

“The Expression of Our Hope” – Bible Studies for Life – June 14

When have you been deceived by something that didn't live up to its claims?

- one of those “As Seen on TV” products broke after 3 uses
- got a car that was a “lemon”
- bought a house that had a lot of hidden problems
- vacation resort was not as nice as the ads claimed
- a juicy hamburger on the ad was not as tasty as it looked in real life
- the toy your child got didn’t perform as they had anticipated

Sometimes we place our hope in the wrong things. Misplaced hope creates unintended consequences. During the early 60s AD, the Christians were facing various trials. Peter encouraged them to remain faithful to Christ and instructed them on how they should demonstrate their confident hope on a daily basis.

Today's Point: Our hope in Christ changes how we view the world and live in it.

Listen for a contrast in how to live.

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NIV) ¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

What lifestyles are identified in these verses?

- act as an obedient child of God
- don't conform to the evil desires you had as an unbeliever
- be holy, separate from the world
- your life must show a distinct difference from the way the world lives

Peter's readers had already received salvation through their faith in Jesus by God's grace. There will be more grace to come when Jesus returns to the earth at His second coming. Peter said we should get our minds ready for action. It literally means to "gird up the loins of your mind." This refers to getting ready for battle or hard work. In the OT a warrior or worker would pull up his long outer garment and tuck it into his belt so it would not limit the freedom of his legs to move. In the OT it meant "you must be ready for travel. In the NT it means "Be ready for Service."

To be ready for action, a Christian must put aside any thoughts that might distract them. We need to know what we believe about God's truth. We need to be sober-minded (well-balanced and self-controlled). Don't let the things of this world take precedence over our loyalty to Christ. Stay focused on our living hope.

Peter says to “be holy in all you do.” What do many people *think* it means to be “holy”?

- righteous a saint sinless

The true meaning of holy is to be unique, distinct, “set aside” or “separate” from the world, from sin.

- **God** *sets believers apart...* to live lives that please and glorify Him

Why is being holy difficult, even by this definition?

- it generally goes against the grain of our culture and its influence is strong
- we're fighting many cultural norms
- being *different* is not always an easy thing to be
- we still live in a mortal, sinful body
- there is a constant tension between doing the right thing and yielding to the temptations we face

What does holiness look like for a person devoted to Jesus?

- focused on obeying God
- submission to God's will
- allow God to demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ... lived out through your life
- live in contrast to the motives and actions of the world
- what you say, where you go, what you watch/read will be different from unbelievers

What kinds of spiritual disciplines contribute to living set apart to live a life that glorifies God?

- be careful of the choices you make each day
- daily personal communication with God
- get rid of sinful influences in your life
- choose friends carefully
- be involved in spiritual ministries ... in reaching a lost world for Jesus

What should believers do to strive for holiness?

- practice
- meditate
- immerse yourself in what God says
- study, pray, minister together with other believers
- have accountability partners

Listen for how God redeemed the believer.

1 Peter 1:17-21 (NIV) ¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

We are to live as God's people. We are to have reverence for God as judge and gratitude for God's grace in the price He paid for our redemption. We are reminded that this world is not our eternity. We are only passing through for a short time. What will we do with the time we have on earth?

How will we conduct ourselves? God is our Father who will judge each one according to our works. He will hold us accountable. We should always think, speak, and act in reverence toward Him.

How can we live as strangers in this world without being isolated from the people in this world?

- we might be isolated in some situations – don't go to the same entertainment or act with the same motivations
- we live in neighborhoods where not everyone is a believer
- we have jobs with unbelievers around us
- we might belong to civic clubs with unbelievers
- we might have unsaved family members

How were the Gentiles the Jews different before Christ?

Gentiles believers	Jewish believers
empty with no escape from their sinful past	had the Old Testament
no peace for the present	knew God had blessed them through His covenant with Abraham
no hope for the future	they would be considered righteous if they were obedient to the Law of Moses
did not know God and His truth	
inherited their beliefs from their ancestors	
enslaved to false gods	enslaved to the law

Both needed to be redeemed and freed from their bondage of sin. Their sin was not to be paid with perishable things like silver and gold. The only sufficient payment for sin was the precious blood of Christ. Through the prophet Isaiah, God revealed that He would send His servant (Isa 52:13). John pointed to Jesus and told his followers, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

When was God's plan of redemption established and revealed?

- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
- before God created the universe, He knew that humanity would need a Savior
- He knew that Jesus, the Son of God would be "the Savior of the World."
- Jesus was revealed when Mary conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and gave birth to Jesus
- John the Baptist pointed out Jesus' true identity at the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry
- Jesus' true glory was revealed after His resurrection

- Peter said God raised Jesus from the dead

Listen for a contrast between temporary and permanent.

1 Peter 1:22-25 (NIV) Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

What are the two types of love that Peter speaks about?

- sincere brotherly love for each other – love that binds brothers and sisters together
- Agape love – highest kind of love – loves regardless of the other person's status and without thought of reward, always leads to action

How is the word of God living and enduring?

- it is alive and active
- the gospel of Jesus Christ
- the reality of Jesus' sacrificial death, repaying our sin debt
- truth is imperishable
- always working to accomplish God's purposes
- it is everlasting

How does Peter contrast the temporary and the eternal?

temporary	eternal
man's lifetime	God's word
like grass	God's promises
like flowers that wither and fall off	Heaven

God has revealed Himself to humanity through His creation, through His written Word, through Jesus Christ. Salvation comes through the living and enduring Word of God. Walk in newness of life, live a life of obedience to God through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Through the Word, believers have been born again to a life that is eternal.

Application

Confess.

- Confess to the Lord where you have misplaced your hope.
- Be honest and open about the people or things that you've looked to for hope apart from Christ.

Read.

- Commit to read and apply *God's Word* to your life every day.
- It is through continually reading the Bible that we can develop a lifestyle of obedience and holy living.
- If this is a new discipline for you, consider a devotional guide.

Commit.

- If there is an area of your life where your hope in Christ is not evident through your obedience to God, commit to change that.
- Surrender that area of life to God and remove all the barriers that stand between you and total obedience.