

## Seeing Is Not Believing; 1 Peter 1:3-9

### I. Smoke and Mirrors

#### A. The old phrase, "seeing is believing"

1. We are caught up in having to see to believe
2. I believe that is one of the reasons many have accepted evolution over creation
3. Scientists have been trying to recreate life from nothing to prove their theories
4. The Miller-Urey experiment in 1953 was made to replicate what they thought the conditions of Earth were and use those things, like lightning and water, to create life

#### B. But what about magicians?

1. Magicians' tricks always fool me even though I try to look for how they did it
2. Criss Angel, David Copperfield, Harry Houdini, Simon the Sorcerer
3. They make a living fooling our sight into believing what really didn't happen
4. I really enjoyed "Now You See Me" because it went into detail about how the tricks were performed

C. 1 Peter 1:8; 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,

#### D. This morning I want to encourage us to believe

1. Because of our inheritance, which we have not seen
2. Because of our faith in things not seen
3. Because of our salvation which is not seen

### II. Inheritance

A. In the Old Testament every tribe except Levi received a land inheritance.

B. The Levites, as the tribe of priests, temple servants, and local teachers, were seen as having God Himself as their inheritance

1. Psalm 73:23–26; <sup>23</sup> Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. <sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

2. Lamentations 3:24; <sup>24</sup> "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

C. New Testament writers often took the rights and privileges of the Levites and applied them to all believers.

D. This was their way of asserting that the followers of Jesus were the true people of God and that now all believers were called to serve as priests to God

1. 1 Peter 2:5; you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2. 1 Peter 2:9; But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

3. Revelation 1:6; and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

E. The New Testament emphasis is not on the individual as a priest with certain privileges, but on the truth that all believers are priests, which demands a corporate servant attitude

1. Mark 9:35; And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

F. We are co-heirs because He is the heir

1. Romans 8:15–17; <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> 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.

G. Imperishable - secure from invasion; Israel had been invaded numerous times throughout their history

H. undefiled - In Canaan, the people of Israel had fallen into idolatry many times; oppression of the poor was everywhere; even the temple was subjected to foreign offerings and objects

I. unfading - there is no time limit on its possession; All things in this natural realm fade away eventually; this contrasts with the eternal nature of heaven

J. Kept in Heaven - This is a military term for a guarded or garrisoned fortress

K. Christians have an inheritance given them by the Father, and what a glorious inheritance it is!

### III. Faith

A. Guarded through faith

1. Philippians 4:7; And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. As our inheritance (spiritual life) is guarded, so, too, is our person (physical life).

3. This was such a needed and helpful word of encouragement in a time of persecution, suffering, and false teaching

4. This is not to imply that believers will not be killed and tortured; rather God was with them and for them and ultimately they are victors through Him.

5. “The idea is that there was a faithful guardianship exercised over them to save them from danger, as a castle or garrison is watched to guard it against the approach of an enemy.”

6. Faith in this context is a staunch fidelity, truthfulness... especially in times of trials

7. God is guarding us and our inheritance, but we must remain in The Faith

B. Trials test the genuineness of our faith

1. Grieved - trials will produce grief... it is okay to grieve

2. Tested - who are you... really? Trials bring out the real “me”

3. Precious - faith is more precious than the most precious of metals

4. Praise, glory and honor to Christ

5. Hosea

a) His wife Gomer (either a prostitute or a woman with loose morals)

b) His children; Lo Ruhamah (No Mercy) and Loammi (Not My People)

- c) Could you imagine living his life?
- d) Yet, all his trials proved (tested) his faith
- C. Have your trials proved your faith?
- D. Have your trials given God praise, glory and honor?

#### IV. Salvation

- A. We do not see, yet we love Him
- B. We do not see, yet we believe Him
- C. We do not see, yet the outcome is our salvation
- D. Romans 8:18–25; <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

#### E. Paul's attitude is key to our success. How do we view our sufferings?

1. When Paul wrote his letter to the church in Rome he was nearing the end of his third missionary journey preparing to go to Jerusalem (or already on his way)
2. Romans 15:30–33; <sup>30</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, <sup>31</sup> that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, <sup>32</sup> so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. <sup>33</sup> May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.
3. Acts 21:10–12; <sup>10</sup> While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup> And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' " <sup>12</sup> When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem.

#### F. Paul did not let these feelings of trepidation get in the way with God's work

#### G. We must have this same attitude!

#### H. A lot hinges on our faith!

1. Hebrews 11:6; And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
2. Colossians 2:11–12; <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

V. Seeing is Not Believing

A. We believe even though we have not seen our inheritance

B. We believe even though our faith is tested through fiery trials

C. We believe because the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls