

A Life Full of Hope 1 Peter 1:13-25

1 Peter 1:13-25 Introduction

- Last week we saw how our lives, troubles and all, somehow fit into a gigantic master plan that God was orchestrating. God has prepared an inheritance for us and we are waiting for that day when we will fully come into it.
- Prophets in ancient times spoke of the salvation that we experience in Jesus Christ.

- We are living each day filled with hope, looking for the fulfillment of all that God has had planned since the very beginning.
- Now with all of that made clear to us, what does God expect from us as a response?
- That's what Peter is going to talk to us about today – the transformation that ought to take place in us as a result of our salvation.

Belonging to Jesus for eternity is supposed to transform how we live right now.

1 Peter 1:13-25 Outline

- I. Live like your goal is God's holiness. 1:13-16
- II. Live like you really fear God. 1:17-21
- III. Love one another fervently. 1:22-25

Live like your goal is God's holiness. 1:13-16

- 1:13 gird up the loins of your mind
- NKJV is quite literal here, but the meaning is basically this:
 - ESV preparing your minds for action
 - NASB prepare your minds for action
 - NIV with minds that are alert
 - NLT think clearly

- Peter is picturing a man in a robe, tucking his skirts under the belt, so he can be free to run, work or engage in some physical activity.
- We want our minds to be spiritually focused, alert and ready for action, so that the cares of this world do not distract us in our service to Jesus Christ.

- 1:13 And we should always be looking toward the return of our Lord.
- Peter calls it His "revelation" or "Apocalypse."
- "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" is the title John gives to the book of Revelation in the very first verse of that book.
- Both John and Peter are referring to that day when Jesus Christ returns and is truly revealed.

- 1:13 By the way, Peter is clearly referring to Christ's future return. (See also 1:7)
- John uses the same words, most naturally referring to the same end-times events.
- Therefore it is unlikely that John would have been talking about events now long past, such as the destruction of Jerusalem, as a *preterist* view of Revelation would have us believe.
- 1:13 Warren Wiersbe reminds us:
 - *"Just as an engaged couple makes all their plans in the light of that future wedding, so Christians today live with the expectation of seeing Jesus Christ."*
- Peter may have been thinking of the teaching of Jesus that we find in Luke 12:35-37.
- 1:14 Our former lusts of worldly ambition, power, pride and pleasure are inconsistent with a life of obedience.
- When we come to know Jesus we should no longer be driven by the same desires.
- Paul was more or less saying the same thing back in Romans 12:2.
- 1:15-16 Our first priority should be to imitate the holiness of God right now.
- God is completely disconnected from all forms of sin and evil.
- He wants us to be like Him in that respect.
- 1:15-16 Two big reasons why we can make God's holiness our goal:
 - We are made in God's image. This is why even an atheist may live an essentially good and useful life. We don't have to believe in God to be aware of the difference between right and wrong.
 - We have trusted Christ. This, if we let it, will make our moral vision clearer and increase our ability to live a life consistent with God's holiness.

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Live like you really fear God. 1:17-21

- 1:17 Here in the USA we normally try to downplay the fear of God.
- Our preference is for a God of love who doesn't have anything about Him that we would ever fear.
- And our lack of fear now shows pretty badly.
- We've reached a point of imbalance and need to once again reconcile the two ideas of a God who loves us with a God that we should fear.
- 1:17 who without partiality judges
- According to the tense of the verb, Peter is telling us that God is continually judging our works, our service to Him in this life.
- Even if we fear nothing else about God, we might fear His holy, fatherly discipline.
- In any event God's judgment, according to Peter, should lead us to some level of fear.

- 1:17 Robert Leighton was the archbishop of Glasgow back in the 1600s.
- He said the following in a commentary he wrote on 1 Peter:
 - *“The fear here recommended is ... a holy self-suspicion and fear of offending God, which may not only consist with assured hope of salvation, and with faith, and love, and spiritual joy, but is their inseparable companion ... This fear is not cowardice, it doth not debase, but elevates the mind; for it drowns all lower fears ... for the sake of a good conscience and the obeying of God.”*

- 1:18 The idea of redeeming has to do with the price paid to purchase a slave’s freedom.
- In Jewish culture this was often done by the near kinsman or *goel* paying the master the price to free the slave.
- In Hellenistic culture, the price was often paid to the temple of a god.
- The priest would then give most of that price to the slave owner, keeping a cut for himself.

- 1:18 In our case, no amount of silver or gold could have redeemed us or freed us from the bondage to sin and death that we were once in. Peter calls it:
 - your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers
 - While sometimes difficult to admit, tradition and culture can be a form of bondage if it doesn’t include faith in the living God.

- 1:19 Christ, being the perfect sacrificial lamb that He is, offered His blood on our behalf, buying us out of bondage to sin and purchasing our eternal freedom.

- 1:20 He indeed was foreordained
 - The exact word is “foreknown,” but the translation is good, because from God’s perspective foreknowing something can include a strong element of foreordaining.
 - Christ’s death was a planned event.
 - Plus, it would seem odd to simply think of God the Father knowing about Jesus in advance.

- 1:20 God has now revealed Christ to fulfill the plan that He foreordained before the foundation of the world – before creation ever took place.
 - God’s sovereign purpose centers on Jesus Christ; the totality of history climaxes in Him.
 - But notice also that Christ was “manifest in these last times for you.”
 - God had you in mind when He sent Jesus.

- 1:21 So we come to true faith in God the Father through Christ.
 - We might consider Christ’s own words to Thomas recorded in John 14:6.
 - Edwin Blum says this about this verse:
 - *“Jesus’ resurrection is the foundation of our faith, and his glorification is the pledge of the hope of our new future.”*

- 1:21 God is to be truly feared.
- But He is also the God we trust and in whom we believe, who planned for our redemption through the death and resurrection of His Son before the earth was created.
- Our faith and hope are in Him.

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Love one another fervently. 1:22-25

- 1:22 purified your souls
- See also James 4:8 and 1 John 3:3.
- In obeying the truth – sometimes translated “**by** obedience to the truth”.
- Both make sense, but “by” might be preferable in this instance – as in the ESV.

- 1:22 It is by means of a process of active obedience that we purify our souls in the sense Peter means here.
- And that obedience has to include fervent love for one another.
- Peter is not really being original. He heard something like this from Jesus.
 - See John 13:34-35.

- 1:23 The way we enter God’s family is by being born into it – or “born again” as Peter puts it here.
- Our physical birth eventually results in physical death.
- Spiritual birth – or rebirth – since it takes place subsequent to physical birth – results in eternal life because it is accomplished by means of the eternal word of God.

- 1:24-25 Each of us has to face the reality of death and no one really likes that.
- Therefore, immortality has always been one of the great quests of the human race.
- And, in the words of that great American philosopher Woody Allen:
 - *“I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying.”*

- 1:24-25 The content of the gospel message, should we believe it by faith, has within it the power to transmit eternal life from God to us.
- When we trust in the blood of Christ to cleanse us, and believe in the reality of His resurrection, we receive the gift of eternal life that God offers to us by faith.
- We are born again by the eternal word of God.

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1 Peter 1:13-25 Conclusions

- As we've said before, we need to:
 - Live like our goal is God's holiness.
 - Live like we really fear God.
 - Love one another fervently.

- As to God's holiness:
 - God has nothing in common with sin or evil.
 - In the same way, we should make it our goal to separate ourselves from such things.
 - We are not implying that perfect holiness is attainable here in this life.
 - Still, for the Christian, conscious obedience is the only acceptable course – not willful sin.

- As to the fear of God:
 - Here, we have to be intentionally somewhat counter-cultural.
 - The fear of God is not a very popular concept in our day or in our present surroundings.
 - Nonetheless, it makes sense when we consider that God is constantly judging our actions and may subject us to His fatherly discipline if He deems it necessary.

- Finally, we need to love one another:
 - This does not come naturally to us, but it is the only sensible response to the love that God has shown to all of us by allowing us to be born again into His family.
 - Let's pray and consider what Christ has done by going to the cross and redeeming us all from the bondage of sin and death.