

SOUL FOOD

NOVEMBER 24, 2016

I PETER 1:1-12 THINGS WE KNOW THAT ANGELS DON'T

Peter is writing to believers who have been scattered because of a period of time called the Diaspora. This was a time of intense persecution for followers of Christ. Many were being stripped of their homes and possessions and were physically in a situation of great helplessness, humanly speaking. How does Peter seek to encourage them to not lose faith?

From the beginning of this letter, Peter let his hearers know that while they were indeed exiles, they were ELECT exiles. In other words, they are actually in a place of great spiritual security in spite of their circumstances. They are kept by God. Peter reminded them that they were elect through the intimate, eternal knowledge that God has of them and that God worked through His Spirit to sanctify them and lead them to the obedience of faith to Jesus. What an incredible spiritual pedigree! Though their physical situation might have been precarious, that which matters for eternity is completely secure. All was well with their souls!

Peter then went on to remind them about the nature of their inheritance which they were given through Jesus. They were born again to a LIVING hope to an inheritance that is imperishable and is impossible to be defiled in any way. While they certainly rejoiced in this, they nonetheless had been grieved by various trials. Peter reminded them that God had a purpose for this as well. He reminded his readers that this suffering was only for a LITTLE WHILE! The blessings that they were experiencing in the midst of their trials and the blessings that awaited them in heaven and the New Earth were of greater value than any earthly possession which they might have lost.

Peter reminded them that their greatest treasure was their faith, which was being tested and grown through their difficult circumstances. Peter said that their faith was more precious than any amount of silver or gold. This growth in faith should lead them to love Jesus ever more deeply and fill them with a joy that is so great it could not be expressed. This joy truly surpassed all understanding and was a sustaining presence in their lives as they were reminded of the finished salvation that awaited them.

How glorious a privilege we have to be reminded of all of the benefits we receive through the gospel, the power of God unto salvation. This grace has been revealed through Jesus and His victory over the power of death and sin. This knowledge is so tremendous even angels long to look into it. We know spiritual realities angels don't comprehend. Even angels long to understand what Christ has accomplished. This Thanksgiving, let us spend time rejoicing over all that we have and possess in the Holy Spirit rather than focusing on what we do not have.