

Lesson 6



LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

READING:

1 PETER 1

STUDY TEXT:

1 PETER 1:10-12

THEME:

OUR GREAT SALVATION
(PART 6)

STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God
Promises of God
Principles for Life
Lessons to Learn
Examples to Follow

FURTHER STUDY:

EPHESIANS 3
COL. 1:24-29

MEMORY VERSE:

1 PETER 1:13

PRAYER & PRAISE:

A GRACE LONGED FOR

It may come as a surprise to know that the faith and grace you have experienced in Jesus Christ was earnestly sought after and desired by the Old Testament prophets and saints! They “*searched and enquired carefully*” to find out who the Messiah would be, and when He would appear.

Sometimes we forget how blessed we are to be this side of the cross. Imagine living in the Old Testament and being told about the promised Christ, but never seeing or hearing of His arrival. However, we have read the Scriptures, learned of Christ’s birth, life, death and resurrection, experienced salvation, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and now await the return of Jesus. These are truths that the prophets of old would have given anything to see and know in their fullness. Don’t lose sight of this precious blessing.

DIVINE AGENTS USED IN THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

1 Peter 1:10-12 teaches us that God used four “divine agents” to deliver the gospel to us.

1. Old Testament Prophets (1 Peter 1:10-11).
2. The Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:11-12).
3. New Testament Apostles (Inferred in 1 Peter 1:12).
4. Angels (Mentioned here, but attested to by other Scriptures).

This great redemptive plan initiated by God was delivered to us by these divine agents. Of all the generations of the family of God, we are most blessed to have a “fuller picture” of God’s salvation. Even the angels who dwell in the very presence of God did not understand the “mystery of salvation”, and “*longed to look*” into these things.

Paul, writing to the Ephesian believers says, “*When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit....and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*” (Ephesians 3:4-5, 9-10).

GRATITUDE FOR FAITHFUL SERVANTS

It seems an appropriate time to be reminded that our salvation came about because men and women were faithful to the Lord in proclaiming the gospel. Ultimately it was a work of God, but we must not forget that the message is transmitted through people who labour for Christ. Paul could look back on his own salvation experience and be thankful for Ananias, Barnabas, Luke and many others who were used of God to teach him the truths of Christianity.

SUMMARY

Consider the blessings that are ours because we live in this dispensation of grace: the completed canon of Scripture; a fuller understanding of God's redemptive plan; a comprehensive history of God's dealings with mankind; the indwelling Holy Spirit; the wisdom of God revealed in the organisation of the church; and the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 24:13-35. According to verse 27, what was the purpose of the Old Testament writings? What does Luke 24:44-49 say about the Old Testament writings and how they relate to Jesus?

2. Read Ephesians 3:1-13 and Colossians 1:24-29 and answer the following questions:
What is the "mystery of Christ" (clue: Ephesians 3:6; Colossians 1:27)?
In what ways does the church reveal the "manifold wisdom (or plan) of God?"

3. According to Colossians 1:28-29, what is the responsibility of all believers? _____

4. Discuss how God used different individuals in your life to bring you to the knowledge of Christ. Pray together and thank the Lord for those faithful Old Testament prophets, New Testament apostles, the Holy Spirit, and those who were instrumental in bringing you to Christ.

LIST ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE PASTOR BELOW
