

Title: The Hope of Christmas Future

Passage: 1 Peter 1:3-13

Introduction:

Christ's first coming = Christmas

- As a newborn baby, meek and mild
- To die as Savior

Christ's second coming = Christmas future

- As the resurrected Son of God, bold and strong
- To reign as The King

Passage: 1 Peter 1:3-13

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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. 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 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. Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Overview

We hope in Christmas future to the extent...

- We trust in God's merciful sovereignty and salvation (v. 3-5)
- We rejoice in God's sovereign mercy (v. 6-12)
- We fix our hope in the grace God will bring us when He returns (v.13)

WE HOPE IN CHRISTMAS FUTURE TO THE EXTENT WE...

I. TRUST IN GOD'S MERCIFUL SOVEREIGNTY AND SALVATION (v. 3-5)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

God acts alone

- He saves by Himself
- Salvation does not save my mutual cooperation with man but rather out of His great mercy

According to His great mercy

Exodus 33:18-19

Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

Great mercy

- Why "great" or "manifold"? Because of the depth and greatness of our sin!

He caused us to be born again

- Why analogies salvation to birth? We had nothing to do with it.

John 3:3-5

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 2:1-5

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

To a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- thriving, alive, and continuous

to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,

- God's mercy provides/bequeaths those in Christ a special inheritance.

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- in Christ, we are fellow heirs with Him.
- There is no distinction between what Christ will be given and us

kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- God keeping you is not evidence of your faith.
- But rather your faith is evidence of God's power.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Jude 1:24

Now to him *who is able to keep you from stumbling* and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

II. REJOICE IN GOD’S SOVEREIGN MERCY (v.6-12)

In this you rejoice,

2 Corinthians 6:10

as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

- Hope gazes God-ward and pushes sorrow in its proper place

though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

- Why is suffering necessary?

so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire

- God grants faith and proves the authenticity through trial and trouble.
- “As sure as God puts His children in the furnace of affliction, He will be with them in it.” (Charles Spurgeon)
- Doctrine of divine sovereignty Brings great comfort because trial has a great, divine purpose.

may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus: When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?
 - Answer: Yes! Such faith will be tested so to result in praise and glory and honor to Jesus.
- God will reward our faith as if it is our doing (but really God working in us for His glory)
- God will crown nothing but His own gifts.

James 1:2-3

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

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, We behold the beauty of faith in God.

- Context: Christians were being persecuted by evil Roman Emperor Nero

obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- assurance of your salvation that will occur.

Philippians 1:6-7

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Romans 8:24-25

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

- Prior prophets spoke of Jesus' first coming as well as His second.
- The Spirit of Christ drives men and women to study God's Word
- Of first importance is to study and search the Scriptures in joy of the Lord.

Prophecies of Christ

- Genesis 3:15, Psalm 2, Isaiah 53
- for every 1 prophecy fulfilled in First Coming, there are 8 to be fulfilled in the Second Coming

Example: Zechariah

Zechariah 12:10 (Jesus' First Coming)

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Zechariah 14:1-4 (Jesus' Second Coming)

The Coming Day of the Lord

Behold, a day is coming for the Lord, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

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

- We are waiting and hoping for the blessed hope of the Messiah in His coming again the Second Time.
- The Gospel is not a forecast but is news - it has been done and it is finished.

things into which angels long to look

- angels who have served God aimlessly and in great power are in awe of Jesus and what He has done and doing.

Luke 15:7, 10

Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.....Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

III. FIX YOUR HOPE IN JESUS' RETURN (v.13)

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- The Christian life is not about looking backward but looking forward

Ephesians 2:4-8

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.