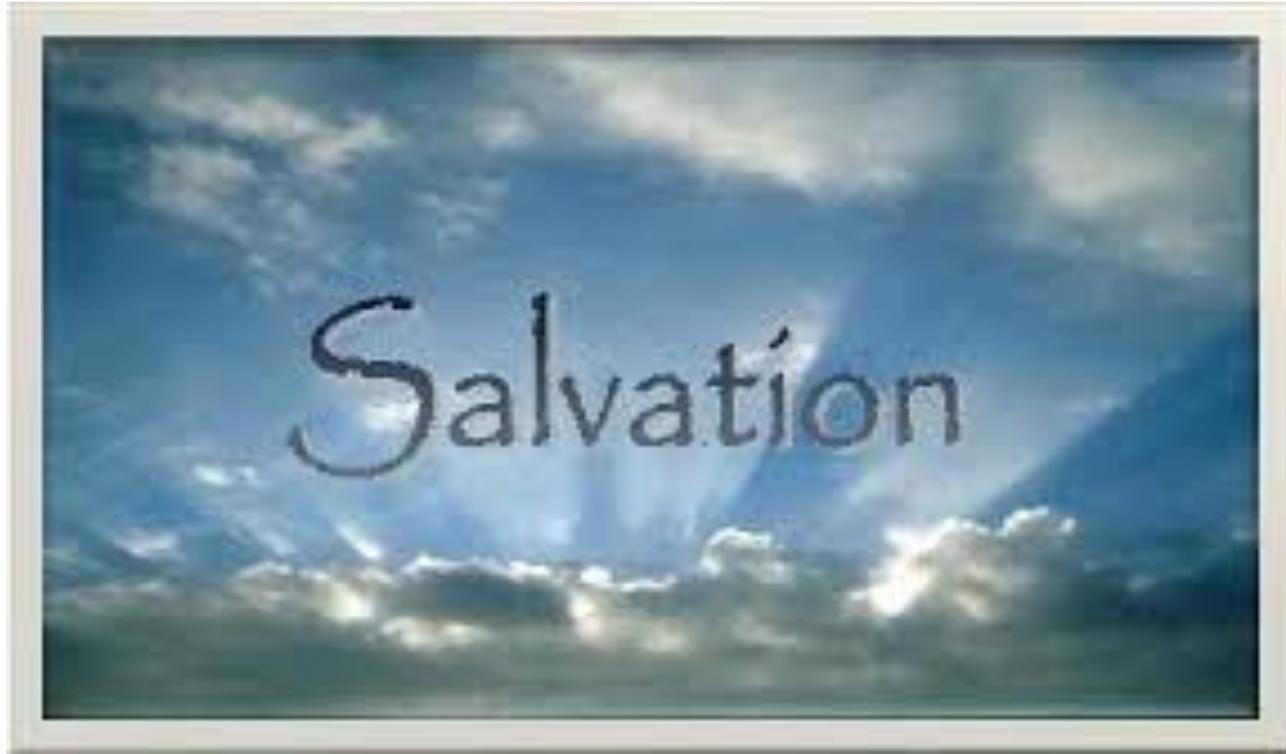


I Peter 1:8-12

About Going to Heaven



- We will be talking about salvation today
- That God would allow you and me to go to heaven for eternity
- God gives salvation as a gift, you respond with your faith



- How can you Believe in Jesus?
- How can you believe in a man that lived 2000 years ago?
- That was a long time ago.
- And today's world is so different



- Under the Emperor Nero, Christians were coated with tar and burned on crosses to provide evening light for the palace
- Nero killed many Christians in the public arena called Circus Maximus. It was public entertainment

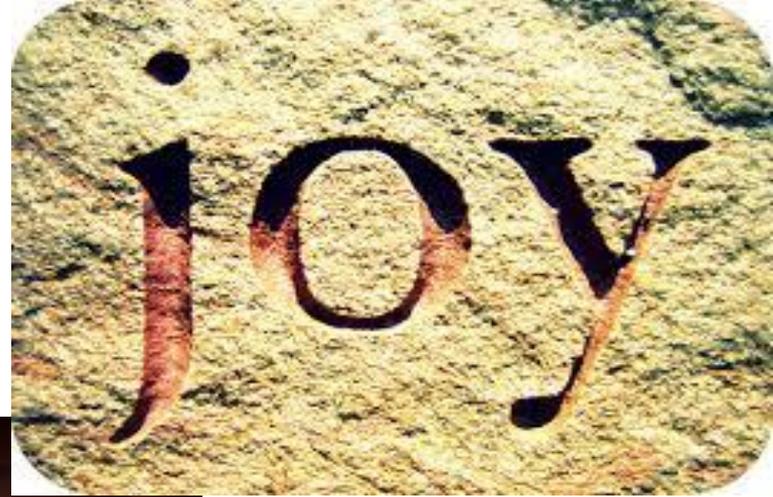


- Christians were thrown into the Coliseum with wild animals
- And they were eaten alive for halftime entertainment
- This went on for about 200 years
- And Peter was hung upside down on a cross by Nero



- According to **Roman laws**, Christians were guilty of high treason:
- For their worship, Christians gathered in secret and at night, making **unlawful assembly**,
- For their refusal to honor images of the emperor by **libations** and incense
- Dissenters from the state gods
- Followers of magic prohibited by law
- Confessors of a religion unauthorized by the law

I. Love and Faith and Joy Vs. 8



- They were 2nd and 3rd generation Christians
- And even though they had not seen Jesus in the past, they loved him
- And they had not seen Jesus in the present, they put their faith in him
- Love and faith are the foundation of any relationship



- In our relationship with Jesus, that love and faith lasts forever
- If you are a Christian, you will be in heaven with Jesus forever
- The thing that makes this relationship with Jesus unique is that you don't personally physically meet Jesus



- Jesus had rose from the dead, it was a supernatural event
- And Jesus appeared to many of the disciples, but not Thomas
- Unless I put my fingers in the nail holes, I will not believe
- Jesus appeared to Thomas and said, “put your fingers here, see my hands, put your hand in my side, stop doubting and believe”



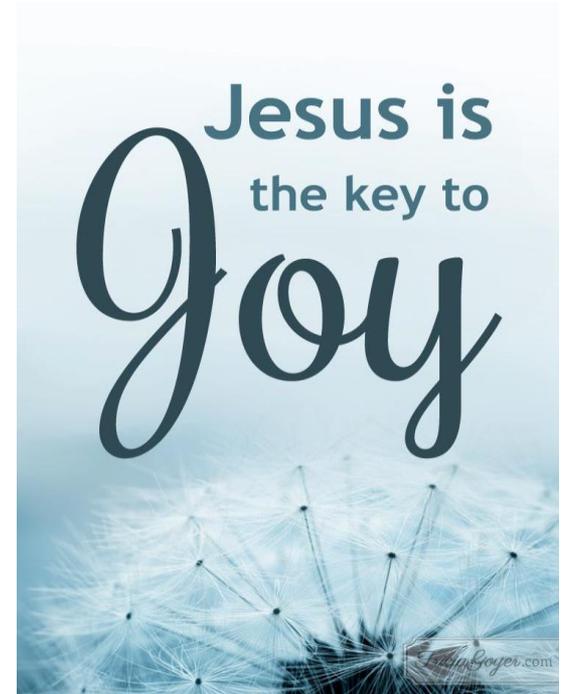
Then Jesus told Thomas,
*Because you have seen me you believe, blessed
are those who have not seen me and yet believe.*
John 20:29



- The love and faith that we have in Jesus leads to joy
- Joy is more than a feeling of happiness
- It is an inexpressible joy to have a relationship with Jesus
- It is an inner peace that only Jesus can give you



- You can't get joy from the world, it only comes from God
- And the reason we have it is because we know we are going to heaven. Because I have put my faith in Jesus I am even now receiving that salvation.



II. God told us about Jesus through the Prophets



- The plan of salvation came from God. It was announced to Adam and Eve after they committed the original sin
 - That God would bring a Savior into the world
- Genesis 3:15



- *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

- God spoke through the prophets to tell us about the Savior, Jesus
- Jesus, the Hebrew name Joshua and it means, “God Saves”
- The birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus were predicted 100s of years before it happened.



And these prophecies were specific

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6 Born of a Virgin, called Immanuel-"God with us"

Micah 5:2 Born in Bethlehem

Malachi 3:1 A messenger will go before Jesus

Isaiah 35:5,6 Healing of the blind and lame

Zechariah 9:9 Riding on a colt of a donkey

Zechariah 11:12 Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver

Psalms 22:6-8 Pierced his hands and feet, they cast lots for his clothes

Isaiah 53:5,6,10,11,12 Suffering servant, took our sins upon himself

Isaiah 42:6,7 Light to the Gentiles, open eyes of the blind

- A mathematician figured out the chances of Jesus fulfilling these
- And if we take just 8 of these prophecies, the chances of Jesus fulfilling all 8 would be 1×10 to the 17th power or 100,000,000,000,000,000
- That's a big number
- When Jesus fulfilled 16 prophecies it was 1×10 to the 45th power
- But Jesus fulfilled 300 prophecies!

If you filled the state of Texas with \$1 silver coins 2' deep and there was one coin somewhere in the pile that was marked
If Jesus could randomly reach in the pile and pick that coin on the 1st try. That would be probability of Jesus fulfilling only 8 prophecies



- These prophecies in the Old Testament should lead us to Jesus
- These prophecies help our faith
- Our faith is not a blind faith but an informed faith
- God has given you all the information you need to make a decision to put your faith in Jesus



I challenge you in 2 ways

1. That you will want to know the truth
and that you will follow the truth

2. I challenge you to pray this prayer
“Show me your truth God”

And I believe that God will show it to
you

We will be talking about salvation today
That God would allow you and me to go to heaven for eternity
God gives salvation as a gift, you respond with your faith
How Can you Believe in Jesus?
How can you believe in a man that lived 2000 years ago?
That was a long time ago.
And today's world is so different
Life is so face paced, it was easy to believe in Jesus back then
If I believe in Jesus, it would hurt my opportunities to get promoted
There are pressures on me today that the ancient world knows nothing about? Really?
Different time today but I would say the problems were worse then
The Christians who lived in ancient Rome faced persecution and death
They had to count the cost if they became a Christian
Peter was writing this letter partly to comfort the Christians that were being persecuted. Just after this letter was written:
Under the Emperor Nero, Christians were coated with tar and burned on crosses to provide evening light for the palace
Nero killed many Christians in the public arena called Circus Maximus
It was public entertainment
Christians were thrown into the Coliseum with wild animals
And they were eaten alive for halftime entertainment
This went on for about 200 years
And Peter was hung upside down on a cross by Nero
Have you faced that?

According to Roman laws, Christians were guilty of high treason: >For their worship, Christians gathered in secret and at night, making unlawful assembly, >For their refusal to honor images of the emperor by libations and incense >Dissenters from the state gods >Followers of magic prohibited by law >Confessors of a religion unauthorized by the law

As persecution was beginning for Christians
Peter writes this letter and encourages Christians to continue in the faith
And he gives them reasons to stay in faith

I. Love and Faith and Joy Vs. 8,9

These people lived in the area of modern day Turkey
They had never seen Jesus
They were 2nd and 3rd generation Christians
And even though they had not seen Jesus in the past, they loved him

And they had not seen Jesus in the present,
they put their faith in him
Love and faith are the foundation of any relationship
If you have a friend, you get to know them
You listen to what they say, who they are, what they can do
And you trust them or don't trust them
If you don't trust them, that is the end of the relationship
When you trust them, (put your faith in them) that relationship starts to grow and you start to love them.
It may be a friendship love, there is a bond of friendship that is building. And the more you trust them, the more you would do for them. In a marriage that love lasts a lifetime
In our relationship with Jesus, that love and faith lasts forever
If you are a Christian, you will be in heaven with Jesus forever
The thing that makes this relationship with Jesus unique is that you don't personally physically meet Jesus
And that's where it takes extra faith on your part
It's kind of like putting your faith in a president to run your country
You have heard what they say, you have seen them on TV
But you have never met them personally
You know the president exists, but you have never talked to him
Jesus had rose from the dead, it was a supernatural event
And Jesus appeared to many of the disciples, but not Thomas
The disciples told Thomas, we saw Jesus, we talked to Jesus
And Thomas said, unless I put my hand in his side
Unless I put my fingers in the nail holes, I will not believe
Jesus appeared to Thomas and said, "put your fingers here, see my hands, put your hand in my side, stop doubting and believe"
Then Jesus told Thomas,
Because you have seen me you believe, blessed are those who have not seen me and yet believe. John 20:29
You and I can not see Jesus today, yet you have the opportunity to put your faith in Jesus
Just as the 1st century Christians put their faith in Jesus
The love and faith that we have in Jesus leads to joy
Joy is more than a feeling of happiness
It is an inexpressible joy to have a relationship with Jesus
It is an inner peace that only Jesus can give you
I have had Internationals tell me from time to time
What is that thing that Christians have?
I can see it in your face, is it contentment?

I will tell you what it is, it is an inexpressible and glorious joy that only Jesus can give to the Christian
You can't get joy from the world, it only comes from God
And the reason we have it is because we know we are going to heaven
Because I have put my faith in Jesus I am even now receiving that salvation. It isn't something in the future
Right now I am receiving salvation, I know I am going to heaven
I know that I am a child of God
And that gives me great joy

II. God told us about Jesus through the Prophets Vss. 10-12

The plan of salvation came from God
It was announced to Adam and Eve after they committed the original sin
That God would bring a Savior into the world Genesis 3:15
And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.
And the Old Testament of the Bible talks about the Savior coming
God spoke through the prophets to tell us about the Savior, Jesus
Jesus, the Hebrew name Joshua and it means, "God Saves"
The birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus was predicted
100s of years before it happened.
And these prophecies were specific
Isaiah 7:14, 9:6 Born of a Virgin, called Immanuel-"God with us"
Micah 5:2 Born in Bethlehem
Malachi 3:1 A messenger will go before Jesus
Isaiah 35:5,6 Healing of the blind and lame
Zechariah 9:9 Riding on a colt of a donkey
Zechariah 11:12 Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
Psalm 22:6-8 Pierced his hands and feet, they cast lots for his clothes
Isaiah 53:5,6,10,11,12 Suffering servant, took our sins upon himself
Isaiah 42:6,7 Light to the Gentiles, open eyes of the blind
There are many other prophecies about Jesus
A mathematician figured out the chances of Jesus fulfilling these
And if we take just 8 of these prophecies, the chances of Jesus fulfilling
all 8 would be 1×10 to the 17th power or 100,000,000,000,000,000
That's a big number
When Jesus fulfilled 16 prophecies it was 1×10 to the 45th power
But Jesus fulfilled 108 prophecies

Statistically that number is so big it's hard to believe
If you filled the state of Texas with \$1 silver coins 2' deep and
there was one coin somewhere in the pile that was marked
If Jesus could randomly reach in the pile and pick that coin on
the 1st try. That would be probability of Jesus fulfilling only 8
prophecies
Statistically impossible but God planned this long ago
God made the life of Jesus happen
And every one of the prophecies were fulfilled
These prophecies in the Old Testament should lead us to Jesus
These prophecies help our faith
Our faith is not a blind faith but an informed faith
God has given you all the information you need to make a decision
to put your faith in Jesus
The Christians at ICC want to help you make that decision
We want to answer all your questions
And we pray that the Holy Spirit of God will work in your life also
I challenge you in 2 ways
1. That you will want to know the truth and that you will follow
the truth
2. I challenge you to pray this prayer
"Show me your truth God"
And I believe that God will show it to you

One more thing that Peter adds to the idea of salvation
Even Angels long to look into these things
God's angels are God's servants, they must do God's will
They can not be saved from sin because they are not like humans
And so they can not fully understand or experience
God's forgiveness
We can because we have sinned against a holy God
If you are not a Christian, you can experience God's forgiveness
Look to him, receive Jesus as your Savior and experience
the joy of Jesus