

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION – A LIVING HOPE – STUDY OF I PETER
Week 3 – A Call To Holiness

I Pet 1.1-2.3

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NIV) ¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 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.”¹

Central Bible Truth: God has redeemed us with His most precious item – The Blood of His Son, therefore we are to be Holy in all that we do

Purpose: Peter explains in practical terms what Holiness means and why we need to do it – writing to not only make us wiser but better

1 Peter 1:1-2:3 (NIV) --- 1.13 – 2.3

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. ¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 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.” ¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers 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 forefathers, 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. ²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, 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 men 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 stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you. ¹ Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. Error! Bookmark not defined.

God's grace and salvation 1.3 – 1.12

1. Components of God's Salvation (v. 3-5)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. Error! Bookmark not defined.

- V. 2. - Salvation comes from God's grace through Jesus
- V. 3 - A living hope
 - True expectations and anticipation
 - Living – ongoing – past present and future
- V. 4 - Inheritance that can never perish spoil or fade
 - Purchased by God
 - Protected by God
 - Provided by God
- V. 5 - Christians are shielded by God's power and will persevere

2. Results of God's Salvation (v. 6-12)

1 Peter 1:6-12 (NIV)

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. Error! Bookmark not defined.

- V. 6 – in this you should greatly rejoice even though you may have to suffer through great trials
- V. 7 – faith may be proved genuine -
 - More precious than gold / silver
 - Results in praise / glory / honor to Christ
- V. 8 – glorious joy
- V. 10 – 12 – Mystery of salvation revealed

The Requirement of Holiness 1.13 – 2.3

1. Living out God's salvation (v. 13-14)

¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. Error! Bookmark not defined.

V. 13

- “therefore” – refers to the mystery of salvation in verses 10 – 12 – “Concerning this salvation ...”
- “prepare your minds” in NIV – literally gird up the loins of your mind
 - Journey to go on – race to run – gird up your long and loose clothes to be ready to run
 - Main work of a Christian – lies in the right management of heart and mind
- Be self controlled – all things that you do – KJ “sober” not acting rashly or under outside influence – means calm, steady, controlled – to weigh matters
 - Christ's return – ***I Pet 4.7 (NIV)***
⁷ *The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.* Error! Bookmark not defined.
 - Satan on the prowl – ***I Pet 5.8 (NIV)***
⁸ *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Hope fully – << **teleios** >> – complete or unchangeably – and without reserve on the grace bestowed when Christ is revealed – perfectly – trust without doubting in the grace that has saved you

V. 14

- obedience is a conscious act of the will
- literally as “children of obedience” should inherit the nature of God
 - you should live as obedient children as those whom God has adopted and regenerated through grace
 - you must not live according to your former lives in ignorance
 - The children of God ought to prove themselves as such by their obedience – by their present, universal, and constant obedience
- Do not “conform” – outward pattern as opposed to inner change – schema vs. metamorphosis
- Ignorance leads to indulgence - Lusts and extravagances of sinners sign of their ignorance

2. God's requirement (v. 15-16)

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."*Error! Bookmark not defined.

Leviticus 11:44-45 (NIV)

⁴⁴ *I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground.* ⁴⁵ *I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.*Error! Bookmark not defined.

Leviticus 19:2 (NIV)

² *"Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.'*Error! Bookmark not defined.

Leviticus 20:7 (NIV)

⁷ *"Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God."*Error! Bookmark not defined.

V. 15

- God's Holiness is a part of His nature
- Exhortations to prepare your minds, be self controlled, do NOT conform to evil desires are subordinate (i.e. support) two commands "Have Hope" and "Be Holy"
- complete holiness is the desire and duty of every Christian –
 - We must be totally holy in everything we do
 - We must imitate God
- God called us before we called on Him – It is wholly of grace
- Sanctified – to be set apart for God's use and pleasure

3. Why God calls us to be Holy (v. 17-21)

¹⁷ *Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers 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 forefathers,* 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.*Error! Bookmark not defined.

V. 17

- As Christians we should look upon themselves as pilgrims and travelers
- The entire time on earth is to be spent in awe and reverence of God

V. 18

- Redeemed << **loutruo** >> – literally to pay a ransom - Our redemption should be a constant reminder and powerful inducement to holiness and a fear of God

V. 20-21

- foreordained before creation that Christ should shed His blood
- "glorified Him" << **doxa** >> – brightness / shining radiance from within

4. Holiness in our relationships (v. 22-2.3)

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, 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 men 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 stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you. ¹ Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. Error! Bookmark not defined.

V. 22

- Purification comes from obedience
- Should lead to deep agape love – deeply - athletic term striving with all of one's energy
- V. 23-25 – word of the Lord stands forever – same word in v. 4 inheritance that can never perish
- V. 23 – "born again" - word of God is the only means of regeneration –

James 1.18 (NIV)

¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created Error! Bookmark not defined.

- v. 1 – We must imitate God therefore what we should rid ourselves of
 - malice << **kakian** >> – wicked ill will – pent up anger causing us to harm by striking out in anger
 - Deceit << **dolon** >> – deliberate dishonesty - flattery, falsehood, delusion, imposing on another's weakness to his damage
 - Hypocrisy << **hypokriseis** >> – counterfeit piety, counterfeit friendship
 - Envy << **phthonous** >> – resentful discontent - grieving at the good or talents of others
 - Slander << **katalalias** >> – tearing down, lying about someone

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Conclusion:

Components of God's Salvation

Living Hope / Inheritance that lasts forever

Results of God's Salvation

Rejoicing / faith proved true / glorious joy / mystery of salvation

God's requirement for Holiness

Holiness in our relationships

¹ *The Holy Bible : New International Version.* Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984