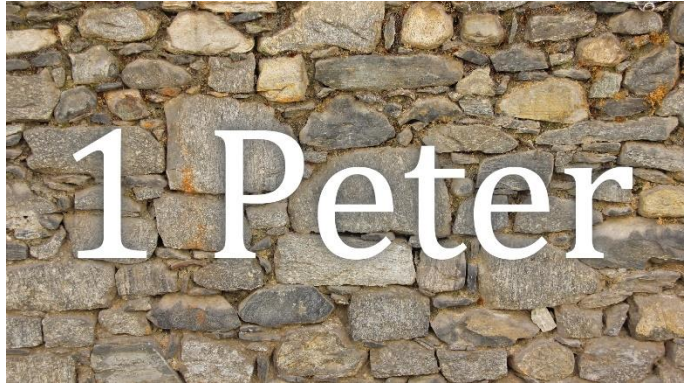


1 Peter

Part 4 – Set Your Hope On Christ

1 Peter 1:13-21

Peter spent the first twelve verses of this letter reminding the church about the living hope they had in Jesus Christ. To those that would receive this letter it was an encouragement and reminder of the truths they knew but were so easy to forget. Peter described them as “exiles of the dispersion” as a way to describe the life of these believers, whether Jew or Gentile, who, because of their profession of faith in Christ, experienced persecution, marginalization, and great difficulty. Coupled with this was the expectation that they had of Christ’s imminent return. When that did not happen, they began to lose heart and grow discouraged.



It’s in this context that Peter reminds them of the hope they have in Christ. This hope is twofold—it is past oriented as to what God has already done through the redemption that Jesus purchased for his people. It’s also future oriented. Since we have hope rooted in the past we know that we can hope in what is to be revealed when Christ comes back. This is our inheritance; that which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept for us in heaven. It’s our salvation along with the rewards for a faithful life.

Main Idea: As Christians whose hope is set on Christ, we strive toward holy living with a reverent fear of God.

1. We strive toward holy living with our minds (v. 13)

- Preparing your minds for action (Gird up the loins of your mind)
 - This is similar to what God commanded the Israelites to do before the exodus during the Passover meal in Exodus 12. They were to “gird up their loins” as they were eagerly expecting deliverance from their exile and captivity. God commanded them to be ready.
- Being sober-minded (v. 13)
 - Restraint and moderation; avoiding excess in passion, rashness (impulses) or confusion
 - Being prepared, being sober-minded – it’s the discipline of focusing on the hope that is to come that roots us in right thinking and leads to right conduct in line with God’s character. It disciplines us to keep moving through the difficulties of life and to not react to our impulses or desires but rather have those under control.

2. We strive toward holy living with our actions (vv. 14-15)

- As obedient children...We have a relationship with God, so the call to holiness starts with our identity in him.
- We are called to not conform to the passions of our former ignorance.
 - To the gentiles in the church, the context of their upbringing most likely would have included worshipping many gods or even emperor worship.
 - “To be holy requires a change in one’s way of life from before, when one’s behavior was determined by unrestrained impulses to sin, even in ways acceptable to society. God’s call that has brought Christians to Christ is also a call to deny those sinful

impulses and abstain from certain social customs and practices, making one a stranger within one's own society." (Karen Jobes, *1 Peter*, p. 113)

- For those whom the Spirit has enlightened with the truth, we are called to discipline ourselves to not fall back into our former ways of life but rather pursue holiness in all that we do. The call to be holy means that we will stand out in our culture because godliness will often be like swimming upstream.

3. We strive toward holy living because God himself is holy (v. 16)

- This is an all-encompassing holiness which is quoted from Leviticus 19.
 - The laws that God gave to Israel were to set them apart from the other nations and demonstrate that every aspect of their lives needed to come under the authority of God, to be lived out in a way that pleased him.
 - The same is true for us. Every aspect of our lives needs to be lived in conformity to God's holy law.
- As we practice this holiness both in our minds and in our actions we discipline ourselves to practice the implications of the hope we profess.

4. We strive toward holy living because God will judge our deeds (vv. 17)

- He will judge everyone impartially by the same standard – his holiness which is revealed through his perfect law.
- Conduct yourselves with fear.
 - "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!" – Psalm 111:10

5. We strive toward holy living because we have been redeemed by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (vv.18-19)

- One of the customs of the day was for the redemption price of the slave to be paid in one of the temples to one of the gods. The temple would in turn take a commission from that price and then pay the owner of the slave for his/her freedom. The idea was that although now free, the former slave was now a slave to that particular deity.
- Peter uses this context to describe what has happened to us in Christ. The ransom price for us was the life of a perfect substitute, Jesus Christ. He lived the righteous life we could not and he died the death we deserved (active and passive obedience of Christ). He was the perfect spotless lamb, the perfect sacrifice that could actually satisfy God's wrath toward our sin. He was what all of the OT sacrifices pointed to, the one who could actually atone for our sin.
- It is to this deity, the one true God, that we now belong.

6. We strive toward holy living because our faith and our hope are the result of God's perfect and eternal plan. (vv. 20-21)

- All of this was planned before the foundation of the world.
- If you believe in Jesus Christ, you believe because God himself has given you that faith. It has been planned that Christ would be revealed to us and that through faith in him we might have hope.
- And so, we live our lives in response to this great grace from God.