Sermon Notes – December 29, 2019

Rejoice!  
1 Peter 1:3-12

Where is our focus as we end 2019 and head into 2020?

* How are we going to finish 2019?
* How are we going to begin 2020?

Why Praise?

* God’s great mercy – in spite of sin and helplessness
* New birth – regeneration, new life, salvation, conversion, new nature, new family, new creation
* Living hope – eternal life on the basis of the resurrection of Jesus Christ
* Inheritance – indestructible, undefilable, unfading
* Faith – God given, saving faith – permanent and protected
* Salvation – were saved, are being saved, will be saved

What about Trials and Suffering?

* Only for a little while – compared to an eternal inheritance that will never perish spoil or fade
* There is a reason for trials – tests faith to prove it genuine
* The Christian’s joy is not governed by circumstances, but by Jesus

How Great is Salvation?

* The salvation Christians now have is what the prophets wrote about, studied and longed to understand
* Believers now have the privilege of preaching this same salvation – fulfilled in Jesus Christ
* Even the angels don’t know all the details, yet eagerly and joyfully watch God’s plan unfold
* Believers are experiencing what prophets and angels longed to see

So What?

* You are called to praise God and rejoice.
* For your salvation!
* The reality is that many of you will leave this place today and return to a life of trouble and trials
* Remember that the trials of this life are for just a ‘little while’. They are nothing compared to eternity
* Take heart knowing that your trials have a purpose – so that your faith may be proved genuine
* Rejoice! You have what the prophets and even the angels longed to see and understand

Be filled with glorious joy because you are receiving the goal of your faith – the salvation of your soul!