

1Peter 10-11-19b

Let's resume our study now in the book of 1st Peter, and I've tried to paint a little bit of a background for this because this is much more than just an academic or theological declaration that, hey, you're in this world and you're going to suffer a while and then God's going to give you a big prize at the end, so hang on and endure. This goes to the very nature of our thought life and the nature of our existence. Think about this.

If the secular materialist perspective were true, if you limited yourself to what science can discover and there was a happy confluence of atoms and the the muck congealed at a certain point and self-replicating molecules kind of fell together and RNA world happened and these happy combinations sort of persisted and survived and blind and deaf and dumb they improved themselves and competed amongst themselves and evolved slowly over the millennia and the eons and the epochs until pretty soon you had blue-green algae and miraculously and for some as yet undiscovered reason they decided being blue-green algae wasn't good enough and they wanted to glob together and become more complex and they began to develop light-sensitive spots and pod-like protrusions and proboscis and over time they developed a symmetry and they began to digest and respire and do the and they just they thought well you know this is not enough I must I must improve myself I must somehow you know arrive and so through this long millennia upon millennia upon millennia millions of years and finally you arrive at humanity and here we are these hugely amazingly indescribably complex beings that are sentient and we can we arise as it were out of the muck and we look around and we say wow there's a universe and then we perish and die and it's over and ultimately life is truly totally meaningless who cares about your joys and your sorrows who cares what you learned and discovered your loves and your losses and your ups and your downs and your accomplishments you could be Julius Caesar you could be the wino behind the bar it doesn't matter you're dead it's over you were just a confluence of atoms that was predetermined at the Big Bang and it you're you're nothing you are no more significant than a swirl of trash on the surface of a momentary flood in an otherwise dry wadi it picked up a few bits of straw and swirled them in a fashion well you're just a glorified version of that it doesn't matter your life is pointless why be charitable why care about anything or anybody it's basically a moment of realization self-gratification followed by total annihilation so what's the point why be moral why obey laws if you're around and you have the ability to sense then you should gratify your senses to the maximum extent eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die and it is over your particular little spot of consciousness in this unguided unknowing universe is nothing to get excited about who cares there was a guy named Fred Ferguson probably that lived 150 years ago somewhere in the vicinity of Milwaukee but he's dead and unless somebody's engaged in some genealogy he is utterly and totally forgotten there was a guy named you know running Buffalo that lived on the plains of North America somewhere in what is now Oklahoma who was born grew up hunted some deer made a few arrows married a squaw had a couple of kids and died his memory has utterly and entirely perished and millions upon millions upon millions of other Aborigines all over the world and sophisticated intellectuals all over

the world have grown up lived and died in the same fashion who cares so what what's the point it has no point it is utterly and totally insignificant these people are so inconsistent they want to be secular humanist materialist atheist types because they attempt to invest their lives with meaning when everything tells them it is meaningless it is pointless it is futile why bother well I just I feel better when I accomplish something who cares about your feelings you're an accident and and certainly you shouldn't care about anybody else's feelings it leads to a monomaniacal self-centered I'm gonna get mine while I'm here you're no better than a lemon you're no better than a shark you're no better than a seal you're no better than a jellyfish you're no better than a piece of plankton out there floating in the sea you are no more significant you are no more valuable your life has no more meaning than the first little spot of blue-green algae that ever floated on the primordial soup well that's one option and if it is true then you know we're largely wasting our time bothering to be sentient bothering to be conscious bothering to live a life or follow any kind of rules we ought to find the most powerful hallucinogenic drug we can get as high and as happy as we can and die because I mean after all if you stick around any longer than that you might suffer and it's all about having a good experience in the brief time you're here to have an experience I mean it's you know it ultimately and inevitably leads to nihilism life is pointless I mean read some of the philosophers of the past who were smart enough to realize you know what it really is all a big joke it the jokes on us we think we're significant we think we can make you know make a difference leave a legacy make a name for yourself Julius Caesar has no idea that he made a name for himself or left a legacy that we're still running on a calendar that he you know instigated he doesn't know or care he's dead gone thousand two thousand years and it's meaningless that we remember his name or that we remember history I mean it's all just so incredibly pointless thankfully this is not the truth this is this is the alternative to the truth and Satan has to disguise it and dress it up and those who embrace it and espouse it have to disguise it and dress it up because it is the ugliest homeliest thing there is the non-truth is ugly the non-truth is hopeless the non-truth is everything opposite of God there is a beauty there is a symmetry there is eternality there is substance there is light and hope in God God is light and in him is no darkness at all if you reject God you plunge into the darkness of night the eternal blackness think of you know Major Tom floating off into the abyss of you know past the last planet out into the open space forever drifting further and further from the home planet well that's that's your secular humanist and you know they you don't want to think about that they don't want to realize it but that is in fact the alternative to truth and it is the real factual alternative because if you reject God and then suppress the truth of God in unrighteousness the blackness of darkness is in fact reserved for you forever you have voluntarily opted out of light and hope and life and the eternal future and you're going to get what you choose Romans chapter 1 is a succinct concise summary of what happens when you reject the truth you suppress it you know him as God you don't glorify him you're not thankful you become empty in your imagination and your foolish heart is darkened God says that's what you choose it's yours you want to choose oblivion it's yours you want to choose separation it's yours you want to choose self-gratification you want to choose self denigration you want to choose all these dark black evil hopeless things it's yours I give you what you choose

because I give you free will I give you the freedom to select your fate and we do well this is the antithesis of all of that and it is a wonderful truth it's not just well I want to believe this because I don't want to believe that life is hopeless and it's at the nihilistic thing it's this I'm not I'm not presenting the alternative as an argument for belief in God like well you know the alternative is too horrible to think about so we're just going to believe in God because that's a much happier outcome it's not an argument it's a fact it is a fact that God exists if you look around there is no reasonable logical rational explanation for the universe except God it is an inevitable conclusion to draw and to reject that conclusion is to reject reason and to reject evidence and to reject the facts it is a fact that information does not create itself it is a fact that design does not design itself it is a fact that order and symmetry do not happen accidentally it is a fact that science cannot even produce a semblance of a ghost of the phantom of a guess at a hypothesis of how life could produce itself they can't they don't even have a workable guess and this is one of the big secrets you know they do this fan dance and talk about genesis and obviously we're here so it happened but they have not the faintest clue as to how they've had over a hundred and fifty years since Darwin to try to come up with some idea and the more they investigate the more they look at the genetic code the more microbiology by the way here's here's the last fact I'll give you from my perambulations and investigations this past week on this subject guess what branch of science has the highest percentage of genuine capital G God belief chemistry chemistry chemists now where does science allege that life invented itself in a rose it was in the chemicals chemicals and guess what the chemists know better the chemists have been playing with chemicals with intelligent help in ideal laboratory conditions trying to think up well you know maybe if I do this and then I'll I'll say that you know this could have been the environment on early earth it doesn't work with oxygen so let's make an anaerobic environment we'll have a no oxygen you know because probably if you think about it it could have been the case that you know volcanoes and well you know maybe it was the heat vents and you know with lava and enough of these chemicals you know me so what they do is they grasping it whatever straw they can they say well you know what if we put these things in a jar and hit it with lightning a bunch of times and and oh look we made an amino acid okay this is like hitting sand with lightning and getting a glob of glass and saying see automobile you know the Miller-Urey experiments of the 1950s the scientists love to say you know Miller-Urey that just canceled Miller-Urey took a bunch of raw chemicals sparked it and got a couple of amino acids this is like you know heating plastic and getting something that looks roughly like a valve cap for your tire and saying see automobiles can arise spontaneously I mean it's it is to laugh look when I when I hit this this sand mixture with with high voltage electricity I get a little glob of molten metal 747 I mean look proof of concept please I mean you know how far an amino acid is from a living thing you know how far an amino acid is from the simplest living cell amino acid is one tiny component of a gene which is one tiny component of a genome which is one tiny component of a DNA strand which is one tiny component of a program that makes factories that in fact are part of you know organelles remember your biology your high school biology cells and how complex they are a single cell is more complex than a computer factory you go to Japan go over here to Dell in Austin and go to the factory where they assemble

computers that factory with all of its raw materials and it's complex little welding machines and if you like you know think of an automobile factory in Detroit all of that stuff is simple compared to the sophistication of a single so how many men did it take how much time did it take for us to come up with the technology to invent a factory that will produce a car a single cell is infinitely more complex than a car factory or a computer factory research it it's infinitely more complex science has never been able to construct a cell from scratch in fact they can barely construct amino acids or proteins from scratch they cannot with intelligent aid get a soup of chemicals to produce proteins and produce amino acids and then produce organelles and then get it to become a cell they can't even get a cell to form nothing even remotely approaching a cell much less one that will it's alive you know and it will reproduce and start you know begin you know you would think well if it happened accidentally surely science in a lab with a hundred fifty years and thousands of scientists working feverishly day and night trying to prove their concept they have not got the first clue the few avenues that they've gone down were were dry holes they were dead ends and they said well you know RNA world oh gee you know we can't get there from RNA there had to have been something before RNA they're clueless they are out of ideas there is nothing nothing and this is the foundation on which all of the rest of evolution rests is this giant nothingness well thankfully this merely demonstrates the truth of Scripture the truth of the existence of God the truth that there is in fact vast overwhelming incomprehensible intelligence behind the universe and that is the God who is the architect not only of this universe but our deliverance now the reason I'm belaboring this point is it is important to understand God didn't sit down in a 45 minute meeting with a couple of angels and say I'm gonna I'm gonna set up a plan for Sam's life and you know real quick let's throw in a few tests let's you know let's give him a few you know challenges in his mentality and you know can you break his car every once in a while and you know put some traffic in his way and you know tax his mind and you know let's just cobble something together right quick so that they'll be kind of a set of challenges for Sam and then I can all write in Scripture and say well you know the trial of your faith work with patience and you know you got to suffer for a little while before you inherit okay next next human let's go to let's go to let's go to the Russell families go to the rest of the halls let's go to the God will families go to you know whoever else's let's go to everybody else you know fill in your name here you know God sat down and just very quickly cobbled out a little thing look look at the infinite complexity of the universe look at the sophistication of everything else God has designed do you think that your life is just a quick knockoff that that God stopped being diligent stopped being detail-oriented stopped being the God of the microscopic as well as the God of the vast astronomical infinitude of the universe do you think that he is inconsistent somehow I tell you from Scripture I tell you from the witness of the universe God has just as much an investment in the plan for your life as he does in everything else you see that he has done he is consistent he you know we do some things well and other things poorly look at Rembrandt you know here's one of his masterpieces and here's a little quick sketch God isn't that way everything God does is of a piece with everything else God does his plan for the nation of Israel is is multi-layered infinitely complex detailed down to the each individual Israelite and what he when he was born to whom

he was born in what tribe what he was named at the point of his birth God orchestrated factors so that parents would look down at this babe and name him Jabez name him Yeshua name him Moshi name him whatever he was named name him Jeremiah name him Daniel name him Mishael Azariah Hananiah every other biblical name you can think of God was so detailed in his plan that he orchestrated the family and the moment in time and every other detail of that life so that it would be recorded in Scripture perfectly for us and last down through the ages and be inspired truth that would motivate and empower every single believer in human history that's how detailed and complex the plan of God is and it is internally self-consistent every part of God's plan is equally detailed every part of it is equally balanced every part of it is equally well thought out how many hydrogen atoms are there in the universe God knows he is aware of the process of annihilation the product you know when they smash something in a atom smasher God updates the inventory God knows I mean we have no ability to even begin to conceive of what God knows and how long he has known it and what he has done with that knowledge it's just beyond us but I'm here to tell you from Scripture from this passage that when God says through Peter that we have a living hope that there is an inheritance kept in heaven for us that is incorruptible you know you remember the law of conservation of matter energy matters neither created nor destroyed and the total inventory of matter and energy in the universe is absolutely constant this is an observation that even atheistic scientists cannot help but make and how did that happen well it's just it we did I don't know the Big Bang you know something happened to all of this balance where we get all these elements in the periodic table it was just a big accident of the Big Bang that you know these constants and gravity and you know how is it that these galaxies form and there just happens to be the right amount of acceleration so that everything rotates around the center they don't all fly off into space do you ever notice when they look at a galaxy they'll say well you know the edges of these galaxies are flying away and in a couple million years one of these stars from Alpha Centauri is gonna come flying over here and intrude itself you know everything is consistent everything is detailed everything hangs together everything has its place in its order and its life cycle and it's it's consistent from the macro to the micro in the same way that galaxies adhere and hold together and and God decides when and where they're going to mix and blend and and they are they fall into categories and types same thing is true in the microscopic level this witness is there for a reason it's not a happenstance God wasn't just entertaining himself when he put the when he hung the worlds in space remember that song it took a miracle it took a miracle to hang the world in space but when he saved my soul when he made me whole it took a miracle of love and grace it's the same architect it's the same God the heavens show forth God's handiwork for a reason it is applicable truth and the point that Peter is making here in this you greatly rejoice I golly odds oh my this is an amazing word let me give you some of the other places where this word is used we already encountered this word in some of our other studies for example in Luke the song of Mary when she was given the news about the Lord Jesus when she said my soul magnifies the Lord Luke 147 my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior can you imagine how amazingly happy Mary was when an angel of God appeared to her in bodily form spoke to her in auditory fashion and told her that she would be the mother of the

Lord Jesus Christ the Messiah of Israel the son of David the king of the nation the eternal son of God was going to come down and be her child we'll be hearing that song again in the upcoming season they're already playing Christmas music around the clock here in Dallas if you can believe it they started in October but you know it's a wonderful song that Mark Lowry wrote Mary did you know that level of joy is expressed by this verb *agi* *agi* *alo* a golly oh or a golly oh my this is the word the level of joy that Mary had when Gabriel told her she was going to be the mother of the Lord and she said my soul rejoices in God my Savior God my deliverer that's what Peter is talking about this deliverance that's the level of joy that Peter says we ought to have in this deliverance you look at the other end of the New Testament at Revelation 19 verse 7 John says I heard in Revelation 19 6 I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings saying hallelujah for the Lord God omnipotent reigns let us be glad *Cairo* source of the noun *Cara* that I mentioned earlier and rejoice *agi* *alo* my and give him glory for the marriage of the Lamb has come the birth of the Lord Jesus *agi* *alo* my the return of the Lord Jesus to claim his bride *agi* *alo* my you can't find a stronger word for rejoice you can't find better occasions for rejoicing than what this word is associated with and in the middle between the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to affect and secure our salvation and the accomplishment and fulfillment of that salvation Peter says in this you *agi* *alo* my this inheritance this ready-made deliverance that is going to be revealed right now in the present you have that same level of joy not all about you but I don't often hit that peak because I'm trying to get stuff done I'm living my life stuff's happening I have requirements I've got stuff that I have to fulfill you know I am I am being carried along like a not so buoyant cork in a great sea of events and I'm just trying to stay up there where I can get some air a lot of days a lot of weeks well Peter says don't miss the joy of your salvation it's not pie in the sky by and by and it's not a retrospective wasn't it great when we need to you know let's make Christmas two months out of the year to try to get some joy I think this is people's problem you know they're so depressed and so unhappy they think well you know Christmas that's always happy let's just start Christmas at Halloween I mean there were Christmas lights up before Halloween for crying out loud Christmas lights in October please are you that desperate for joy that you're gonna I saw Christmas trees first week in November I saw stuff going on sale and they cranked up this 24 hour a day Christmas music station a couple of weeks ago I was horrified I mean and now I don't mind playing a Christmas tune in July I enjoy celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus anytime because we don't know exactly when he was born I personally think that it was in the spring in accordance with the spring feasts I think he might have been born you know the first of you know the Nissan but you know grasping for this hollow tinsel you know chocolate money joy is ridiculous there is a joy that is concrete that is solid in this you greatly rejoice though now for a little while if need be your greed or various trials what's the purpose of these trials the God of the universe the God of the molecule the God of the galaxies has carefully meticulously orchestrated the events of each of our lives and interwoven them I saw an ad I've sold a couple of you I saw this ad in the hammer mucker schliermacher whatever his catalog becomes every Christmas or so they've got all these exotic gifts that you can get like drivable airplanes are in this year's if you got 350 grand laying around

you can get yourself an airplane you drive it and then you fly it then you fold at the wings and it's street legal but they've got a they've got a billfold made out of stainless steel 250,000 stainless steel threads and it'll protect your credit cards from passive scans and all kind of it's leather line that's a you know \$100 wallet you get the wallet you got nothing to put in it because it costs so much but it is very meticulously designed these very fine threads God has orchestrated and interwoven the threads of our lives we are in a fellowship we know one another we interact with another and we are sometimes a blessing and sometimes a test to one another God orchestrated all that it's like the interaction of atoms that form molecules that form substances that form crystals or form all the different things in the universe God put those together you look at the pattern in a piece of marble or a piece of granite you look at the grain in a piece of wood God designed that that's the artwork and the handiwork of God and it is no less intentional it is no less designed the tests that God brings to evidence to dokimazo our faith to show its quality to refine it to strengthen it to prepare it for future use God made these wonderful organic things would grow up into oak trees so that we could have these oak boards and make wonderful furniture and stuff out of them great paneling great timeless pieces of furniture and so on that substance was given to us by God God grew that tree God orchestrated the rainfall and the the design and and grew it intentionally God knows the hairs and the number of them on everyone's head God knows every single sparrow in the sky there's not a sparrow that drops out of the sky that God doesn't know about it it's important to recognize these truths in the natural world they are reflections of the integrity the character the meticulous plan and purpose of God and guess what we're challenged when we're having a rough day or a rough hour or a rough week remember this is the same God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ at work in our lives growing us training us teaching us cultivating us designing us for future use and when you recognize that you can have genuine Agalia oh my genuine joy like Mary had don't think that her life wasn't fraught with some downsides when she became pregnant as a virgin don't think that life suddenly became easy after Gabriel left it was tough and remained tough and they had a tough time in the social fabric of their lives from then on so much so that his brethren initially tried to you know distance themselves and disavow their errant wayward seemingly insane brother well you know we tried to get him to come home we're trying to get him to stop this Messiah nonsense but we haven't been able to you know control him yet doesn't make life easy but it's designed by God it serves a purpose the genuineness of your faith being much more precious than gold that perishes this material universe with all of its elegancies and all of its evidences of the of the manifest power of God this is going to pass away guess what your faith is not your spiritual growth and life what you carry forward into the next universe is not going to perish if you think what God has done in this universe is impressive what he is doing in your life and my life through these tests is more so more precious than the gold which perishes it's incomprehensible to me that the galaxies that the earth the microscopic and macroscopic that God has designed that that declare the glory of God is he's going to he's going to rub that out he's going to shake the etch-a-sketch he's going to lift the page it's going to disappear what he's doing in your soul and my soul is not going to disappear it is more elegant it is more profound it is more valuable than gold the most valuable

element in the universe to the human mind that's going to perish what God is doing in and through us each and every day in our trials in cultivating our faith does not perish or fade away it is eternal it reflects God's glory eternally this universe won't be here anymore the vastness the witness of it to the character of God is going to be retired it's going to be rolled up and set aside you are not if that doesn't float your boat I don't know what will if you if we cannot comprehend that what God is doing in us is more profoundly a witness to his greatness and glory than this incredible universe everything you see in nature everything in the small everything in the large what he's doing the work that he's doing in your soul in my soul in the presence of the angels for the eternal future through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ about which we will hear more two weeks from tonight if that doesn't motivate you if it doesn't create in you an occasion for Aguiola my joy you're a hopeless case we are a hopeless case we're just not looking in the right place it is profound it is incredible and it ought to engender joy in this you greatly rejoice and the praise honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ whom having not seen we love though known it though now you do not see yet believing we don't see that we see other things that point to it we triangulate we interpolate we arrive at conclusions by faith based on the evidence that God has left us and on that basis we rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory where's the joy if it's missing we're just not looking in the right place we are not appreciating the evidence that God has given us we are not exercising the faith that God has called us to because faith pointed in the right direction is going to create this amazing wonderful eternal joy and rejoicing Peter begins this paragraph with it he ends this paragraph with it and he says yeah you're scattered you're in Pontus and Galatia yes you're undergoing trials in some cases fiery trials but if that doesn't produce in you some joy if you don't recognize what's really going on if you don't see the handiwork of God in it you're missing out this is the look at verse 9 the end of your faith you are receiving this is present tense when you latch on to this joy when you recognize what's really going on you are now receiving the telos the goal the end the purpose of your faith it delivers your soul now it's not heaven by and by you can be just as happy now as when you walk through the pearly gates when you walk on the streets of gold when you exercise your residency and citizenship privileges in the heavenly Jerusalem you will be no more happy than you can be right now you are receiving now in the present in your trials the end of your faith the deliverance of your soul he said that ready-made deliverance is going to be revealed but the joy of it you don't have to wait for the joy the deliverance is going to ultimately be revealed in the in the last time but the joy of it is available now now right now in the midst of your trial we have got to get a grip on this truth because this is the reason we're Christians this is the reason Jesus died this is the reason there's a resurrection it's the power of the number one Paul said by if by any means I can attain to the resurrection of the dead that's my goal I don't count myself to yet attain I press toward that mark I'm an apostle I've had revelations up you know caught up to the third heaven talked with Jesus Christ but I'm telling you what I'm really after is attaining to the resurrection now in the present because that's where this joy is that's where the end of our salvation is we're not standing by waiting for that joy we need to be grasping it and embracing it there's a great word here we'll look at when we resume our study about receiving this is not Lombano receive this is a

whole different word for receive in verse 9 that's what we'll pick up next time we're out of time for tonight so we'll close in a word of prayer father we are thankful in this season of Thanksgiving for the deliverance the salvation that you have secured for us through the Lord Jesus Christ the revelation of your character of your plan and purpose in him and through him and all of the things that you give us as a result of his incarnation his walking among us are so profound and so extensive and so vast that it takes more than this lifetime for us to even begin to touch the hem of the garment but we thank you for the revelation of these truths in your word we thank you for the end of our salvation that is available to us now we thank you for our tests we thank you for our opportunities we pray that God the Holy Spirit will constantly remind us of these truths and empower us and enable us through our understanding through our faith to reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus who lived his life in the light of these very same truths we ask it all in Jesus name amen