

A Theological Vision for UBC in 2011

1 Peter 1:3-12

INTRODUCTION:

I. Joy in Eternal Calling (vv.3-5)

- A. Our calling is for God's renown (v.3)
 - 1. Rooted in His divine mercy
 - 2. For a living hope
 - 3. Through Christ's resurrection
 - 4. Secured
- B. Our calling calling is toward an inheritance (v.4)
 - 1. Eternal
 - 2. Perfect
 - 3. In heaven
- C. Our calling guarantees perseverance now (v.5)
 - 1. Sustained by God's power, not our ability to hold on
 - 2. Christ's return is in view
- D. As basic as it sounds, my vision for UBC this year in this regard is that we deepen in our understanding of the gospel so that a real, felt joy is noticeable by even the most casual observer

II. Joy in Earthly Circumstances (vv.6-9)

- A. Joy in eternal salvation occurs now (v.6a)

- 1. Truth (joy follows assurance follows sovereign calling)
- 2. In light of all present circumstances
- 3. **Romans 8:38-39**
- B. Trials in the fallen world are for joy (vv. 6b-8)
 - 1. Necessary (even in grief)
 - a) For tested genuineness of our faith (Hebrews, our tendency to drift)
 - b) Result of authentic salvation (tested) is praise
 - (1) Again, God's renown
 - (2) This is not assumed, it is overflow
 - 2. God is sovereign for our deeper joy in Him (this fuels His renown in our lives)
 - a) Our tendency is toward lesser "deepest" joys
 - b) Testing reminds us of known truths
 - 3. Faith is deepened and God's pleasure is heightened
- C. Assurance is a blessing (v.9)
 - 1. From eternal calling
 - 2. Through earthly testing
 - 3. Hope...(assurance of what you do not see gives true joy)
- D. I see UBC being a place where we do not waste our suffering and testing. Rather, we help each other battle unbelief in our most difficult periods. While we seek to relieve suffering in one another's life, we will pray for God's perfect will to be accomplished.

- II. Joy in the Redemptive Story (vv.10-12)**
- A. Historical view
 - 1. See ourselves as part of God's historical plan
 - 2. See that there is a culmination (eschatological hope)
 - B. Corporate view
 - 1. See ourselves more as a body than a collection of individuals
 - 2. Grace takes shape in a congregational view
 - C. Biblical view
 - 1. More than implied that understanding the biblical narrative is essential to right understanding of our joy in God's renown and our redemption
 - 2. Bolsters our commitment to have Scripture poured over every soul in every corner of this building and in every home represented in our body
 - D. I see UBC continuing her push toward simplified, Bible-saturated ministries, creating enough margin in our lives that we can actually anticipate and expect the Word to have such an effect that we increasingly act on it!

CONCLUSION: