

INTRODUCTION:

Write the word "trials" vertically on the board to form an ACROSTIC. Think of words to fit on this acrostic that would define or describe life's trials.

T _____
R _____
I _____
A _____
L _____
S _____

THE PRESENT _____ OF THE BELIEVER (1:3-5)

1. We have a _____ (vs. 3).
 - A. "This" (now) is not the _____.
 - B. It is based on the _____ of Jesus Christ.
2. We have an inheritance (vs. 4)
 - A. A _____ inheritance.
 - B. A _____ inheritance.
 - C. A _____ inheritance.
3. We have _____ protection (vs. 5)

The inheritor will be kept safe to enjoy his/her inheritance! The indwelling Holy Spirit is God's declaration that He will finish His work (Eph. 1:4).

ASK: Have you struggled with whether you could lose your salvation? How should v. 5 help you to rest in the permanency of your salvation?

THE PRESENT _____ OF THE BELIEVER (1:6-8)

1. The _____ of Trials (vs. 6)

Trials are for "now", "for a season", not for eternity.

A. Some may prepare for greater spheres of _____.

B. Some may be _____ trials.

2. The **PURPOSE** of Trials (vs. 7)

We have a _____ faith. Here we have the first of several ref. in Peter's letter to **rejoicing**. The words "even though" indicate that the joy is unconditional & does not depend on the circumstances surrounding us; and this joy comes "in spite of" suffering, not "because of" it.

Some significant things about trials:

1) Trials are often _____; proving the genuineness of our faith and teaching us humility.

2) They are _____; teaching us compassion so that we never make light of another's test or cruelly force them to smile while enduring it.

3) They come in _____ forms (see 4:10). There is no trial that God's grace can't match. God's grace is sufficient, no matter how severe the suffering (2 Cor. 12:9).

3. We have an _____ Savior (vs. 8)

The context of this verse is suffering, remember? He's telling us that our Savior is standing with us in that furnace even tho' we can't see Him, just as He was when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace (Dan. 3:19-27). Compare Psa. 23:4; Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5b.

4. We have a _____ deliverance (vs. 9)

What's guaranteed? The salvation of our souls; followed by the glorification of our physical bodies (exception: 1 Thess. 4:13-8; 1 Cor. 15:50-57).

THE _____ OF THEIR SALVATION (vss. 10-12)

1. To the _____ (OT).

Why such a difficult time? Because they didn't have access to 2 critical privileges that we have today.

A. They didn't have a _____ picture of God's full plan.

B. They didn't have the _____ living within them as we do today (see John 14:16-18; 16:12-15).

2. Even to _____.

They long to look into (investigate) these things!