

1 Peter 1:5-7

v. 5.

- A. This verse teaches the final preservation of the elect. **PSA 37:28.**
- B. It is the power of GOD that keeps His people. **JOH 10:27-29.**
 - 1. God is greater than all.
 - 2. Thus, His keeping power is irresistible: "...NO man is able to pluck them out..."
- C. This keeping is through faith.
 - 1. If this is the faith of God's children, then there is a danger that they will not be kept since they do not always have faith.
 - 2. These passages set forth examples of children of God without faith: **MAR 4:40; 16:14; ROM 11:26-31; HEB 3:17-19.**
 - 3. This preservation is through God's faith. **ROM 3:3; 1TH 5:23-24; 2TI 2:13; PSA 89:29-34; 2SAM 23:5.**
 - 4. Children of God are *new spiritual creatures* in Christ (**2CO 5:17**). Their faith is no more what guarantees their preservation than the faith of the *natural creation* guarantees its preservation. **NEH 9:6 c/w 2PE 3:7.**
- D. The elect (v. 2) are kept *unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
 - 1. This is the future phase of salvation which entails the redemption of the body. **HEB 9:28; ROM 8:23; PHIL 3:20-21.**
 - 2. This phase of salvation will be revealed when Christ appears or is revealed the second time. **1JO 3:2; 2TH 1:7; 1PE 1:13.**
 - 3. This salvation is even now ready; the inheritance is reserved. **v. 4.**
 - 4. This salvation will be revealed in the last time. **JOH 6:39.**
 - a. This present age is the last time. **1JO 2:18.**
 - b. The coming of Christ at the end of this age will end time.
 - c. This flatly refutes the notion that saints will receive their final phase of salvation in a secret rapture BEFORE the appearing/revelation of Christ.
 - d. Similarly, it also refutes the notion that there is an age to come in this world AFTER the final phase of salvation.

v. 6.

- A. These believers were in *heaviness* which is a state of sorrow. **ROM 9:2; JAM 4:9.**
- B. This heaviness was brought on by manifold temptations.
 - 1. "Temptations" in this context refers to trials or testings. **GEN 22:1 c/w HEB 11:17 c/w JAM 1:2-3, 12.**
 - 2. Their trials were *manifold* which means they were numerous and varied.
 - 3. Believers face the same conflicts as Paul, whose conflicts were quite manifold. **PHIL 1:29-30; 2CO 4:8-10.**
- C. These temptations come "...if need be..."
 - 1. If the trial is there, it is there for a purpose; it is needed.
 - 2. The trial will never be more than is needed. **JOB 34:23; PSA 119:75.**
 - 3. God knows us better than we know ourselves; He knows what needs to be purged from us through trials. **JOH 15:2.**
 - 4. Paul was given a trial to *prevent* him from falling into pride. **2CO 12:7.**
 - a. Trials tend to humble. **DEU 8:2-3.**
 - b. Those without trials tend to become proud. **PSA 73:3-6; JOB 21:7-15.**
 - 5. Believers should therefore justify God in their trials rather than themselves.

JOB 32:1-2; 23:1-4; 40:1-8; 42:6.

- D. These temptations are only "...for a season..."
- E. These believers were greatly rejoicing in their salvation, even though they were in a state of heaviness. **2CO 6:10.**
 - 1. The believer is not left with ONLY heaviness as this would break him down. **PRO 12:25 c/w PRO 15:13.**
 - 2. If God's certain salvation is prized, it will provide an antidote to the heaviness of temptations. **2CO 4:17-18; HEB 10:34.**

v. 7.

- A. These manifold temptations are a trial of faith.
 - 1. trial: The action of testing or putting to the proof the fitness, truth, strength, or other quality of anything; test, probation.
 - 2. Trials prove whether faith is real or *feigned* (**1TI 1:5**) or trials reveal what is lacking in faith. **PRO 24:10.**
 - 3. By removing creature comforts, God tests His children to see if their faith rests in Him or the creature. **2CO 1:8-9; DEU 8:2-3.**
 - 4. Trials purge the believer of pride (as noted above) which is the opposite of faith. **PRO 28:25.**
 - 5. Trials have the same purifying effect on faith that fire has on gold; hence, trials are spoken of as fiery. **1PE 4:12.**
- B. The trials that accompany faith provide a built-in discipline for the church.
 - 1. They prove the true believers from the counterfeits. **MAR 4:16-17.**
 - 2. Many would alter the gospel to take away the offense; this renders it more acceptable to those who feign faith. **GAL 6:12.**
- C. The trial itself is deemed more precious than perishing gold because it refines that which God values more highly than gold, namely faith. **JAM 2:5.**
- D. A tried faith will glorify the Lord at Christ's appearing. **PHIL 1:9-11.**
- E. A tried faith will be honoured at Christ's appearing. **MAT 25:21; ROM 2:10.**
 - 1. Many do not have this tried faith because they do not seek this honour that comes from the Lord. **JOH 5:44; 12:42-43.**
 - 2. These believers were willing to forego the honour of men to have the commendation of God. **1PE 3:16; 4:3-5.**