

1 Peter 1:6-9

Verse 6

In this you greatly rejoice – Their imperishable, undefiled and unfading inheritance.
Even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials – The trials here refer to undeserved sufferings.

Verse 7

That the proof of you faith... - "Trials do to faith what fire does to gold. They purify it and show it to be what it really is (cf. James 1:3). Peter assumed his readers would respond to their trials properly. God purifies our faith with trials by helping us realize the inadequacy of anything but trust in Him in these situations. He shows that our faith is genuine by demonstrating that our joy in trials rests solely on confidence in Him and His promises." ¹

Thomas Constable

May be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ – The word for "revelation" is *apokalypsis* from which we get the word apocalypse. It means the appearing of Jesus to believers at the rapture, and to the world at the Second Coming.

Verse 8

And though you have not seen Him- "Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.'" John 20:29

You love Him...you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory - The word translated "inexpressible" occurs only here in the NT and describes a joy so profound as to be beyond the power of words to express. The word translated "glory" is *doxazo* from which we get the word "doxology".

Verse 9

Obtaining – The word translated "obtaining" is *komizo* which can carry the meaning of "to receive or obtain the promised blessing." The word is used 10 times in the NT and always in the context of people receiving what they deserve.

Obtaining = komizo

2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be *recompensed (komizo)* for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

Ephesians 6:8, "Knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will *receive (komizo)* back from the Lord, whether slave or free."

Colossians 3:25, "For he who does wrong will *receive (komizo)* the consequences of the wrong which he has done..."

Hebrews 10:36, "For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may *receive (komizo)* what was promised."

POINT: When used with believers this word always points to eternal rewards.

As the outcome of you faith – Faith that endures is not what saves us, it is what rewards us. Every use of "faith" in 1 Peter relates to enduring faith in the Christian life (1:5,1:7, 5:9). The word translated "outcome" (*telos*) means "the end to which all things relate, the aim, purpose."

The salvation of your souls – The Greek word for "soul", *psyche* occurs over 100 times in the NT. It has a range of meanings such as 1) life, 2) living creatures, 3) a person or persons or, 4) the inner person or the immaterial part of man. There are no biblical uses of the expression "the salvation of the soul" in reference to eternal salvation from hell. Saving of

¹ Constable, T. (2003). *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (1 Pe 1:7). Galaxie Software.

the soul refers to either, 1) saving one's physical life from death, or, 2) saving up eternal joys and blessings as a richer experience of one's eternal life.

The soul salvation in view here also has a future element to it (verse 7). Eternal life is a present possession of all who believe (John 5:24). Soul salvation in the context of 1 Peter is the abundant life which faithful believers will receive. Peter understood this concept first hand having been taught by Jesus. Note the parallels in Matthew 16:24-27.

*"The salvation of the soul in 1 Peter 1:9 refers to the abundance of life which shall be the eternal experience of the believer whose faith stands the fiery test. We should live each day with our hearts set on obtaining this 'soul salvation.'"*²

Bob Wilkin

² Wilkin, Robert. *Soul Salvation Part V*, Grace In Focus Newsletter, May 1992
<http://www.faithalone.org/magazine/y1992/92may3.html>