

## Introduction

- By Peter, from Rome probably, to churches in Asia Minor
  - exhortations to faith and obedience litter the letter - is this the purpose?
  - but perhaps more fully we see Peter's purpose in 4:19:
    - *"So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."* (4:19)
- Peter is writing to a suffering church, a church that is struggling, and into **this** situation he writes his encouragement to faith and obedience, all in light of the fullness of the salvation received in Christ
  - we are that church, sometimes struggling, sometimes discouraged, but inheritors of the same wonderful salvation, and with the same call to live lives of patient, faithful obedience!

## Its all about Christ! (vs.10-12)

- Spirit of Christ = Spirit of Messiah:
  - ie pointing forward to Christ
- This salvation is God's perfect, wonderful plan, not an afterthought in light of the failure of the Law, or the prophets, or whatever

## Be Holy (vs.13-16)

- Salvation is to bring about a change in our living
  - **therefore - what's it there for?**
- Peter has been helping his readers appreciate their salvation
  - as we did last week - **joy in our heavenly reward, joy in spite of suffering, joy in knowing Christ himself**
  - **so....**
  - so that their lives will be changed!

## Why should we be holy? (vs.17-25)

- Because the precious blood of Jesus was spilled:
  - we have a judge who judges impartially
  - we were found wanting
  - but the pure blood of Jesus was spilled so we are now pure and holy
  - now that we are pure (v.22), be pure - love one another
  - a new life lives within us - born of imperishable seed
  - Father, not judge (v.17), adopted, not merely pardoned (v.23, and also v.14)

## Be Holy (again!) (vs.2:1-3)

- **therefore - what's it there for?**
- Purity of life - pure spiritual milk:
  - emphasis here is on the purity, not that it is like baby milk, for mere youngsters - as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:2: **"I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready."**
- That purity of life consists, in part, in ridding ourselves of:
  - **malice**: a desire to harm others or to see others suffer; extreme ill will or spite
  - **deceit**
  - **hypocrisy**: the act or practice of deceiving; deception
  - **envy**: a feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by and in conjunction with desire for the possessions or qualities of another
  - **slander**: a false and malicious statement or report about someone