Last time we covered the first 9 verses of 1 Peter that focused on Your Salvation. Verse 9 reads, “receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.”

Now this time we’re going to talk about “Your Scriptures and your Sanctification,” starting with verse 10:

1:10-11 “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.”

Although God Himself moved the OT writers by the Holy Spirit to write what they did, they still desired to understand the full import of what God was showing them! The Holy Spirit had not ignored their human reasoning, He simply overruled it.

By divine revelation, the Holy Spirit imparted to a variety of “holy men of old” truths about God, sin, salvation, the future, and so on. When they put their thoughts on paper, they did so
in words that the Holy Spirit Himself supplied, as Peter himself tells us in 2 Peter 1:21.

They prophesied “of the grace that would come to you.” From Genesis to Revelation, salvation highlights the pages. And the prophets saw it coming, not just for Jews but for Gentiles as well!

And while the prophets had a basic grasp of the plan of salvation—that the Christ would suffer for mankind’s sins—there was much they didn’t fully grasp and searched to understand the timing that “the Spirit of Christ” in them was pointing to. They never did. God left them in the dark on the “when” of His plan.

1:12 “To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.”

Peter mentions here the disappointment of the prophets, who realized that the things they were seeing were not for their day. From the beginning, OT prophecy contained this kind of time lapse. For instance, Abraham hoped to possess the Promised Land per God’s promise. But it would be 400 years before Abraham’s seed possessed it!
In Genesis 3:15, the first prophecy of a coming Messiah was given, yet it would be many centuries before God sent Him “in the fullness of time” (Gal 4:4).

So then, the OT prophets saw clearly that many of their prophecies belonged to ages other than their own. They laid the foundation on which the apostles, prophets, and teachers of the church age built. Peter says it was, “to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel.”

Peter ends verse 12 mentioning the desire of the angels. “Which things the angels desire to look into.” Angels have always been interested in what God is doing. From the Creation, to Abraham and Jacob, to Israel’s deliverance from Egypt, to heralding the birth of John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus, to ministering to the Lord in the wilderness, all the way into the coming Apocalypse—angels have and will again play key roles.

No doubt they watched in awe as the Son of God stepped off His throne on high to descend to a small planet in a distant galaxy to be born and become a member of the human race! And they long to fully grasp what God is up to in His redemptive plan for mankind.

So the Word of God you hold in your hand is filled with prophecy about Your Salvation!
Now we move to Your Sanctification. Peter will focus first on God’s character, and how His own holiness requires us to live a holy life.

1:13 “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

Following verse 12, he seems to be saying, “Live clean, the angels are watching!” Both Paul and the writer of Hebrews use the same argument (1 Cor. 11:10; Heb. 12:1).

The word for “gird up” is a Greek word meaning, “no slackness or looseness” and it points to our thought life. All of our mental powers must focus on the imminent “revelation of Jesus Christ!”

We’re also to “be sober,” which literally means, “not drunk.” Symbolically it means to be self-controlled and able to think clearly.

1:14 “...as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;”
As we so often teach, we’re not to allow ourselves to be shaped and molded by the renegade, godless culture we live in, but are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Once we were ignorant, but no longer.

1:15 “but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

Here, Peter pulls straight from Leviticus 11:44, which says, “Be ye holy, for I am holy.” God has called us Christians to live a clean life.

The command to be “holy” can sound daunting, but “God’s commands are His enablings.” He never calls us to something we cannot do with His empowering help.

Think about it: There’s a reason the Spirit of God is called the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit empowers us to live clean before the Lord, which is what sanctification is all about.

1:17 “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;”

In order to live holy, we must often “call on the Father” for help. Peter is stressing a life dependent on the Father’s help. Hebrews urges us to do this regularly. “Let us therefore come
boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find the grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16). Thank God, we serve a Heavenly Father who is approachable, and who receives our cries for strength and help!

And Peter also mentions having a healthy fear of God. Not terrified fear, or tormenting fear, but reverential, respectful fear. Why? Because “without partiality (He) judges according to each one’s work.”

God judges people by what they do and say. He has no favorites. From presidents to paupers, God judges each person by their works. So as Christians, we should “do and say” as those who are aware of being watched and heard by the living God!

1:18-19 “knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Here Peter points out the only currency that will save your soul—the blood of Jesus Christ. God cannot be bought. Salvation is not for sale. All false religions teach that salvation must be purchased or earned. But it can’t. Only the blood of Christ offered at the bar of God can purchase our redemption!
Hebrews says: “With his own blood--not the blood of goats and calves--he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever” (9:12).

1:20 “He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”

Here again we encounter a truth that challenges our limited minds. Peter informs us that God was not at all surprised by the fall of man. It was foreknown, in the councils of eternity. If God acted in creation, He would eventually have to act in redemption.

So before God stooped down to fashion Adam out of clay, before He flung the stars into space, before He said, “Let there be light,” God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit conceived the plan to redeem fallen man when once Adam sinned.

1:21 “who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

It is through Jesus’s death and resurrection that we believe in the God of the Bible. God raised Him from the dead so that our faith would rest in Him alone. Notice, we don’t have “faith in
faith,” but our faith is in the God who sent His only Son to die in our place, then raised Him from the dead!

1:22 “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,“’

Here, Peter directs our attention to the role of the Holy Spirit in our sanctification. Our souls are purified by obeying the truth through the power the Holy Spirit provides.

Now, there are 2 types of sanctification—positional and practical. Positional sanctification has to do with our standing before God in Christ. Our standing is perfect because the blood of the Lamb secures it for us.

Practical sanctification has to do with our daily walk, which is often imperfect. We stumble and fall, we succumb to temptation. So practical sanctification relates to our ongoing spiritual growth. By the Spirit’s power we daily step more and more in line with our positional sanctification.

The Spirit of God convicts us of our sins, we turn to Christ for forgiveness, and with the forgiveness comes fresh commitment to God’s will and plan. Through this ongoing process we grow into “the fullness of the stature of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).
Peter notes that, as we grow in sanctification, we also grow in love for the brethren. Pure hearts love best! We’re commanded to love one another “fervently,” which means “intently and intentionally.”

1:23 “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,”

Peter uses the words “born again,” which we should never lose the wonder of. By a literal miracle of God we have received a new, divine nature. We have become members of the Royal Family in heaven. The Holy Spirit indwells us. We have become joint heirs with Christ. We rank higher than the angels. Born again! Thank God!

And it all happened through the “incorruptible seed” of God’s Word. Think about it. The fall of man was brought about by a failure to believe the Word of God. Conversely, our salvation comes by believing the Word of God!

Chapter 1 closes with a word about the Word of God:

1:24-25 “because ’All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever.’ Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”
The impermanence of our world, illustrated by flesh, grass, and flowers, which all come and go, is held up against the imperishable nature of God’s Word.

No book has been more attacked, vilified, scorned, and targeted for destruction than the Bible, yet it stands today as the number one bestseller in the world.

It is this eternal word, says Peter, that was preached to us through the gospel.