

1 Peter 1:13-25

Peter has asserted: 1) we are elect exiles; 2) we **must**, and due to the certainty of our inheritance, **can**, face trials and even persecution by living victoriously and joyously in the midst of hostility; 3) our lifestyle is to be rooted in certain hope, void of bitterness & focused on the second coming of the Lord

1 Peter 1:13-16 A Call to Holiness

- *v13 Therefore*--denotes that everything in this new section is dependent on the previous section; what is now commanded will enable you to pursue the holiness directed in *v15-16*.
 - *Gird. . .loins/prepare*--gather up one's robes so as to be able to move in a hurry without tripping; a metaphor applied to one's thought process; conveys the need to carefully focus on future grace
 - *Be sober-minded*--spiritual steadfastness, self-control, clarity of mind, & moral decisiveness rather than intoxication by the world's allures
 - *Set. . .hope fully*--if your mind is not ready, then the world will fill it with every possible distraction
 - *On the grace*--literally translated as brought to you right now
 - ⇒ This preparation strengthens you to live for Christ **now**: the first step in the journey of holiness
- *v14 Ignorance*--the Christ-less life is one of ignorance, dominated by desire & characterized by futility
 - The unbeliever keeps searching for the origin & meaning of life and the truth, but never finds it
 - Those without Christ live fleshly lives, often with satisfying lusts as the only focus
 - Without a meaningful objective there is no real hope nor ability to endure the trials that will come
- *v15-16 We are called to be holy*--(Gr. *hagios*) *separated/set apart* from the world but not aloof from it
 - **Reeder**: Here God has given you a command but He did not give you this command until He told you who you were in Christ by grace, lest we think our obedience to His command is what saves us. You must know who you are in Christ in order to know what to do for Christ.
 - **Holy** calls attention to all that God is--His holy love, holy justice, holy mercy, holy knowledge. . . .
 - The *pattern* of God's holiness is His separation from impurity--so we are called to be morally pure; note the heathen gods are as foul as those who have conceived them according to their own pattern
 - The *field* of God's holiness is His total conduct--all He does; just so, for us it is all we do in life
 - The *motive or inspiration* of God's holiness is His very nature--our motives must be to emulate Him, express thanks for His gifts & promise and answer His call
 - Whereas, in Greek society the term carried no idea of moral or spiritual purity, Christianity sanctified the term to describe God, godly people, and godly things (as Hebrew *qodesh*)
 - *Holy* is used over 600 times in the Bible
 - *Holy, holy, holy*--triple in Hebrew indicates a state of completion or absoluteness
 - **Isaiah 6:3-5** And they were calling out to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts; all the earth is full of His glory." ⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook, and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵Then I said: "Woe is me, for I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips dwelling among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts."
 - **Revelation 4:8** And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"
 - Pursuing personal holiness is an essential first step, not for our already-assured salvation, but to effectively, faithfully & fruitfully live for Jesus in this world as one saved by God's grace
 - Your hope in Christ is essential to your holiness for Christ
 - Studying God's Word is essential to worship, witness and growth in holiness

- You must be holy in all your conduct--you cannot compromise with sin
- **Reeder:** I already have a positional holiness that is perfect. That is why even though we're sinners we are called saints. The blood of Jesus has already sprinkled us clean, removed our sins and the righteousness Jesus has clothed us up so that every time He sees us He sees the perfection of His Son. This is what it means to be an elect exile, to be holy. My pattern is my God – to be holy as I am holy. There is none like Him. Oh the majesty of our God. It is not just holy in the normative or in the comparative but holy all the way to the superlative. You shall call My name holy.
- (IMO) It seems that we focus on God's love & not often on His holiness. Although God's holiness & love are both revealed in both OT & NT, it seems that the OT focuses more on His holiness & the NT more on His love. But I find thinking on His holiness makes His love even more fantastic!
- **Reeder:** If we were asked to give only one attribute of God almost all of us would give the word love and certainly that's crucial because God is love. God is light and God is righteous. But when we look into heaven and they are only declaring one word they are not saying love, they are saying 'holy, holy, holy.' Don't think that diminishes love; that just told you something about God's love for God's love is holy. God's grace is holy. God's righteousness is holy. God's patience is holy. That one attribute modifies all of the other attributes of God. Holy, holy, holy is His Name.
- Perhaps it is analogous to Jesus as God and Man--100% both: God is 100% holy & 100% love
- To truly grasp God's holiness you must learn from His word
- Short-changing God's holiness can lead us to discount parts of the Bible that we really don't like--so we can believe that:
 - No one will be condemned--because a loving God would not do so
 - Sin is not sin--because that's now the culture
 - There must be other ways to God--The Way, the Truth and the Life is too exclusive
 - That we can have a casual attitude in worship--without awe or fear
- ⇒ Afterall, we don't want to offend anyone or make them uncomfortable! (even if they stay in sin??)

1 Peter 1:17-21 Jesus as Redeemer and Lord, Compels Us to a Life of Reverence

- v17 *Reverent fear*--not fear of a tyrant, but the healthy respect of a believer for the all-powerful God
 - The love of God compels you; the fear of the Lord directs & sobers you
 - **Proverbs 9:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
 - **Philippians 2:12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling
- v18-19 Jesus is the redeemer, through whom we are delivered from the bondage of sin & death
 - *Redeemed*--to buy back someone from bondage by the payment of a price
 - Sacrifices and gifts constantly had to be presented to appease the 'angry gods' or cover sin
 - Key OT pictures--the suffering servant (**Isaiah 52:13-53:12**--4th servant song) & Passover Lamb
 - **Exodus 12:5** Your lamb must be an unblemished year-old male, and you may take it from the sheep or the goats.
- v20 Jesus is the eternal purpose of God--not chosen to redeem only after things went wrong
 - *Foreknown*--God knew before the Creation He would send Jesus; Hebrew *bereshit*--only used in the Bible two places (elsewhere, other words used for *start* or *beginning*)
 - **Genesis 1:1** In the Beginning
 - **Isaiah 46:10** declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'
 - *Last times*--the times of the Messiah, from His first advent to His second coming

- v21 *Raised*--Jesus' death & resurrection are inseparable; His death paid the penalty for our sin, while His resurrection was the firstfruits of our resurrection to eternal life.
 - Once was asked “which was more important--His death or resurrection?” Responded: “YES!”

1 Peter 1:22-25 Love One Another

- v22-23 *Love one another*--love fellow believers with *agape* that meets others at their point of need
 - We are one in Christ: the same blood was shed for us all, the same Spirit indwells us all
 - This love is an earnest, intentional, heart-felt, *sincere* (“no wax”) love that requires you to be/have:
 - *Purified (cleansed)*--initially cleansed by the blood of Jesus with recurring washing with the water of obedience to the truth; as your soul is cleansed, comes sincerity, earnestness & heart-felt love
 - *Obedience to the truth*--not just knowing the Bible, but understanding the Truth within
 - *Born again*--you can't have a heart-felt love unless you have a changed heart
 - *No wax*--unscrupulous vendors sold pottery that had cracked in the firing with wax hiding the flaws
 - *Imperishable*--your justification is imperishable because of the precious blood of Christ (v19); your rebirth is imperishable because it has been by the imperishable seed (Word of God) & the Spirit
 - *Word of God*--used by the Holy Spirit as an instrument to bring sinners to a knowledge of God's grace in Jesus Christ
 - **MacArthur:** A believer should count it a wasted day when he does not learn something new from or is not more deeply enriched by the truth of God's Word. Scripture is food for the believer's growth and power-and there is no other. The church today ignores the exposition and application of Scripture at its peril, as the warning of Hosea to Israel suggests: *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6)*. The church cannot operate on truth it is not taught; believers cannot function on principles they have not learned. The most noble are still those who search the Scriptures daily (**Acts 17:11** *Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*).
 - Why was it particularly important for Peter's original audience to have love for one another?
 - They faced a hostile world (as we do today); believers, as brothers & sisters in Christ must care for one another with Spirit-induced love to help others grow in Christ; endure trials such as hardships, doubts, & persecutions; and provide testimony of Jesus to non-believers. Loving one another shows that we strive to follow Jesus & are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, which is the greatest testimony we can give
- v24-25 Our earthly lives will pass, but God's Word will live forever in the world & in us
 - His Word is **truth** which does not change based on passage of time, changes in culture or the wishful thinking of those who do not want to accept what it says
 - **John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
 - ⇒ **Reeder:** Fill your children with the Word of God because it is unbreakable, inerrant, infallible and you can't know the God of the Word without the Word of God.