

**August 10, 2025**

**1 Peter 1:13-21**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.<sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,<sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,<sup>16</sup> since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”<sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.<sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you<sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Scriptures for further study:  
Isaiah 5:1-6

1 John 2:17

1 Corinthians 7:31

“Peter orients his readers to a future eschatology of a grace that is fully present but not yet fully realized, a grace that is fully guaranteed by the past event of Jesus’ redeeming death and resurrection.”

-Karen Jobe

“The exhortation here reminds us that God’s saving work in one sense is unfinished in believers. We await grace that will only be ours when Christ returns...”

-Thomas Schreiner



## Grace and Holiness

### 1 Peter 1:3-21

**BIG IDEA:** Because of God’s grace to us in the return and redemption of Jesus, let our hope lead us to holiness and fear.

## OUTLINE

### 1. God’s Grace

### 2. Hope Realized

### 3. Holiness Realized

### 4. Reverence Realized

## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. If you’re a Christian living in a hostile environment that opposes your faith and you, what do you want to hear from an apostle of Jesus Christ?
2. Consider a specific area of your conduct where you frequently fail to obey God. Can you identify how your thoughts and the things you hope for might be misguided, leading to that disobedience?
3. How can you shift your thinking and hopes to become more holy and obedient? Read Colossians 3:1-17
4. Reflect on your overall conduct and consider whom you are truly dedicated to. Does this alignment inspire you or prompt you toward repentance?
5. How can you motivate yourself to obey when tempted by meditating on your redemption? Reflect on your own experiences of obedience leading to blessings and freedom. How can you leverage those past experiences to encourage present obedience? Read 1 Peter 13 and 18-19.

“Everything temporal passes away. What is seen is transient; what is unseen is eternal. This world and its desires perish, but those who do the will of God remain forever.”  
-Herman Bavinck

“Christians are not escapists, but realists. We know this world is passing, and only the eternal kingdom is unshakeable.”  
-Sinclair Ferguson

“Although the verb can refer to sobriety as the opposite of alcoholic drunkenness, when used in the context of thinking, it refers to a broad range of soberness or sobriety, namely, restraint and moderation which avoids excess in passion, rashness, or confusion, hence self-control.”  
-Karen Jobe

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

“Nothing is more powerful to restrain our minds from sinning than the fear of God. But this fear is not servile or forced, but voluntary and filial.”  
-John Calvin

“The man who fears God most loves Him best.”  
-Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“The fear of the Lord is not a fear of rejection, but a fear of offending the One who is altogether holy and altogether loving.”  
-R.C. Sproul

The title for this preaching series is Living Hope: How God’s Grace to Us in Jesus Shapes and Empowers Us towards Gospel Resilience. And the principle that was presented last week could be summarized this way: What we do today is shaped by what we believe about tomorrow! In one sense, that is a summary of 1 Peter and what God has in store for us through this preaching series.

Peter seeks to pull us into that great and ultimate tomorrow, our upcoming glory in Christ, in order that that future grace would shape our lives, as we face many things in this life, especially hardships.

***Praise to Jesus*** – For the grace of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus, for the grace of knowing God as Father through Jesus Christ, and for the future grace of our absolute best days, basking in the glory of all that God is and all that He has done for us.

***Repent through Jesus*** – Repent for a faith that is lethargic and solely focused on ensuring my salvation, disregarding my daily life. It calls my children and grandchildren to pray a prayer of belief in Christ, but fails to provide them with Gospel accountability in their actions. Furthermore, it professes Christ but lacks any sense of hope, holiness, or fear in my life.

***Consecration for Jesus*** – Be prepared for action, sober-minded. Ensure that hope for you is holiness and reverence. See your tomorrow in Jesus significantly influence the today of your marriage, your vocation, your relationships, your attitudes, your grief, your finances, your contentment, your joy! Church, because of God’s grace to us in the return and redemption of Jesus, let our hope lead us to holiness and fear.

## FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

1 Has anyone ever said that you act or look like one of your parents? (In this week's passage, we will see how our lives should have some resemblance to God, who saved us and "caused us to be born again into a living hope" (1 Peter 1:3).)

2 As Peter moves into instructions for living as a Christian, what does he instruct Christians to focus on in verse 13? (He wrote, "set your hope fully on the grace". Remind your children that Christian hope has a certainty. It is not wishful thinking. Also, mention to your children that the last verse of our passage (v.21) talks of our hope in God. Christian hope is important to our lives. Peter knows that when we talk about how we are to live as Christians, it is easy to fall back on living in our own power. Instead, Peter reminded us that we need to depend on God's grace.)

3. According to verses 15-16, why should we pursue holiness? (This is because our God is holy. If He has caused us to be born again, then we will grow to look and act more like Him. Make sure your children know that we will never reach perfection in this sinful world.)

4. In verses 18-21, Peter once again compares the eternity of God and His Word with the temporary nature of this sinful world. How would this fact help these Christians face suffering and hardship? (Peter wanted his original audience and wanted us to have peace that nothing can take away our salvation in Christ, even our trials and struggles. We have been saved "with the precious blood of Christ," which doesn't fade away like things of this world. In verses 20-21, he wrote that our "faith and hope are in God", not in things of this world. Our Christian lives are always in response to what God's work of salvation and in the power of God the Holy Spirit.)

Scriptures for further study:

Hebrews 10:10

Romans 8:11-12

Romans 8:31-34

Titus 3: 3-7

John 1:29

## FOR STUDENTS

Scriptures for further study:

Hebrews 10:10

Titus 2:11-14

Romans 12:1-2

Philippians 3:20-21

1. Think about a choice you've made recently. Would you have made that same choice if you weren't trying to follow Jesus? How does your faith influence your decisions, like how you treat friends, how you talk to your parents, or even how you use your phone?
2. In verse 13, Peter tells believers to "set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you." What do you think that kind of hope looks like in everyday life? How can remembering God's future grace help you deal with pressure, temptation, or suffering now?
3. Peter also writes that we should be holy, just as God is holy. That's a high calling—do you find that idea exciting, overwhelming, or both? What do you think holiness looks like for someone your age? In your school, your home, or your habits, where do you see God calling you toward holiness?
4. Verses 17 to 19 talk about living with reverent fear because we were ransomed by the precious blood of Christ. How do you respond to the idea that Jesus gave His life to rescue you? How should that change the way you live, think, and treat others? When you think about how much Jesus gave to save you, how does that make you feel? How should that truth affect how you live and the choices you make?
5. Finally, in verse 21, Peter says our faith and hope are in God. Where do you find yourself putting your hope most often—your abilities, your reputation, your plans, getting good grades, being liked, making a team, or something else?
6. What would change if your hope was set fully on God instead?

## FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. Have you not yet given your life to Christ? Oftentimes, people are reluctant to do so because they feel they will be giving up too much (i.e., certain desires, lifestyle choices, etc.). But notice what this passage tells us instead (v.18): while in becoming a believer you are in some sense giving something up, what you are actually giving up is an “empty way of life.” You are, in reality, being rescued from a meaningless life!

Question: Have you considered it in those terms?

2. This passage calls upon Christians to “be self-controlled,” “obedient,” “live as strangers” (i.e., different from the world), and “be holy.”

Question: According to verses 15, 18-19, what are the motivating reasons for such behavior?

Question: Does the command to “be holy, because I (the Lord) am holy” (v.15) seem like an impossible standard? In one sense, it is! That is why we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for us (see v.19), and in doing so, He declares us to be holy in God’s sight.

Ponder: As believers, we are still called to pursue a life of holiness, but know and trust that He has also poured out His Spirit into our hearts to enable us to live and love like Him. He gives us the power to obey his commands.

3. Peter refers to “faith and hope” (v.21). Both concepts are similar but distinct. Both essentially mean trust in God. But “hope” refers to our certain faith in the future aspects of what we believe is yet to come, in this case, the return of Christ.

Question: Are you ready for Christ to return? If you are not yet a believer, the Bible would strongly urge you to get right with God before he comes back.

Question: If you are a believer, what can we expect to be given when Jesus Christ is revealed? (see v.13) But notice the rest of the passage (vv.13-21) strongly encourages us to be ready to have our work judged (v.17), to live in “reverent fear” (v.17), to be holy (v.15), to be obedient (v.14), to check our desires (v.14), and basically to know that we will be accountable for our lives. And so, how do we live in the tension of joyful expectation and also sober and reverent preparation as it relates to Christ’s return?

# Living Hope: How God's Glorious Grace in Jesus Shapes and Empowers Us by the Spirit to Live with Gospel Grit in a Foreign Land.



*Daniel in the Lion's Den by Briton Riviere, 1872*

**About the Artist:** Briton Rivière, a British painter known for his animal paintings, particularly those featuring dogs and wild animals with deep emotion and dramatic flair, came from an artistic family. His father, William Rivière, was a drawing master and art teacher. Rivière initially studied at the University of Oxford, drawn to literary and historical themes, but later developed a fascination with animals and became renowned for his ability to imbue them with emotional depth and narrative presence.

## **About the Artwork**

"Daniel in the Lion's Den" (1872) depicts the biblical story with lifelike lions, a popular and symbolic theme in Victorian England. It explores faith under trial, divine protection, and moral strength against tyranny, themes that resonated with Victorian audiences during a time when Christian values and moral courage were emphasized.

In Riviere's painting, Daniel's calm, unarmed demeanor symbolizes absolute trust in God. His gaze suggests prayer, hope, or spiritual communion, not fear. He represents the righteous man steady in the face of evil. The lions, though fierce, are subdued, a miracle of restraint. Riviere doesn't show angels or supernatural intervention; the restraint is invisible, spiritual. Some lions are relaxed, others alert, suggesting the tension between nature and divine command. Each lion has a distinct personality, reflecting the mystery of creation. The focused light on Daniel recalls God's presence in darkness. The murky den symbolizes the unknown, death, or temptation, yet Daniel remains untouched. Unlike dramatic biblical scenes, there's no movement or violence. The silence emphasizes Daniel's victory through trust, countering 19th-century action-heavy storytelling with a meditation on spiritual endurance.

## **1 Peter and Daniel in the Lion's Den**

This painting, based on a biblical scene, helps us understand the overall theme of the New Testament letter. 1 Peter teaches Christians that as God's elect, they are called to live holy lives of faithful witness, enduring suffering with hope rooted in God's grace, while embracing their Gospel identity as a holy, royal priesthood in a hostile world. Like Daniel in the Old Testament, we are strangers in a distant place. Jesus told his disciples and us in the Gospel of John that we are "not of this world." Hebrews reminds the church that "this world is not their permanent home." Even within 1 Peter, God's people are called "sojourners and exiles."

Like Daniel, the darkness of this broken, sinful, and fallen world is always present. While we may never face a physical lion, Peter's first letter tells us that our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, and the spiritual forces of evil are ever present. Yet, like Daniel, we must face the opposition with a Gospel poise, knowing that which is unseen is more powerful than what is seen and against us. Peter uses the language of "standing firm" in God's grace as we encounter all forms of darkness.

Church, may we see the beauty of 1 Peter in its overall message: God's glorious grace leading us to Gospel grit as sojourners in a dark world. But may we not just perceive its beauty but also embrace God's unique calling in these words: stand firm!