

Treasure - Part I

2 Peter 1:1

Intro

For as long as I can remember, I have always loved movies that were filled with action and adventure...

- And some of my favorites were movies where the hero was looking for some sort of lost or legendary treasure...[ex. Indiana Jones movies]

In those sort of movies, the hero would find the treasure but for some reason or another he wasn't able to take any of the treasure with him...

- That usually disappointed me — ***what was the point of seeing the treasure but not being able enjoy it?...***

Unfortunately, this is a similar condition to the one that many Christians find themselves in...

These believers read of the wonderful treasure that is ***promised*** in the Word of God but they are not usually ***partakers*** of these promises...

But it doesn't have to be this way...

As we begin our study of 2 Peter, the Apostle Peter will encourage us to realize that wonderful treasure promised in the Word of God is ours for the taking...

This treasure has been secured for us by the Lord Jesus Christ and we can enter in and enjoy so much of that treasure *here and now...*

- And as wonderful as this is — we must also remind ourselves that we do not lose this treasure at death...

Instead, at death we will enter into the fulness of the treasure that the Lord God has promised to those who trust in His Son...

- In other words, the treasure that Peter wishes for us to partake in now is simply the *down payment* of the *full and future treasure* that we will receive after death...

The treasure that we are invited to enjoy now is the appetizer of the never-ending fulfillment that we will experience when we enter into the fulness of God's presence in Heaven...

So, with this in mind, would you please follow along as I read the opening passage of 2 Peter...

2 Peter 1:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers

of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Now, I've divided 2 Peter 1:1-4 into 6 sections — as we move through this passage we will focus on...

- 1) Simon Peter**
- 2) Precious Faith**
- 3) Grace & Peace**
- 4) Divine Power**
- 5) Precious Promises**
- 6) Divine Partakers**

*But in our study today we will only explore the first two sections — **Simon Peter** and **Precious Faith** which are both found in the first verse...*

With this in mind, I will read vs 1 once more...

**Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the
righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**

Let's move now into our first section...

1) Simon Peter (vs 1a)

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

Simon was his original name and **Peter** was the name that the Lord Jesus gave him...

- [expand — the Lord Jesus *saved **Simon** and made him into **Peter** — the Lord Jesus loves both **Simon** and **Peter**...*]

This is a very important truth...

It is vital that you understand that God didn't start loving you when you placed your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ...

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV)

We love Him because He first loved us.

*Please understand — even when **you** and **I** were lost in our sin, **God was at work in our lives**...*

- He was leading and guiding and directing in a way that we had no awareness of...

The Lord God has always had His eyes on you — He created you — He knit you together in your mother's womb...

All the days of your life were written in His book when as yet there were none of them...

- As incredible as it may seem — **God treasures you...**

And He treasures you because of who He is — because **He is love** and because **He is good...**

- *He treasures you because He made you...*

He treasures you because He has invested in you...

- And the Lord Jesus Himself said that **where your treasure is there your heart will be also...**

So if God has treasured you — invested in you — taken up residence with you in the Person of the Holy Spirit...

Then don't you not think His heart is with you also?...

*God loved **Simon Peter...***

God loved him when he was *simply* **Simon** and God loved him when He became **Simon Peter...**

- This is an important reminder to believers — God loves and treasures us...

But God also loves and treasures those who have not yet placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ...

That is the whole point of...

John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

God the Father gave His greatest gift — His sinless Son — to redeem what He treasured — **people** — the only beings in all of creation that bear God’s image and likeness...

- I would argue that the Lord Jesus is *the ultimate and sinless Indiana Jones...*

But unlike Indiana Jones, the Lord Jesus will leave none of His redeemed treasure behind...

Everyone who places their faith in the Lord Jesus will be brought all the way home...

John 6:39 (NKJV)

“This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”

Now please turn to...

John 10:27-30 (NKJV)

27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

30 I and My Father are one.”

Now please turn to...

Romans 8:35-39 (NKJV)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written:

**"For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."**

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*So — to be clear — God treasured you **before** you trusted in Christ...*

- But during those years you were **lost treasure**...

Wonderfully — the Lord Jesus came *to seek and to save that which was lost...*

- So — when you placed your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise — you became ***found treasure...***

And the ***Lord Jesus loses nothing that He finds*** — and ***the Holy Spirit loses nothing that He seals...***

With this in mind, I also want to turn our attention back to **Simon Peter** and acknowledge what an *incredible treasure this man was and continues to be...*

- My life has been permanently changed for the good because of Peter's tremendous influence...

He was a man of high highs and low lows — of cowardice and courage — of pride and humility...

- But ultimately he was a man who fought the good fight of faith and finished the race that was set before him...

I greatly love Peter — and I can't wait to meet him and thank him for all the good that he has brought into my life...

Simon Peter is someone to *be treasured* because he *is treasure* — God poured his treasure into Peter — and through Peter into us...

And as we consider the life of Simon Peter — the exhortation for you and for me is to be ***open treasure boxes***...

- God has invested His treasure in us but we are not to keep the treasure for ourselves...

Instead — we are to invest that treasure in other people...

- And the beautiful irony is that the more we share our treasure by investing in other people — ***the richer we will become***...

We will become richer in fellowship with the Lord as we become more like Christ...

- ***We will become richer in fellowship with one another as we open ourselves in relationship...***

We will become richer in opportunities as faithfulness to the Lord allows Him to entrust more to us...

- ***And we will become richer in heavenly rewards as the Lord has promised to reward us for our faithfulness to Him...***

We must always remember that the Lord Jesus poured Himself out on the cross — and He received a great reward — and you and I are part of that reward...[expand]

If we are to faithfully follow Him then we too must pour ourselves out in service to others...

Philippians 2:17 (NKJV)

Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Let's turn back to 2 Peter 1:1 as we see how Simon Peter introduced himself as...

a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

What we have here is another key to living as the treasure of God...

- *A key to opening the treasure box and living an others-centered life...*

First of all, we must understand that Peter's primary focus was the Lord Jesus Christ...

- Peter considered himself to be a **bondservant** of Christ...

bondservant — *one who gives himself up to another's will...*

This is exactly what the Lord Jesus modeled...

John 6:38 (NKJV)

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

As we think about it — it seems safe to say that *the Lord Jesus was a bondservant to God the Father* during His earthly ministry and that much treasure was won through His faithful service...

- Following the examples of the Lord Jesus and of Simon Peter we too would be wise to be live as bondservants of the Lord...
[expand]

*Continuing on in vs 1 we also see that Peter was an **apostle**...*

apostle — *one who is sent out as a messenger or ambassador...*

- [expand — once we are **bondservants** (loving God rightly) then we can be **apostles** (loving others rightly)...]

As a **bondservant** and **apostle** Peter obediently shared the message at Pentecost and 3000 people were saved...

This shows the proper perspective of Peter regarding loving God and loving others...

- Peter loved God by obediently sharing the message that God gave him...

And Peter loved others by sharing the message that they needed so that they might be saved...

- As an apostle, Peter realized that his job was to share the message that he had been given no matter what...

We see an example of this in...

Acts 4:18-20 (NKJV)

18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

This is exactly what had been modeled by the Lord Jesus — sharing the message that you were given no matter what the opposition might want...

John 12:49 (NKJV)

"For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak."

Now, I think it is fair to say that each and every believer is to follow the example of the Lord Jesus and Peter — as bondservants and apostles — and speak the Word of God to others...

- In this way we are investing in others what has been invested in us — we are opening the treasure box...

Let's move now to our second section...

2) Precious Faith (vs 1b)

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

Here we see who Peter is addressing this letter to — he is addressing it to believers — **to those who have obtained like precious faith with us**

like precious faith — *equally valuable faith...*

In other words, all believers have received an equally precious faith...

- But what **faith** is being referred to here?...

It is faith in the sense of ***what we believe*** — what is often referred to as ***the faith***...

Here are a few examples from the Scriptures...

Acts 6:7 (NKJV)

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Now please turn to...

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

**12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ,**

**13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure
of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**

Next we turn to...

Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)

**6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so
walk in Him,**

**7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith,
as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.**

Finally, please turn to...

2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV)

**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have
kept the faith.**

This is the **precious faith** that all true believers share — *and it is a
priceless treasure...*

- Unfortunately, there are many professing Christians who do not
view ***the faith*** as a treasure...

*In fact, they are embarrassed of ***the faith***...*

And because they are embarrassed they compromise the biblical
teaching on ***miracles & marriage***...

They compromise the biblical teaching on ***Heaven & Hell...***

- They compromise the biblical teaching on ***the exclusivity of Christ & the trustworthiness of the Bible...***

And the list goes on and on...

But we must remind ourselves that we were warned that this would happen...

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Jude 3 (NKJV)

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Now, to choose to hold on to something — to fight for it — you must ***treasure it...***

- If you treasure a friendship then you will fight for it — if you treasure your marriage then you will fight for it — and if you treasure the faith you will fight for it...

Now, treasuring something is often a function of time — in other words, ***we will usually treasure the things that we spend time on...***

So, if you are not currently treasuring ***the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints*** then it is likely that you are ***not spending enough time with the Lord in His Word...***

- [expand — professing believers who depart from the faith are listening to the wrong voices — they are spending time listening to liars...]

I love the instruction that was given to Joshua in...

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

- [expand & apply...]

Let's make our way back to 2 Peter 1 as we move on to the last part of vs 1 — we read that Peter is writing...

to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

3 Big Things to Notice

1) All true believers have received the faith — the same precious faith — that Peter and the apostles received...

That is the meaning of the words **with us** in this verse...

This is exciting! — We do not have a second tier faith!...

- It is also exciting because we are not in this alone — we are joined with the saints of the ages!

What a treasure to be in the same family of faith!...[expand]

2) We receive the faith through the righteousness of Christ...

The faith was established by the righteousness of Christ and we enter into the faith through the righteousness of Christ...

- [expand — righteousness — Christ was morally perfect — He always did the absolutely right thing...]

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

What an amazing treasure — it is not up to us to try to earn our salvation (which we could never do)...

- Instead, we simply place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and by His righteousness we are born-again by the Holy Spirit and we are permanently adopted into the family of God...[expand]

3) The Lord Jesus is fully God...

Peter refers to the Lord Jesus as **our God and Savior Jesus Christ**...[expand — only way to understand the Greek...]

This is simply one of the many New Testament texts that teach the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ...

John 1:1 (NKJV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 20:28 (NKJV)

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Titus 2:13 (NKJV)

...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

What an amazing treasure — to know that our God would become a Man so that He might save us...[expand]

Conclusion

We will stop here for today — but before we move into our time of communion — I'd like to remind you of three things...

1) God treasures you — you were lost treasure before you trusted in Christ and you are found treasure now...

2) God doesn't lose His found treasure — there is nothing and no one who can take you out of His hands...

3) God doesn't want you to hoard the treasure that He has invested in you — open the treasure box by choosing to love God and love others and you become richer than you could ever imagine...

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV)

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.