

THE INEXPRESSIBLE JOY AND GLORY OF OUR SALVATION

SEEING WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN ... **BELIEVING** GOD FOR "THE END" ... **TESTING** BY FIRE



"Tested, Genuine, Rejoicing Faith"

(1 Peter 1:3-9 ESV)

1. We praise God who has given us new life according to his great mercy, 1:3-5.

- (1 Peter 1:3-5 ESV) 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, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be **revealed** in the last time.
- (2 Corinthians 1:3 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.
- (Ephesians 1:3-5 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

A. We praise him because he has caused us to be born again to a living hope.

- (1 Peter 1:3 ESV) 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.

B. We praise him because our living hope is kept in heaven for us.

- (1 Peter 1:4 ESV) To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

C. We praise him because we are guarded by God until the ultimate and final revealing (apocalypse**) of our salvation.**

- (1 Peter 1:5 ESV) Who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a

salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

2. We rejoice that our new life causes us to bring him praise and glory and honor, 1:6-7.

- (1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV) In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 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.
- (2 Corinthians 4:18 NCV) **We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see.** What we see will last only a short time, but **what we cannot see will last forever.**
- (Hebrews 11:1 NKJV) **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

A. Grieving turns to rejoicing when our faith is tested and authenticated by fire, and we experience the God-given result.

- i. Tested and authenticated faith is rejoicing faith.
 - ii. Tested and authenticated faith sees "the end."
 - iii. "The end" is what God has revealed will be—**the apocalypse of Jesus Christ.**
- (Deuteronomy 8:11-16 ESV) Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, 12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, 15 who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty

ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, 16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.

- (2 Corinthians 11:15 NLT) So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve.
- (Proverbs 14:12 NIV) There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.
- (Jeremiah 5:31 NIV) The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?
- (Hebrews 6:7–8 NIV) Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. 8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.
- (Job 19:25 NIV) I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
- (James 5:11 NCV) We say they are happy because they did not give up. You have heard about Job's patience, and you know the Lord's purpose for him in the end. You know the Lord is full of mercy and is kind.

B. Tested and authenticated faith results in praise and glory and honor at the revelation (the apocalypse) of Jesus Christ.

***δοκιμάζω [dokimazo] ... to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals. 2 to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy. [Enhanced Strong's Lexicon.]

- (1 Peter 1:7 ESV) 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.

- (Romans 12:2 ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- (Ephesians 5:8–10 KJV) For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

3. We rejoice that our new life causes us to love God and believe in him, 1:8-9.

- (1 Peter 1:8–9 ESV) 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, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- (1 John 4:15–19 ESV) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he first loved us.

Westminster Shorter Catechism First Three Questions

The Westminster Shorter Catechism is a catechism written in 1646 and 1647 by the Westminster Assembly, a synod of English and Scottish theologians and laymen intended to bring the Church of England into greater conformity with the Church of Scotland.

William Beveridge, a theologian from the 19th century, said these words near the end of

his life: “The older I grow – and I now stand upon the brink of eternity – the more comes back to me the first sentence in the Catechism which I learned when a child, and the fuller and deeper its meaning becomes: What is the chief end of man? To glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.”

QUESTION #1: What is the chief end of man?

ANSWER: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

- (Romans 11:36 ESV) For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

QUESTION #2: What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

ANSWER: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

- (1 Corinthians 2:12–13 ESV) Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.
- (2 Peter 1:19–21 ESV) And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- (John 15:11 ESV) These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.
- (2 Timothy 3:15–17 ESV) And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may

be complete, equipped for every good work.

QUESTION #3: What do the Scriptures principally teach?

ANSWER: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

- (Genesis 1:1 ESV) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
- (Deuteronomy 10:12–13 ESV) And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?
- (Psalm 119:105 ESV) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- (Micah 6:8 ESV) He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
- (1 John 3:23 ESV) And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
- (John 5:39 ESV) You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.
- (John 20:31 ESV) But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- (Romans 16:25–27 ESV) Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.