

Rethinking Security

1 Peter 1: 1-9

Introduction:

IN MOST OF US THERE IS A DEEP NEED FOR SECURITY.

It seems to me that the word **security** has lost a lot of credibility in these last couple of years.

- It used to have strength.
- It gave one assurance.
- It was like the word guarantee.

When Joyce and I moved to San Francisco we had a bank account with **Security Pacific Bank**. One of the most powerful committees in government is called **The National Security Council**.

{Here the communicator would be wise to identify current events that erode our sense of security.}

Insecurity has increased with the phenomenal number of house foreclosures. Not so long ago a college degree gave a person an edge in the job market but now many are staying in school to get a second degree because it is difficult to find employment. Once people bragged to me that they had stock in GM. Many took great satisfaction that their pension fund was drawing 10% in the Madoff Fund. Now their retirement plans have been depleted. Just recently in Chicago it was discovered that at least three hundred graves have been dug up and much of the remains lay scattered in a field of over- grown weeds. This was done to provide places for new grave sites. Even in death there may be factors of insecurity. People who study these trends tell us that we are creating a culture of insecurity.

The apostle Peter wrote a short letter to people who were facing daily insecurities. Many of them were being uprooted and dispersed because of their faith in Jesus Christ and the promised Messiah.

They were losing their homes, lands, and possessions. They were forced to seek refuge in foreign countries with different cultures and languages. It was a fearful and troubled time to be a disciple of Jesus.

With thirty years of maturing faith and with a pastoral heart Peter wrote a letter of encouragement. I believe it is still relevant to us in days that are filled with alarming insecurities

WE LIVE IN TIMES OF INSECURITY: How is it affecting your outlook?

Let me read the first 9 verses of the Peter's first letter.

{I urge the communicator to do a careful study of this passage so that each of the major points is supported by the text.}

Peter challenges us to **rethink the loss of security**. We tend to think of loss as devastating, depressing and destructive. So Peter wants us to reconsider our response to the losses in life.

The first question would be, Have you identified your true status? vv. 1:2

Strangers (aliens ASV) 2:11 a pilgrim sojourning is a strange country apart from his people, with all the inconvenience that entails. He may have been thinking of Abraham, Heb. 11:8 Abraham lived all his life in tents, pulling up tent pegs and putting them down in a new place. He was constantly reminded that he was pilgrim in this world Paul spoke of that mind set in Phil 3:20-21.

It is a song I repeat at the burial of a saint of God.

*This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through.
My treasures are laid up
Somewhere beyond the blue,
the angels beckon me from heaven's open door
And I can't feel it at home in this world anymore.*

**HEY BELIEVERS IN CHRIST! "CHECK YOUR PASSPORT!!!"
It is not Antioch, it is not USA! It is Heaven!**

YOUR LOSS MIGHT RESULT IN ANOTHER'S ETERNAL GAIN.

Scattered read the places identified in verse one. Then read Acts 8:1 and 8:4.

A secure church in Jerusalem would have hindered the spread of the gospel to all nations. But the church uprooted and transplanted was God's tool to reach all levels of society in all places of the earth.

In another way even the loss of our health may produce eternal value in another. THE STORY OF GIBSON AND SHERRIL HYATT, KAUFMAN, TX. When I first met Gibson and Hazel Hyatt they enjoyed robust health. He had shiny black hair and was an enthusiastic song leader. His son Sherril was a

teenager and while he was well mannered you could tell that church was not his thing. One day his father suffered a massive stroke. His dark black hair turned to white overnight. The shock of this event caused Sherrill to ask Jesus to come into his heart. He worked in our church for awhile. After high school he enrolled in Bob Jones University and he became an outstanding minister of music, Gibson often told me it was worth it all.

YOUR LOSS MIGHT RETURN RICH DIVIDENDS 1:6-7

Peter uses a familiar figure, which is repeated throughout the text. God, as a goldsmith and man as a rock containing some gold as well as several different elements and impurities. God puts this rock in a crucible and raises the heat so that the rock liquefies and the impurities rise to the top and are scooped off. Then God waits a little while and raises the heat higher until other impurities surfaces. Now when the impurities are removed there is a clear reflection of the goldsmith. That's when the man is just about to say, I can't stand it anymore. But when God sees his reflection in that pure gold that is the reflection of Jesus in us it will be pure joy. See II Cor. 3:18

Job suffered the loss of all his earthly security (children, crops, and health,) yet when he was tested, he testified, MY EARS HAD HEARD OF YOU, BUT NOW MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOU. Job 42:5

YOUR LOSS MIGHT CORRECT YOUR VISION, vv. 4-5

This is the way that Paul calculated the dangers, losses and defeats in his earthly pilgrimage. II Cor. 4:16-18

An English army officer in WWII was facing the death sentence by the Nazi regime but was saved by the liberating forces. He wrote about the last days of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life. (The communicator may add words defining the influence of Bonhoeffer on the Christian Church.) The officer wrote: "Bonhoeffer always seemed to me to spread an atmosphere of happiness and joy over the least incident and profound gratitude for the mere fact that he was alive, he was one of the very few persons I have ever met for whom God was real and always near" On Sunday, April 8, 1945, Pastor B. conducted a little service of worship and spoke to us in a way that went to the heart of all of us. He found just the right words to express the spirit of our imprisonment, the thoughts and the resolutions it had brought us. He had hardly ended his last prayer when the door opened and two civilians entered, they said, "prisoner Bonhoeffer come with us. That had only one meaning for all prisoners" the gallows. We said good-bye to him.

He took me aside: "this is the end, but for me it is the beginning of life." The next day he was hanged in Flossenburg.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. I Cor. 2:9

MY HOPE IS IN THE LORD WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME, AND PAID THE PRICE OF ALL MY SINS AT CALVARY FOR ME HE DIED, FOR ME HE LIVES AND EVERLASTING LIFE AND LIGHT HE FREELY GIVE,

Let me challenge you to rethink your losses. You might see God at work in your life, in your home and in our nation. Make sure you have embraced Christ as your One and Only Savior. That gives you eternal security. Your eternal destiny is safe. Verse 5.