

MY STORY – WEEK 4

TALK SUMMARY:

1 & 2 Peter were written to followers of Jesus living in the northern areas of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). These were people facing an increasing amount of hostility and harassment from their Greek and Roman neighbors.

During this time, the disciple Peter writes two letters to encourage followers of Jesus to stand strong and remain hopeful in the midst of what they were experiencing.

One of the themes Peter highlights throughout his letters is “salvation.” Salvation means “to be rescued or delivered” from something.

In the context of Peter’s letters, salvation is about being rescued from sin.

His writing style can be confusing, because sometimes Peter refers to salvation in the past tense, other times in the present tense, and other times in the future tense.

That’s because salvation is a process.

When we first put our trust in Jesus, we WERE saved from the PENALTY of sin which is separation from God.

From that moment forward we ARE BEING saved from the POWER of sin. In other words, God begins chiseling away at our hearts, motives, thinking, and desires to make us more like Jesus and as a result, sin starts losing control in our life.

Eventually, however, we WILL BE saved from the PRESENCE of sin. God will complete his work in us and restore the world to its original condition.

The reason Peter writes about salvation is he wants his readers to know that the work God has done, is doing, and will do in their life should shape the decisions they make and how they live their lives in the midst of suffering and difficulty.

CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS YOU FEEL FIT BEST WITH YOUR GROUP
(IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO GO THROUGH ALL OF THEM)

1. Everybody becomes accustomed to the environments they grow up in. Growing up, what is something that you assumed was “normal”, but the older you got the more you realized it wasn’t normal? Your answer can be lighthearted or serious.
2. What did you most need to hear or be reminded of from this week’s talk?
3. What comes to mind when you hear the word “sin”? Do you ever hear the word used outside of church settings?
4. Growing up, did Christianity seem to be about what God wanted from you or what God had done for you? Explain.
5. Salvation is a past, present, and future reality.
 - We WERE saved from the PENALTY of sin.
 - We ARE BEING saved from the POWER of sin.
 - We WILL BE saved from the PRESENCE of sin.

If you are a Christian, when did you personally become aware of your need to be rescued from sin? In other words, briefly share your salvation story?

6. Author Brennan Manning asks the question, in his memoir...

“Do you believe that the God of Jesus loves you beyond worthiness and unworthiness, beyond fidelity and infidelity—that he loves you in the morning sun and in the evening rain—that he loves you when your intellect denies it, your emotions refuse it, your whole being rejects it. Do you believe that God loves without condition or reservation and loves you this moment as you are and not as you should be?”

Discuss how you’ve grown in your understanding of God’s love.

7. In 1 Peter, verse two, Peter writes, *“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk (nourishment) so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation.”* How are you currently growing in your experience of salvation (becoming more like Jesus and experiencing the life he intends you to have)?