

Having a Destination of Holiness

1 Peter 1:13-21

This is my 3rd teaching from my series on the Book of 1 Peter. We will be looking at verses 13-21 of chapter 1.

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV) 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Verse 13 Starts with the word therefore. Pointing back to the certainty of our salvation that was covered in the first 12 verses. Our heavenly inheritance that was brought about by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **It is the fact of this living hope that should govern our current actions and decisions.**

Within these verses, we will see that it is the certainty of this heavenly inheritance, **though yet to be received in the future.** That should set us on a path of **holy living.** Which is really the overall theme of these verses which we will be looking at this afternoon.

Peter doesn't just tell us to somehow find a way to live a holy life. Instead, he gives us some directions to help us arrive at that destination.

When trying to get to a destination on a map. You rarely just travel in a straight line from point A to point B. **Therefore, we sometimes use waypoints to help us navigate to our final destination.**

In a way, this is what Peter has provided for us. He has shared 4 waypoints that will help us arrive at a **destination of holy living.**

Now I realize that living in a manner that is holy, **is not a physical place or a destination.** But instead it is a manner of life. But there are some guidelines or waypoints that will help us to live our lives accordingly.

The 4 points that Peter shows us in these verses are:

- Mental Preparation –
- Spiritual sobriety –
- Heavenly Focus –
- Obedience –

We will first consider the waypoint of **mental preparation.**

Peter wrote: **“gird up the loins of your mind”.** This is a phrase that is really unfamiliar to our culture. But it would have been familiar to those who received this letter originally. In that culture, people normally wore long gowns or robes instead of pants.

So, in order to prepare for any kind of strenuous activity, there would be a need to “gird up” a person’s robe. In other words, the loose material of the robe would need to be gathered up and secured at the waste with a belt. This would allow a person **to travel freely without the risk of getting their legs entangled**.

In this verse, Peter is not referring to girding up or tucking in a robe or a gown of some sort.

Instead, he is speaking about the **need of pulling in the loose ends of our thinking**. The loose ends would be the things and ideas of the world that would possibly entangle our minds. This type of entanglement **will take us off track** from accomplishing the will of God.

I think of how Peter **was rebuked by Jesus Himself**, after Peter tried to persuade Jesus away from the Cross. Telling Jesus that it would not happen. But Jesus rebuked Peter, even calling him Satan, **and telling him that he was an offense or stumbling block to Him**. Because Peter was not mindful of the will of God.

You see Jesus did allow any loose ends in His thinking. **He knew that it was the Father’s will that He go to the Cross.**

It is the same thing for us. We have to make sure our thinking doesn’t get **entangled in the things of the world** that are contrary to the will of God.

But just being **mentally prepared for action** does not get you to the destination of holy living by itself.

Along with the need to have a mind that is mentally girded up with truth, is the need to live **in a state of spiritual alertness**. Or as Peter puts it. **A need to be sober**.

This call to sobriety is our second waypoint to a destination of holy living. Peter was not primarily speaking about physical sobriety, though that is certainly applicable. Instead, he was referring **to a spiritual sobriety**. In other words, we are to avoid **becoming spiritually intoxicated by the world**. With all its worldly pleasures, reasonings, and philosophies. This intoxication is a state in which we are allowing the things of the world to distract our minds from the will of God.

It was ultimately this spiritual intoxication which brought about the failure of Adam and Eve in the garden. Eve found herself intoxicated by the **lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**. This intoxication ultimately **enabled Satan to convince Eve that her fleshly desires were more important than the need to be obedient to God**.

Anytime we are intoxicated, whether **physically or spiritually**, we lose awareness of our surroundings and therefore, **awareness of the dangers of the enemy’s traps**. Therefore, in that state we are easily overcome by temptations, deceptions, and attacks from the enemy.

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV) — 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

NASB – says “**be of sober spirit, be alert.**”

The **3rd waypoint** that we will be looking at is the need for focus. **Peter says that we are to rest our hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

This word **hope** refers to a confident and certain expectation of God’s grace that will be received at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

We **currently** are recipients of God’s grace, in provision and spiritual abundance.

John 10:10 (NKJV) — 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Yet God’s blessings and provision in this life are **not the full extent of all of God’s grace that we are to receive.**

Considering the promise of our eternal inheritance mentioned in the previous verses, should help us to realize that **the best of God’s grace is yet to come for the believer.**

And as I mentioned earlier. It is this hope that sets us on a path of holy living, as it encourages and motivates us to live in obedience.

Jesus said that where your treasure is, your heart is also. Our treasure should be **fixed on this grace that God promises to deliver to us, when Jesus returns.**

No matter what you are facing today. The promise from God’s word is that your treasure is already on its way. The words translated as “**being brought to you**”, literally means “**being carried to you**”. We can rest completely on the certainty that we will one day experience the fullness of His grace, which includes all the heavenly blessings that are yet to come.

This will bring us to **the 4th waypoint** – that of **obedience.**

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; **15** but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

Something that will derail our path to holy living as quick as anything, is **giving ourselves back over to the influences of the fleshly lust which once controlled us.**

I think of the Israelites. After having been freed from the bondage of their slavery in Egypt. Soon forgot **about all that they were saved from**, and only longed to satisfy their fleshly desires once again.

If we are not careful. We also will begin to long for those former lusts. We won’t be waiting with an eager expectation for our heavenly inheritance. But instead, like the Israelites, we will start demanding that our **flesh be satisfied now.**

Israel's focus should have been on their inheritance, the promise land which they were enroute to. But instead, all that they could think about was the temporary pleasures that they left behind in Egypt. They longed for the leaks and unions that they once had, instead of the milk and honey that God was promising them.

But we so easily tend to do the same thing.

Understand, just like Israel, we are enroute to our heavenly inheritance. But just as Israel experienced some testing and discomforts in the wilderness, along the way to the promise land. We are also going to experience discomforts and frustrations in this life.

If our focus is not on our heavenly inheritance, we will begin to fix our gaze back on the temporary pleasures of this life. Onto things that never really satisfied us in the first place. Instead, they were things that imprisoned us and kept us in bondage as slaves.

Peter reminds us that obedience and holiness are synonymous. If our destination is a life of holiness. Then we must no longer pattern our lives according to our fleshly lusts as we once did.

Paul understood the necessity of turning away from the former lusts.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) — 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

We are called to a life of holiness because God is perfectly holy.

But He is also the judge. A judge who is perfectly impartial in His judgement.

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

Something that the modern church has seemed to have lost is a reverent fear of God. I am not talking about a **fear of dread.** Like Adam and Eve exhibited when they hid from God in the garden after disobeying Him.

We are told in 1 John 4:18 that perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment.

So Peter isn't commanding for the believers to live their life in dread of the coming judgment day. Because as believers, we will not be excluded from heaven. Jesus already purchased our entrance.

But instead this fear acknowledges that we will give an account **for our deeds carried out in this life.**

Not for Salvation **but for our eternal heavenly rewards.** Some given and some taken away, according to each one's deeds.

But this fear **should also be seen in light of the fact that God presently disciplines His children.** God doesn't turn a blind eye to sin just because we are a believer.

In fact we are told in **Heb 12:8** that if you are without God's chastening in your life, you are illegitimate and not a son.

Yes God is the judge. Yet in the perfection of God's justice resides God's mercy. We must understand that there was a cost for every single sin that we commit. Our salvation was not free. Yes it was free to us, but only because God Himself spared us from paying the cost of sin **by putting His own Son on the Cross.**

The price of our sin, was the life of Jesus. I am always reminded that the wage of sin is death. Jesus's death in place of ours.

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

We are to conduct our lives in fear of God's discipline because we know that God redeemed us from our sinful manner of life at a great cost. That price was the precious blood of Christ.

The word redeemed **means to purchase someone's freedom** by paying a ransom. The freedom purchased for us was the freedom from both the wage, as well as the control, - of sin. The Ransom that was required for that freedom was **nothing less than the life of Jesus Christ on the Cross.**

Justice demanded that blood be shed for our sin.

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV) — 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

But it was **God's mercy that demanded that it would be the blood of Jesus shed in our place.**

So many falsely believe that teaching grace and mercy will only give a person a license to live their lives out in sin. But really understanding God's grace and mercy does just the opposite. It is out of His mercy that we are driven to live in obedience. It is knowing that God loved us as sinners that should cause us to strive to behave as His children.

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you **21** who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

It is amazing to realize that God's very plan of our redemption was in place even before the creation of the world. It was God's plan from the beginning that He would purchase our redemption at the cost of Christ's life. In fact as we enter into the Christmas season, we are

reminded that God sent His own Son into the world as the sacrificial lamb to take away the sins of the world.

Closing and prayer -