

Lesson 11 – 1 Peter:

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| I. Believers' faith and hope in the world | 1:3-2:10 |
| A. Rejoicing in the hope of Christ's return | 1:3-12 |
| B. Righteous living because of the hope | 1:13-2:3 |

v. 13 – “So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.”

¹⁷ And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as “temporary residents.” ¹⁸ For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. ¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ²⁰ God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

²¹ Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

²² You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.

²³ For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. ²⁴ As the Scriptures say,

“People are like grass;
 their beauty is like a flower in the field.
The grass withers and the flower fades.

²⁵ But the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

2 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness."

In this section of I Peter, Peter presents the challenge to live differently. He issues a call to holy living, with Peter identifying:

1. God's purpose for His elect, 1:13-16,
2. A call to the redeemed to fear God, 1:17-21,
3. Expressing the new life, 1:22 – 2:3.

Peter appeals to believers in Christ that due to their new relationship with God the Father, through the redeeming work and resurrection glory of Christ that they reflect His character in their thinking and their conduct. Peter exhorts believers to forsake evil in their thoughts, words, and actions. We are to be governed by active reverence and obedience to God, and love one another. We are to grow on appropriate spiritual food: the Word of God. The Word of God is living because He lives and it brings the dynamic power of God into our lives to cleanse us and promote spiritual maturity. We must separate ourselves from the values of the world and walk in the holiness of God.

God's purpose for those He calls is twofold:

1. That they may do His will, or practice obedience.
2. That they may become like Him, or grow in holiness.

Yet, in contrast to this, before conversion to God, people live in ignorance of Him, and of His will. Because of this, their lives are dominated by the satisfaction of their own desires and copying the actions of the world, instead of doing God's will and obeying His commandments.

1. God's Purpose for His elect: 1:13-16:

v. 13 - **"So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world."** The word **"So"** here indicates that the statements to follow are grounded on the preceding statements in the previous verses. It is typical in the Epistles to base ethical demands on doctrinal exposition. Paul and other New Testament authors always base practical application on the doctrinal truths they expressed. We have been repeatedly and explicitly

told that Salvation is embraced and enjoyed by faith. We have to receive it, acknowledging our complete dependence on God and His saving grace. But, once we have started this response, we are powerfully challenged to realize that now energetic disciplined activity is expected of us. We must fulfil our new obligations and exercise our new privileges. Since we enjoy a new relationship with God, a new liberty in Christ and a new life in the Spirit, it is up to us to give them active obedience to God's will.

“Prepare your minds for action” – literally means ‘gird up the loins of your mind.’ In Peter’s day a man had to tuck the hem of his long robe into his belt before he could work or run. This is a metaphor suited for men of the Middle East. It would be similar to ‘roll up your sleeves.’ The intent is that we must act as those who mean business.

“And exercise self-control” – in the KJV **“be sober”** is used metaphorically here to describe moral alertness in speech and conduct. It describes a life of disciplined self-control in contrast to the reckless irresponsibility of self-indulgence on the one hand, and of religious ecstasy on the other.

The last phrase of this verse indicates not what to expect, but why it is always possible to be hopeful. Believers in Christ can be sure of the benefits of their salvation in Christ when He appears.

vv. 14-15 – **“So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.”**

Living in obedience to God is the divinely pre-determined goal of believers – Paul called it ‘obedience of faith,’ see Romans 1:5 – **“Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,”** and it is the proper expression of our God-given new life.

We are not to fall back into the old lifestyle or habits of sin, following our own desires, but now we must live in obedience of faith. We did not know any better then but now we know the difference, and we must live holy in all we do. Our response to the challenge of the call of God in the gospel has two sides:

1. We must no longer do what we have always done,
2. We must become something we have not been.

Paul gave similar twofold exhortations in his writings to Titus in 2:11-14 and in his writings to the Ephesians in 4:17-24. These New Testament exhortations may well have been based on and inspired by similar instructions in the Old Testament law of holiness in Leviticus 18:1-5, 24-30.

Titus 2:11-14 – “For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living, and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.”

Ephesians 4:17-24 – “With the Lord’s authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity. But that isn’t what you learned about Christ. Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God – truly righteous and holy.”

Leviticus 18:1-5: “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. I am the Lord your God. So do not act like the people in Egypt, where you used to live, or like the people of Canaan, where I am taking you. You must not imitate their way of life. You must obey all my regulations and be careful to obey my decrees, for I am the Lord our God. If you obey my decrees and my regulations, you will find life through them. I am the Lord.’”

The old way of living, which is not to be given up, is further described as senseless indulgence, as a gratification of and domination by natural sinful appetites, that are harmful and not governed by any True standard.

The ignorance is ignorance of God, and especially as He is known through Jesus Christ. This ignorance is spiritual blindness.

The new standard of living for the Christian, the true model is God Himself. It is our personal relationship to Him, that in consequence of His call that provides the ground for this new moral demand. We are now to be ‘imitators of God, as beloved children’ – Eph. 5:1 – “Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children,” and “you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect” – Matt. 5:48.

WE ARE TO REPRODUCE THE FAMILY LIKENESS!

As Paul says in Colossians 3:10 – “Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him.”

V. 16 – “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must be holy because I am holy.’” This verse expresses the imperative force in the appeal to the Old Testament revelation and its significant authoritative disclosure of God’s purpose. When God called the Israelites out of Egypt, He did so in order to become their God in a new and special way. God then demanded that those who become His people, should be holy like Himself. Think of it this way, the first and sufficient reason why God’s people should keep themselves from uncleanness is because the Lord their God is holy; only so they respond to their calling and enjoy intimate fellowship with Him. It is the revelation of God’s character and the call to be intimately related to Him that make holiness an obligation.

True devotion to God must find expression in holy living!

This governing principle of conformity to the character of God as the goal of true morality is so explicitly and authoritatively based in the God-given law of the Old Testament – “For the Scriptures say!” The New Testament gospel does not leave it behind, but confronts us afresh with the obligation and the new Christian is urged and empowered to fulfil it.