us that eternal life
- And once you have received that salvation it's yours
- No one, nothing can take it away from you
- It is like an inheritance, it is yours

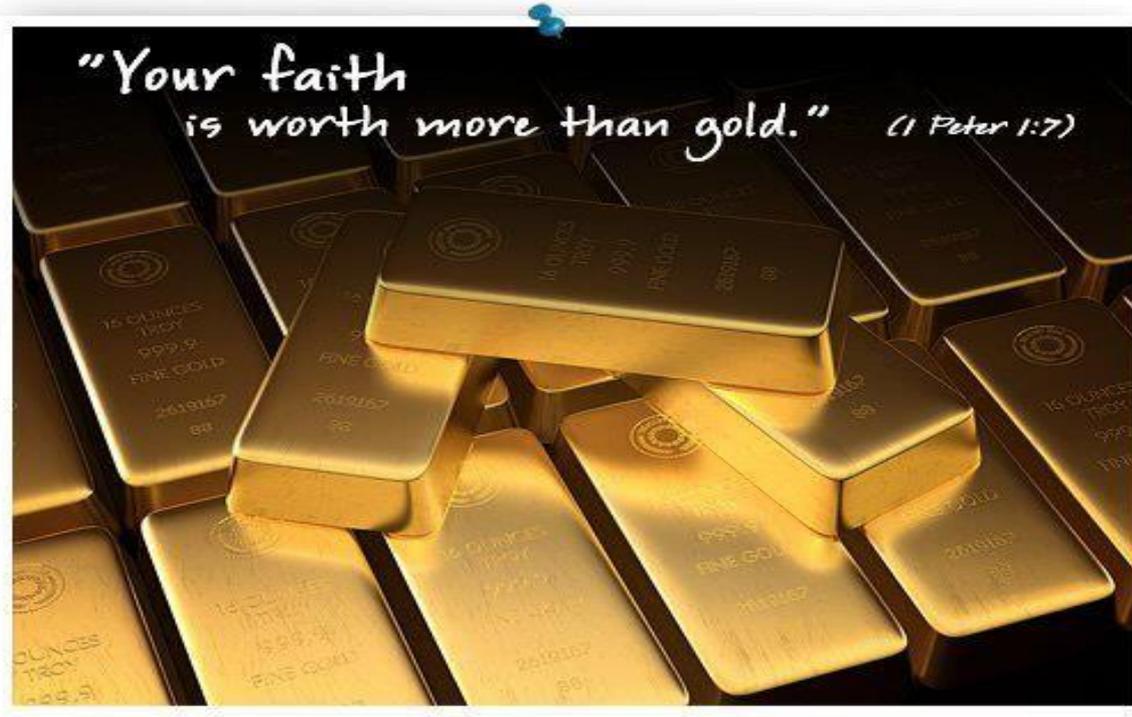


- The way you receive the inheritance is through faith in Jesus
- He died for your sins, Jesus paid the penalty for your sins-death
- Do you believe that Jesus died for you?
- Do you want to Jesus to be the Lord of your life?
- Do you want to spend eternity with God forever?



III. Your Faith is Worth more than Gold

Vss. 6,7



- Christians receive a home in heaven forever
- And in heaven, we will have fellowship with God forever
- No matter how bad it may get on this earth
- Christians know that heaven is in the future
- And we thank God for heaven



- And heaven is worth everything that we have on earth
- There are many Christians that are persecuted
- They suffer for their faith
- If you become a Christian, what will it cost you?



- Is Jesus and eternal life more important than money?
- This passage says that your faith is of greater worth than gold!
- Money doesn't last
- Heaven is for eternity



- Jesus is Lord of all the earth
- There will come a day when Jesus will come back to this earth to be the king of the earth
- And Jesus will take all those who put their faith in him to heaven
- Do you believe that?



Certain things that you do are remembered
These things are a part of your personal history
But these things do not have to define who we are
When a person becomes a Christian, Jesus changes you
Jesus forgives you of your past sins
Jesus makes you into a different person, a new person
There was a 17 year old boy that lay on a bed in a hospital
He had just tried to take his life, commit suicide
He did that because his life had no meaning
As he lay on that bed a man came to visit him and brought him a Bible
That man told the boy that if he would put his faith in Jesus and ask God
to forgive him of his sin that God would save him
This boy would have a relationship with God and go to heaven
That 17 year old boy heard what he needed to hear, he became a Christian
and he made a promise to God that he would search for the truth all his
life
That boy was Ravi Zacharias and he became a defender of the Christian
faith. He has spoken to 1000s of people, sharing the good news that
people can have a relationship with God through Jesus
That suicide attempt could have been bad for that boy
Instead it was the start of a relationship with God
For the summer months we will be looking at I Peter
This short book was written by Peter, the leader of the Disciples of Jesus
Jesus walked on water, Peter tried to walk on water and failed
Peter told Jesus that he wouldn't go to the cross and Jesus rebuked him
And his biggest failure was that Peter denied Jesus 3 times
These actions could have made Peter into a failure
But Jesus changed him and he became a Leader of the church
But instead he became a great teacher for Jesus
At the end of his life he wrote this letter to Christians
He wanted to encourage them to grow in their faith
We will see the depth of his relationship with Jesus
And his love and compassion for the Christians

I. God Working in Salvation Vss. 1-2

Peter was writing to Christians in the area of modern day Turkey
Christians have heaven as home so we are to be strangers on earth
God's elect is a way of saying they were God's children
There is also the idea that God chose us to be his children
There is an opposite idea that we choose God
That is, we put our faith in Jesus for salvation

And sometimes, faith and elect are put together
Titus 1:1 "For the faith of God's elect"
Christians who have studied this have thoughts one way or
the other. Could it be both?
John 1:12 *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in
his name, he gave the right to become children of God*
Eph. 1:4 *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world*
God chooses me and I choose God
I will not solve this issue today, people have struggled with this
issue for centuries.

I see both ideas in the Bible so I trust that God knows
Because God is all-knowing, he knew from eternity past who
would become Christians.

And God's Spirit is at work in a person's life
Jesus said, *When the Spirit of truth comes,
he will guide you into all the truth* John 16:13
The truth of God's Word, the Bible tells us how to be holy
The word sanctify means to "make holy"
To become more and more like Jesus in our words, thoughts
and actions.

God's Spirit draws people to Jesus and then works in the
Christian's life to convict of sin, so we turn from sin and turn
to Jesus. And Jesus made salvation possible
When Jesus went to the cross he died for your sins and mine
He was the sacrifice for our sins as he shed his blood
In the Old Testament, God told the Jews that when they sinned,
they were to take a perfect animal to the priest and put the hand
on the head of the animal and then the priest slit the throat of the
animal and that animal died for that person's sins
It is what they had to do, it was bad for the animal and bloody
The blood was symbolic for the life of the animal
But they had to bring an animal every time they sinned
Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins
He died once for the sins of the world
And he offers you eternal life
God knew us, God chose us
The Spirit draws us and makes us holy
Jesus died for our sins and made salvation possible

II. How Does Salvation Work? Vss. 3-5

I'm glad you asked that question
It was God's plan all along to save mankind of their sin

And God gives you salvation freely, that is eternal life
By his great mercy, he is the only one who can give it to you
You can't earn it, you can't say that you are good enough
Because God is a holy God and we are imperfect, we can't be perfect
And that is why God sent Jesus to this earth to be perfect for us
Jesus died on the cross and then rose from the dead-resurrected
And Jesus offers us that eternal life
And once you have received that salvation it's yours
No one, nothing can take it away from you
It is like an inheritance, it is yours
Only this inheritance can never perish, spoil or fade
The inheritance is eternal life in heaven
And we Christians wait to receive that inheritance
But it isn't automatic, everyone will not be going to heaven
The way you receive the inheritance is through faith in Jesus
He died for your sins, Jesus paid the penalty for your sins-death
Do you believe that Jesus died for you?
Do you want to Jesus to be the Lord of your life?
Do you want to spend eternity with God forever?
Put your faith in Jesus, ask Jesus to come into your life
Become a Christian and know that heaven is waiting for you
God wants to give that eternal life to you
God is protecting that eternal life for you
You receive that eternal life by faith

III. Your Faith is Worth more than Gold Vss. 6,7

Christians receive a home in heaven forever

And in heaven, we will have fellowship with God forever
No matter how bad it may get on this earth
Christians know that heaven is in the future
And we thank God for heaven
Do you thank God for heaven?
And heaven is worth everything that we have on earth
There are many Christians that are persecuted
They suffer for their faith
If you become a Christian, what will it cost you?
To be a Christian in China is a difficult thing
If you are a part of the Communist party, Christians aren't allowed
You have to put your faith in the Communist party, not Jesus
And that would mean no job promotions
You would have to count the cost
Is Jesus and eternal life more important than money?
This passage says that your faith is of greater worth than gold!
Money doesn't last
Heaven is for eternity
Jesus is Lord of all the earth
There will come a day when Jesus will come back to this
earth to be the king of the earth
And Jesus will take all those who put their faith in him to
Heaven. Do you believe that?
Jesus can be trusted. Do you want to put your faith in
Him today?
I invite you to do that