1Peter 10-11-12b

Let's resume our study now in 1 Peter chapter 1. We've been looking at verse 6 and into verse 7 where we see Peter talking about the source of our joy. One of the great places where we can rejoice is in the recognition of this great deliverance that God has for us both now and in the age to come. Even though separately and apart from that, that deliverance is prepared, that salvation is on its way, at the same time we've got this program underway of testing, these perasmoi, various trials.

So that, hena, verse 7, what's the purpose of this? Why is God making my life difficult? Why do I not have an easy time? Why do I not have a bed of roses and flowery beds of ease? So that, the genuineness, dokimas, dokimazo is the word for looking at a thing, evaluating something. In secular Greek it was used for somebody who was tested in battle. We've put these troops, we've put this unit in, and they've been tested in battle.

We know whether they're going to fight or run. We know whether they are good or bad at what they do. Dokimas, the stem word is doke, from which the verb dokimazo comes, and the root idea there is watching.

You put a thing in a situation, you watch it. This is the foundation of science. Science is all about observation and testing.

I observe that when this little squishy thing that I found in the pond water gets wounded, it duplicates itself. I take this flatworm and I cut it in half, and each of the halves turns into a new flatworm. I find that if I take this flatworm and cut him halfway down through the head, each of the two halves becomes, and now he's a two-headed flatworm.

That was one of the more interesting things we did in biology, was brutalizing little innocent flatworms. We test them. I slice you in half and see what you do.

It doesn't work too well on most other animals, but flatworms miraculously recover, and they've done a lot of work in analyzing the DNA, trying to figure out, how does that happen? Wouldn't it be great if you cut your finger and it grew back? If you lost an organ, you get a spleenectomy and a new spleen grows in its place. Why wouldn't that be a helpful thing to have evolved? The scientists will observe and test the laws of physics. Newton, it's probably apocryphal that he was sitting under an apple tree and got bonked in the head and came up with his laws of gravity and F equals MA and all this.

But that's the nature of science. You look at stuff and you say, there seems to be a pattern here. Let me test and see if this is really the case.

By the way, the foundations, the groundwork, the pillars upon which all modern science rests were laid by Christians. Not just by Christians, but laid because they were Christians. The concept that there is an orderly universe governed by rules is a Christian concept.

That's why so many other cultures never got anywhere scientifically. People want to brag on the Chinese and they had fireworks 3,000 years ago. Well, they never went anywhere.

All they did was make paper dragons and fireworks every year for thousands of years and terracotta soldiers and stuff. But they didn't develop computers, they didn't put a man on the

moon, they didn't develop automobiles and internal combustion and indoor plumbing and all the rest of it. When did the scientists really begin to develop physics and chemistry and astronomy? All of those.

You go back to the founding fathers and all of these major modern scientific disciplines, they're all Christians. And they believed that God had constructed an orderly universe. The ancient Greeks, they didn't get anywhere scientifically because they thought everything was in the hands of the capricious gods.

Well, you know, one day my stuff acts this way and another way it acts that way. One year my crops grow well and another year they don't. They didn't sit down and figure out crop rotation and all the rest of it because they thought it was all in the hands of the gods and the gods were capricious.

You never knew what they were going to do. Christians knew that God is not capricious. He is steady and unchanging and he governs the universe by laws and decrees that are unchanging.

They said, you know what? If we investigate things, we will find that they will always be true. And that is the foundation of modern science. All of these atheistic secular humanist scientists are standing on the shoulders of Christians who gave them all of their basic tools and who established the realm of scientific inquiry and investigation based on this, dokimas.

I can observe and test a thing and it will reveal its truths. It's not going to vary. It's not going to change.

I'm not going to have an acceleration of gravity one day that's going to be different the next day. Dokimas, so that the reliability, the nature, the true substance of your faith, what's your faith made of? Have you got a real faith or a fake faith? Is it a hollow faith or a solid faith? Is it a veneer gold leaf faith or is it a solid oak, solid gold faith? What kind of faith have you got? It might look one way. I was mentioning I think last time about how realistic they can make formica now, how realistic they can make wood grain.

You've got to really look close. I was looking at a countertop that I had scraped tile and adhesive off of and I went in there and I thought, well, that's not formica, that's wood. And I started scraping away and I thought, you know, I know what formica looks like.

I know it, but I've lived with butcher block formica for 12 years. I had it in my mobile home. I had it in my last home down there at Fieldcrest for 10 years we were down there.

Had it for five years previous to that in my mobile home, same stuff. I know exactly what that looks like. This is wood.

And I kept, I had to test it. I had to get something and scratch it. And that particular area, and for whatever reason, it just fooled me.

I thought, you know, I thought there was a piece of wood behind the formica and I was looking for the seam. Well, no, it was formica. But it was so like wood that I could not tell the difference visually.

I had to test it. I had to find out, is it, will it splinter or will it scrape away and reveal some totally different plastic color underneath, which it did. Well, if God tests our faith, what's he going to

find? Is it a formica faith or is it a granite faith? Is it a solid wood faith or is it a cheap shelf paper faith? They've got some pretty good looking shelf paper anymore.

I've covered some stuff in shelf paper that looked really nice and it's just as fake wood grained as it can be. Dokimas. This is, figure out what this is.

You gain a friend. Attractive people have a real challenge when it comes to friendship in their younger years, when it comes even to romance and things like that. People that are just, you know, very attractive, exceptionally attractive or whatever.

It's a blessing and a curse. And part of the curse is that you have real difficulty determining why someone is drawn to you. Are they drawn to you because you're a trophy? Because you're somebody desirable at a surface level? Or do they really know you, the person? And even if you were disfigured in a horrible acid explosion, they would still love you for who you are.

Well, you know, there's been people that have gotten married and had some kind of an unhappy accident and the person says, goodbye. I didn't get married to have to live with somebody that is in this state now. I thought you were healthy.

I thought you were gorgeous. I thought you were this and the other. And one or more of these things has changed.

And I don't care what we said on the wedding day, I'm leaving. What is the genuineness of that dedication, of that covenant, of that trust, of that relationship? Is it real or is it memorex? Is it real or is it fake? Is it real or is it imitation? Is it a Rolex or is it a cheap foreign knockoff? And chances are, it's the latter in any of the circles in which I move. So that the dokimas of your faith, and skip the intermediate for the moment, that there's a little set of parenthetical material there, but if you skip down, so that the genuineness of your faith may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Now think about that. When I think of the praise, honor, and glory of Jesus Christ, I think of angelic throngs. I think of holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty.

I think of shiny gold throne room, heavenly sea of glass, ethereal, otherworldly, eternal victory of the cross type of stuff related to Christ. Glory, honor, and praise, I think this is all of that above and beyond stuff that's in a completely different universe from me. Not according to this verse.

What does it say? The genuineness, the quality of your faith, fill in your name here, the genuineness and quality of Sam's faith, of your name's faith, can be found to the praise, honor, and glory of Jesus Christ. When he's revealed, a part of the praise, and glory, and honor that is in that revelation comes from your faith. Your faith actually is a part of that magnificence.

How is that possible? I tend to think, well, my faith is going to determine what happens to me. If I am faithful, I can inherit. If I am faithful, I can overcome.

If I am faithful, God will bless. If I am faithful, I will be less of a curse to the people around me. If I am faithful, I will have this sort of limited bursting radius like a little mortar shell.

This verse says, no, the genuineness of your faith will be found, and remember, if you ever take, well, some of us, actually several of us have taken California history. Debbie, did you take

California history? See, we've almost got a quorum here of prune pickers. But, in California history, everybody learns about Eureka, it's on the state flag, Eureka, I have found it.

This is paradise, Eureka. This is the Eureka word. Your faith is going to be a Eureka moment when it comes to the praise, honor, and glory of Jesus Christ.

Eureka, I found somebody that had genuine faith. Who was that, Balboa? Remember that, Balboa, who said Eureka? One of the four of us should remember that before they leave. We went on to invent the vacuum cleaner, but the faith that you have in whatever kind of a trial it is, remember the poikilos perosmos, it can be a big trial or a little trial.

It can be, I just spilled coffee all over my roommate's work, or it could be, I just committed a grievous sin against someone. I am under a big challenge, I just found out, here's this trial, here's this loss, here is this big circumstance in my life that requires faith. I'm going to have to trust God, just lost my job, just got rejected for something I was sure I was going to be accepted for, I just have had a major setback, my plan A and B and C are off the table, I don't even have a plan for this circumstance, what am I going to do? Large test, charge of the elephant test, others of them are small little swat the buzzing insect test, and it's easy.

Whatever it is, faith is going to be revealed. You can test things by scratching them with a little point of a nail, or you can test them by taking a five pound sledgehammer and swinging as hard as you can. Will it break? Will it move? Will it come apart? There are tests large and small, it depends on what you are testing for, are you testing for tensile strength? I was recently in a rather mindless, meaningless discussion about whether the Titanic fractured or tore when it hit the iceberg.

Who cares? But this is the sort of exercise you can engage in if you are just trying to keep your wits sharp. I'll use any stone to try to sharpen my wits. So, I'm debating, you know, when it hit the iceberg, what were the results of the investigation? They've taken some of the plates and brought them back up, and it really is kind of interesting, back to the laws of physics that God created, depending on how you temper metal and how it is formed and the nature of the smelting and furnishing and forging techniques that they used back in the days that they made these great early steel-hulled ships, and the kind of rivets that they used.

The water temperature made a big difference. Below a certain temperature, some of this stuff got really brittle and would crack, and there is evidence to suggest that the iceberg did not tear a gaping hole in the Titanic, it fractured. It's like China, it didn't give, it didn't have tensile strength at that low temperature, and the water temperature was near freezing, obviously, there's icebergs floating in it, and it was more brittle, the rivets were brittle, and what they've determined, the part that they really need to see is under the silt, but they've used sonar and whatnot, and they have found the slits.

The Titanic sank, and all the rupture in the hull are these narrow, inches-wide slits. The entire ship, it didn't have this great iceberg gaping hole, it cracked, probably between the plates, and it's the rivets that gave way, and it just cracked like this, and these huge amounts of water came through that.

In this discussion, somebody was trying to tell me that it didn't happen that way, but I have the benefit of an engineering education where we actually took blanks of steel, these little square,

miniature ingots, there's a name for them, I forget what they're called, they're not blanks, but it's something like that, and you put them in a tensile strength machine, and over in the engineering building at the Naval Academy, they had one of these very expensive machines, and you clamp this specific shape and size of blank in it, made out of this particular steel, and you turn the machine on, and it's got a stress gauge, and it shows how much pulling stress is being put on this thing, and it's got one little groove across it, they've made one little V-shaped place, and of course this is where it's eventually going to fail, and the machine will measure how much does it take to cause this to fail, to part, and that's its tensile strength, and it's a rating, and you can compare different alloys and different mixtures and different ways of preparing the steel.

Well, that's dokimas, and so God uses all different methods, and we think, well, somebody's just trying to block my progress, somebody's just trying to make my life difficult, all of these people have gotten on the highway in my traffic lane just to frustrate me, that's why they're here, Satan has inspired these people to get in here and drive crazy to get me out of fellowship and destroy my peace of mind, this is what I often think. No, these things occur, they are calibrated, they are orchestrated, you can imagine there's all kinds of wires and gauges and sensors attached to our circumstances, or actually attached to our souls as we go through these circumstances to see, all right, you know, you go to Bible class, you think you're a Christian that knows a lot, what's your faith like, how's your faith going to hold up when your patience is tested, how's your faith going to hold up when your sense of security is tested, how's your faith going to hold up when your sense of personal identity and your ego is tested, how are you going to hold up when your provision is tested, when your relationship is tested, when your expectations are disappointed, when your pride is wounded, when you suffer the loss of something that you hold dear, how's your, what's your faith really like, is it what you say it is, is it what you think it is, what is it?

The genuineness, the quality really is a better word here, the quality of your faith, the kind of faith you actually have is revealed in these circumstances, in these tests, and when it is found to be approved, dokimadzo, and there's a whole realm, I started to do a word study and as I cut myself short I decided I wouldn't do it, there's a lot of different words for test in Greek, dokimadzo means test for the purpose of approval. This is, now we've got the noun here, but the verb that comes from it is kind of like what's going to happen for Dr. Eddy next week, they, at least if everything goes as it should, they come in to check and see are you doing everything necessary to grant genuine degrees, are you giving a genuine education, does your program meet the specifications for a degree granting institution, are your professors properly qualified, do you spend the right amount of time, do you put students through the paces so that these degrees really mean something, and the state certifies that your school is qualified to grant degrees, they should not be coming there to try to disqualify the school and take them off the map, they want to come and certify.

When the restaurant inspector comes around, he's hoping to find a clean, sanitary, qualified place to serve food, he's not running around just looking for somebody to shut down, hopefully, we want these businesses to be open and thrive and we want people to go there and enjoy it and be healthy and not get sick from eating the food so we go to certify. You take your child in for a checkup, you want them to be well, you take them to the doctor and you hope the doctor is going to say this is the healthiest child I have seen all week, this child is healthy as a horse. You go in and you're 50 years old, you've got the body of a 30 year old, you've got the heart of a 20 year old, you say oh that's great, test and certify as approved. You look for that FDA stamp of approval on meat and so on, we've checked it and it's good to go.

Test for the purpose of approval and so when it says the quality of your faith, this means the verified quality, you've got God's stamp of approval on your faith and when God tests your faith and it meets the test, it meets the criteria, it is certifiably good. This is going to be to praise, honor and glory when Jesus Christ is revealed, so how are you going to know if the meat is any good if it doesn't get checked and tested and inspected, how are you going to know that the restaurant is qualified, how are you going to know that this steel is good enough to make airplane wings out of or ship hull plates out of unless you test it, test it and be sure it's good and when it's good, that is going to praise, honor and glorify the Lord Jesus.

Now, here's my question, here's my pop question, pop question for the night, how does your wonderfully genuine faith read down to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ? Peter says that it will, how? How does that happen? If I test the steel and I determine that it's good enough for the hull of the Titanic and the Titanic goes out, it hits an iceberg and that hull does not fail and that watertight integrity is maintained. By the way, the other main reason that the Titanic sank that was supposedly unsinkable is all those watertight bulkheads that they made didn't go all the way up to the deck, they went up so far and stopped.

The idea was that they didn't count on the ship actually sinking so that the waterline outside would be above the top of these watertight decks. Now, all ships are made where they're like watertight boxes, but these were kind of like watertight walls, but with an open ceiling. It's like a cubicle, you know, it's got walls and no ceilings.

Well, that's what the watertight, so it works fine as long as the ship doesn't lose any altitude in the water, if you will. And if your center of flotation begins to, you know, move, the ship rides lower in the water, well, the water poured over the tops of the water, that doesn't do any good that they're watertight if it's going over the top. This is like these offices that have all kinds of fancy locks and things where all you have to do is get up in the acoustic ceiling and crawl across and drop down in and steal everything, go back up in the ceiling and leave.

It doesn't matter how good the locks are on the doors if the ceiling is insecure. Well, that's why the Titanic sunk because the plates cracked, water got in, then the ship began to sink with all that weight and the water just poured over wall after wall after wall and just pulled it down nose first. And it took actually very little to sink the ship, surprisingly little.

In fact, if the watertight bulkheads had not been closed, this is just Titanic trivia for you, if they had not shut those watertight bulkheads, the water that came in the bow would have run back in the ship and the ship would have sunk evenly in the water and the water would not have topped the watertight deals. But because they closed the watertight things, the watertight areas filled up and pulled the bow down and that's why in the movie you see the propellers sticking way up just before it goes down. We don't want our faith to be that way.

My question is, how does your faith read down to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ? Are they just going to say, hey, look, here's a bunch of faithful people. How does that work? It's one thing to say it, but I want to know how it works. Well, the reason I'm extending the ship analogy a little bit is it's one thing to say, look, I've made a particular alloy and I've tested it in the lab and look, it takes a really lot of pressure to get this thing to fail.

So I'm going to make ship hull plates out of it. When would those plates really read down to the praise and glory of the designer? It's when you sail the ship and the ship goes out and encounters these things and hits something and it survives. The Titanic does not sink.

If the Titanic had hit that iceberg and not sunk, especially at the time, it wouldn't have become the great historic thing that it is, but people would have said, you know, this really is an unsinkable ship. Those engineers are really something. Look at how they tested this.

Here's the answer to my pop quiz question. The reason faithful believers' faith is going to read down to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ is because when Jesus Christ is revealed, those people of faith are going to be pressed into service. You're not just going to be standing there.

That faith, it's just like the ship that's made out of those quality hull plates. We're going to sail the ship. We're not putting it up in dry dock and saying, you know, if this was ever in the water, hit an iceberg, it would really be solid.

Don't you think we've got some great engineers here? It's when the thing is actually in use. These ginsu knives and other kinds of sharp things, they've got ceramic knives. It never gets dull.

You cut a brick in half and it's never dull. Well, that's great. I could buy a set of those knives and say, you know what, I've got a set of ginsu knives in the drawer.

Pretty great, huh? The praise, honor, and glory is when you use the knife, right? You say, you know what, this particular saw is all that I've got, this particular tool that I've got, this knife that I've got, this ship that I have, this aircraft that I have, something has been made, I'm using it, and look how well it holds up. The reason your faith is going to redound to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ is, at the revelation of Jesus Christ, you are going to be exercising what you have learned in this life. The faith that you have developed is going to be that sharp implement.

It is going to be that pressure-tested steel, and God is going to use it. We're not just going to be standing around striking holy poses and pious expressions on our faces at the revelation of Jesus Christ. At the revelation of Jesus Christ, we are going to be with him.

There are going to be people who rule and reign with Christ. There are going to be people who walk with him in white. There are going to be people who carry out tasks, and they're going to be qualified.

We are going to be ready. We are going to serve. We are going to be prepared.

We are going to be fit vessels and fit servants and fit instruments, because we are prepared. Why was Joseph a great administrator in the land of Egypt? Because he had been prepared. He knew all about grain.

He had lived in an Egyptian household. He had run Potiphar's affairs for years. He knew exactly how the economy in Egypt worked from a user standpoint.

If he had just come down and struck up a friendship and gone to the top, he wouldn't know anything about how the average household runs, or how they could transfer ownership of their

things to Pharaoh, which is what happened during the seven years of plenty. In the seven years of lean, they came in and they traded so that Pharaoh eventually owned the whole land during the seven lean years. Joseph knew that because he had been down in the trenches.

He had been the steward of a household. He knew everything about the Egyptian economy from the bottom to the top. He knew what it was from an immigrant point of view.

He knew what it was from a foreign visitor who came in and engaged in trade, because his family had done that for decades. He knew it from the servant aspect, from the steward aspect, from the dominating top-of-the-line guy aspect. He knew it inside out, because God put him through that.

When did all of that faithfulness read down to the praise and glory of God? When he was vizier and second in Egypt, and able to use everything he had learned to deliver not only his whole family, but all of those Gentiles. What a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only his brethren, his kin, who essentially executed him, but look at the blessing by association for those Egyptians.

They are delivered seven fat years, seven lean years, and the whole nation of Egypt is blessed by association with Joseph and his family. But Joseph learned those things, and the praise, honor, and glory is reflected at the victory point, at the revelation of Joseph to his brethren, the glory of God is revealed. But Joseph is not just standing there saying, look, I lived over your selling into slavery.

Joseph serves, Joseph delivers, Joseph fulfills a task for which he has been perfectly fitted through his trials. That's what's going to happen at the revelation of Jesus Christ. It's not going to be history, oh look, Sam had a day where he actually exhibited some faith.

Isn't God great? It is going to be an ongoing reflection because you and I, to the extent that we are prepared and to the extent that we have developed this faith, are going to serve, it will be an active reflection, it will be a deliverance, it will be a blessing, day by day, year by year, through the millennial kingdom and into the kingdom of the Father. It's going to be revealed, we're in the formation phase now, we're like Joseph, we're down in the Potiphar days, we're down in the dungeon phase, we're down in the pit phase, we're traveling in the caravan phase, these different tests, and it takes a lot of years to get honed and tempered and refined and taught the things we need to know. But it is going to be revealed, our deliverance is going to be revealed.

God worked it out to Joseph, Joseph didn't have a plan to ascend to the state office in Egypt, God did that. And at the revelation of that deliverance, God's deliverance of Joseph, Joseph's readiness and Joseph's fitness as savior and deliverer of his people and all the associated people is revealed. This is what Peter is describing for you and me.

We can have that same experience by faith. Count it all joy? Is it difficult when you look at that hope and you realize what great things God has in store for those who love him? In this you greatly rejoice, though now, if need be, for a time, you go through these various tests, knowing that the genuineness, the quality, the fitness of your faith, having been refined in this fire, is going to reflect the praise, honor, and glory of God when Jesus Christ is revealed, because that's when we're going to go into action, that's when we're going to go into service. You train, you go

to boot camp, you go to your MOS school, you learn your trade and your craft, and then you go and you actually do it.

And all of that training and preparation is justified when you actually are an artilleryman that puts steel on the target, when you actually are a tanker that goes in and does a tank thing, you're a pilot that does the pilot thing, you're an infantryman that does the infantry thing, whatever your assignment is, your training and your agony, your ups and downs, everything you learned in testing is revealed to be fit and accomplishes its goal. This is an active revelation. So if we can remember that when we're being tested, it's going to be a lot easier to see those tests from God's perspective and to actually get the benefit, have our faith refined like gold, impurities removed.

So there's a lot going on in this short statement by Peter and he knows what he's talking about. Peter himself is a much more fit apostle to minister the specific truths assigned to him to communicate because he is the apostle who denied the Lord. He knows what it's like to fail in a big way, in a spectacularly public and well-known way, and to be forgiven and to be healed and to be commissioned and to be entrusted with a task.

And does he have any trouble saying the name of the Lord Jesus to anybody that will listen now? I bet he'd love to go find that servant girl and say, let me correct a false impression I gave you earlier. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ. He's got that problem fixed.

This is what God is doing with us. We'll pick up in verse 8 and 9 next time. Let's close here in a word of prayer.

Father, thank you for your grace, the wonderful mercy that you have shown toward us in including us in your plan, allowing us to be a part of the revelation of your character and the movement of your purposes through history and into the eternal future. We have nothing of ourselves. It is all of grace.

It is all through the Lord Jesus. It is enabled and empowered by your spirit. We are wonderfully provided and blessed in those ways.

And we ask that the things that we've learned tonight will edify us and motivate us and encourage us and that God the Holy Spirit will help us to see clearly the opportunities that you bring to us each and every day so that our lives will reflect your glory both now and in the day of the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray it in his name. Amen.