

Date: 17.05.2020

Time: 6pm

Service taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Psalm: Psalm 107:1-9

Scripture: 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Outline: Christian fundamentals

a) Introduction

1. The mercy of God

2. The life of God

3. The preservation of God

4. The joy of God

Christian fundamentals

- **Introduction**

There are so many things that could be preached from these verses. We will look at four doctrines fundamental to the Christian faith.

1) The mercy of God

The mercy of God is a basic, fundamental principle. Some might water down God's grace and love in their teaching, but this shouldn't stop us from proclaiming God's amazing grace, love and mercy. All of the benefits listed in this section about mercies of God. Behind our forgiveness, salvation, repentance, testing, behind all that we enjoy in this life and all that's promised in the life to come is the mercy of God. Every good gift we enjoy comes from a merciful God.

We wrongly think that we contribute to God's salvation – but it's only by the mercy of God that we are saved. We live by the mercy of God. God is a merciful God and the devil wants us to forget that truth. God forbid that we should take His mercy for granted. God didn't need to be merciful – there was nothing in us that He should be merciful to us – but He chose to be merciful.

As God's children, we should imitate our Father. Our calling and duty is to be gracious and merciful. If we're part of God's family then we should be merciful to one another with the Spirit's help – that is soul-winning brotherly love in action. Let us be merciful like the Father.

2) The life of God

The life of God is to be born again to a spiritual life. It's the mighty work of God in us to be radically transformed in our conduct, speaking and thinking – there is new life in us.

To a living hope: We are born again to a living hope. Before we were born again, we had no hope, no future. Now, we have an endless, living hope. Death is certain, but for the believer, so is eternal life. We have a wonderful hope and have become a hopeful people.

Through the resurrection of Christ: The living hope we have is given to us through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Death has been defeated. As He lives, so shall we. We're alive in Christ Jesus. We have died with Him to sin and have been raised to righteousness.

To a certain inheritance: Through the mercy of God, we have a glorious inheritance. Peter was writing to those suffering for Christ's sake. He encouraged them and us to look beyond the current situation to what God is preparing for us – a different future. The devil wants us to doubt or forget the amazing inheritance that God's preparing for us. Everything we buy and have in this life will decay and pass away. But we have a new future – God has given His life so that we have this hope. Those around us need this hope, this new life. We can't make people a new creation, but we must reach them with the gospel – they need God's mercy.

3) The preservation of God

God is preserving our inheritance, making sure we are kept and preserved.

His power: We are preserved as God is powerful and is powerfully involved in our preservation. It's the power of God that allows us to keep going. His power keeps us.

His empowering: He empowers us. He enables us in our Christian walk. We are preserved and we persevere by God's grace. He enables us to die daily to sin and to live to righteousness. He enables us to live a holy life. We keep going because He enables us to keep going. We are not alone in the fight, and so our salvation is certain.

4) The joy of God

His salvation: We rejoice in God's mercy, new life, in God preserving us and granting us salvation. Joy is a basic principle of the Christian faith. We so often plod along in the Christian faith, forgetting that the joy of the Lord is our strength. If we grasped the mercy of God, we would rejoice. If we could see God as He is, we'd be overwhelmed by joy.

His providence: God's providence gives us joy. Life is tough but we can rejoice because God has saved us and because we know that the trials we experience are necessary to test our precious faith. Suffering is part of God's purpose and good plan. Behind everything is God.

His honouring: If we receive any honour or glory because of Him, our response should be to seek to honour God and give Him the glory. We will cast our crowns before Him when we receive them. Our desire should be to seek to glorify Him. As we become more like Jesus, God is more glorified.

His Son: We rejoice in God's Son, that God in His mercy sent Jesus for us and for our salvation. We have joy unspeakable, hard to define because of what He has done. We haven't seen Jesus, but we love Him. We don't love Him as we should, and we often question our love for Him, but we love Him – we see this in how it hurts and affects us when we hear His name taken in vain, or when others reject Him, we feel this personally. Our happiest moments as Christians are when we grasp more of Christ. He hasn't changed; He is the source of Christian joy. All we need is Jesus, the One who will give us joy.