

A LIFE OF HOPE AND HOLINESS

1:13-16

Transition: Up to this point Peter has not use the Imperative (Command tense), that was used to give instruction. But now he began here to give some instructions. Why this arrangement? First we must experience “grace” before we can fulfill any obligation to Grace (Rom. 5:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:18)

The word “**Therefore**” ask us to reflect on previous statements (vv.1-12) ...

- Because God has begotten you unto a living hope... through the resurrection of Christ
- Because God has provided you and incorruptible inheritance...
- Because God is protecting you by His power... through faith
- Because He is working all things together for your maturity and mission of displaying his glory...
- Because God has worked through others to bring us this revelation...

Now Peter will show how grace teaches and instructs us in our relationship with God and to others (Titus 2:11-12). These are not conditions to secure your relationship with God... but to live and keep you in fellowship with God.

1. The first instructions Peter tells us to “**fix our hope completely on the grace...**” (v.13) Two participles are used to support this instruction. (Don’t adapting to world agenda- polarizing)
 - a. **Ready your minds for action...**
 - i. In the culture of that day, they wore long flowing white gowns. When they needed to move quickly into action they would tucked their clothing under your belt to get ready to move.
 - ii. Analogy- idle thinking can hinder your spiritual life (Read: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
 - b. Keep **sober in spirit, alert** to what goes on around you. Paul added: for purpose of prayer (Eph. 6:18)

Considering the pressures, spiritual dangers surrounding our life as “Aliens,” a disciplined mind has a vital place for spiritual action in the world and a robust prayer life.

(**Question:** How is this important to us today...in the information age?)
 - c. **Fix your eyes on grace** (God’s provisions freely given) coming to you. This grace is not just a future reality someday; it is “**being carried**” (present passive) to us in the revealing of Christ now.

(**Question:** What about Christ is being revealed to us in our life circumstances?)

2. Holiness, a foundational and practical concept for us to understand and live (v.14-16)

(**Question:** When you think of God and Holiness what comes to your mind?)

Holiness can have such various religious connotations: sacrifice something, being good, fire, a special title given someone...

God said...I Am what I Am! Holiness is purity and wholeness...what I am on the inside I also am on the outside. Further explanation...

- a. “As **obedient children**” what characterizes the children of God...their obedience to God.
 - i. Holiness is not a cold hard command from an impersonal being but from a personal Father who loves us and asked us to trust and obey Him. (cp. Eph. 5:1) “Children” often speak in their own way, based on their personal relationship with their father.
- b. Holiness entails both a **negative** and **positive** responsibility

- i. **Negative: Don't allow** the former lust- desires, craving, practices...to dictate and conform your life. The culture around them lived out their ignorance and absence of God by indulging in lust.
 - John describe it as: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16-17)
 - Paul cautions us not to make provisions for our flesh and its lust (Romans 13:13-14).
 - Holiness is not a life of total self-denial, that is religion without God. It is a fulfilled life of obedient... God gives us things to enjoy, but without God our lust for more only bring discontentment and continual craving for more. It becomes an enslaving cycle.
- ii) **Positive: Be holy** in your behavior or conduct...Why? Because we have **been born again from the Holy One**... therefore we are called and capable to be holy!
 - Holiness here is in reference to our conduct or behavior, not by how well we keep external laws, but in our behavior when our inner life matches up with our outer walk. (1 Peter 1:18; 2:12; 3:1-2, 16)
 - Holiness is not a religious practice of self-denial in an isolated place, but a conduct that can effects and influences others. Holiness is seen in our life responsibilities as a husband, wife, employee, employer, neighbor, citizen, and as an alien. (Describe how?)
 - Though we will not do everything perfectly, we should be consistent. (Philippians 3:12)
 - To live differently would be a contradiction to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit (1:2,5), for His work is to conform us to Christ image (Romans 8:29; 2Corinthians 3:18)
 - Our Conduct, presents a witness to the people of our belonging to one who rules over our life. Are we Self-made, People-pleaser? Or are we likened to God's image of being Holy.
- c. God has **cause us to be born again** by the Holy One who has **set apart for His purpose**. Are you living this way? (Read: Colossians 3:9-10)

*Compiled and Written by Paul M Curtas
Revised 2-15-21*