

Lesson 2: 1 Peter 1:13-21

I. Set Your Hope Fully on Future Grace (v. 13)

Peter begins this section with his first major command of the letter:

Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Everything that follows flows from this command. Before Peter tells believers how to live, he tells them where to place their hope. The Christian life is not primarily driven by rules, guilt, or obligation. It is driven by the grace of God and the hope that we have in it. This is why Peter begins by telling believers to prepare their minds for action and to be sober-minded. The battle for holiness begins long before our actions. It begins with how we think. Our minds are constantly being shaped by something. They are either being shaped by the promises of God or by the promises of the world.

The world constantly offers alternative hopes. It tells us that happiness is found in success, relationships, comfort, wealth, popularity, or personal achievement. Peter calls believers to reject those temporary hopes and place their hope fully in Christ. Notice that Peter does not say to place *part* of our hope in Christ and part of our hope in something else. He says our hope is to be placed *fully* on the grace that is coming to us. The Christian's greatest hope is not found in what happens next year, after graduation, or even during this lifetime. Our greatest hope is found in Christ and in the future He has secured for us.

This should challenge us to ask an important question:

What am I actually hoping in?

Many of us would quickly say Christ, but our decisions often reveal that our hopes are placed somewhere else. Peter is calling believers to build their lives on a future that cannot be taken away.

Main Point: *Peter calls believers to prepare their minds and place their hope completely in Christ and the future grace He has promised.*

II. Live Like God's Children (vv. 14-17)

After telling believers where their hope should be found, Peter begins explaining how that hope should affect their lives. The title of obedient child is important. Before Peter tells believers what to do, he reminds them who they are. Christians do not become children of God through their obedience. Rather, because they are already children of God, they are called to live differently. Peter tells them not to be conformed to the passions of their former ignorance. In

other words, they should not return to the patterns of life that once controlled them. This means that we should not be living in the patterns that we once did. Or if someone who became a believer when they were very young then don't conform to the patterns that you see in the world around you.

Peter then quotes from Leviticus "you shall be holy, for I am holy." One of the helpful ways to understand holiness is to think about the idea of being set apart. God is distinct from everything else in creation, and His people are called to reflect that distinction. The Christian life should look different from the world around it because it belongs to a different King.

One area where this often gets overlooked is in the future we imagine for ourselves. When I was in high school, many of my plans for the future were almost entirely shaped by what everyone else was doing. I wanted to attend college because everyone else was attending college. I wanted a good-paying job because that seemed like what successful people were supposed to do. I planned on continuing to attend church, but my faith had very little influence on how I envisioned my future. Peter's challenge causes us to ask a different question: What does it look like for my future to be set apart for God?

So what does it mean for us? It means that Christ should have authority over every plan, every goal, every ambition, and every decision. Our future should not simply mirror the world's definition of success. It should reflect God's purposes for our lives.

Main Point: *Because Christians are God's children, they are called to live lives that are set apart and shaped by His character.*

III. Remember the Price of Your Redemption (vv. 18-19)

Peter points out that the price paid for our salvation was not silver or gold. Those things may be valuable in this world, but they are temporary. Wealth can be spent, stolen, lost, or destroyed. Peter says our redemption was purchased by something infinitely more valuable: The precious blood of Christ.

Peter wants believers to understand the value of what God has done for them. The value of something is often revealed by the price paid to obtain it. God did not redeem His people through earthly riches. He redeemed them through the sacrifice of His own Son. This truth should reshape how we think about ourselves and our lives. We do not belong to ourselves anymore. We belong to Christ because He purchased us at tremendous cost. The eternal significance of this cannot be overstated. The work Christ accomplished on the cross was not merely the event that started our Christian lives. It remains the foundation of our relationship

with God forever. Ten thousand years from now, the defining moment of your existence will still be the work that took place on the cross.

Main Point: *Christians should remember that their salvation was purchased by the precious blood of Christ and not by anything this world considers valuable.*

IV. Trust the God Who Planned Your Salvation (vv. 20-21)

Peter concludes this section by reminding believers that Christ's sacrifice was not God's backup plan. Before the foundation of the world, God knew exactly what He would do through His Son. Long before our lives began, long before sin entered the world, and long before Christ was born in Bethlehem, God had already prepared the plan of redemption.

Peter wants believers to find tremendous comfort in that truth.

- Our salvation is not an accident.
- It is not a temporary solution.
- It is not dependent upon our ability to hold everything together.

The God who planned salvation before creation is the same God who raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him glory.

Because of Christ, our faith and hope are ultimately in God Himself and that means our future is secure. The same God who planned our redemption is the God who sustains us today. The same God who sustains us today is the God who will bring us safely into His presence.

Peter's goal throughout this section is to lift believers' eyes above the temporary things of this world and fix them on God. Hope in Christ leads to holiness. Holiness flows from our identity as God's children. Our identity is secured through the precious blood of Christ. And all of this rests upon God's eternal plan and faithfulness.

Main Point: *Because God planned, accomplished, and secures our salvation through Christ, believers can confidently place their faith and hope in Him.*

Big Idea

Because believers have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ and adopted as God's children, they should set their hope fully on God's future grace and live lives that are set apart for Him.

Questions

1. What is the first command Peter gives in verse 13?
2. What reason does Peter give for Christians to be holy?
3. What does Peter say believers were redeemed from?
4. What does Peter say did not purchase our redemption? What did purchase our redemption?
5. According to verses 20-21, when was Christ's redemptive work planned?
6. What do you think Peter means by "preparing your minds for action"?
7. What does it mean to be holy or "set apart"?
8. Why is it important that Peter calls believers "children" before commanding them to obey?
9. Why do you think Peter compares Christ's blood to silver and gold?
10. What does Peter want us to understand about God's character when he says God planned salvation before the foundation of the world?
11. What are some things people commonly place their hope in besides Christ?
12. What part of your future is most difficult to surrender to God right now?
13. How do your goals and plans reflect whether your hope is in Christ or in something else?
14. In what areas of your life do you think God is calling you to be more "set apart" from the world?