I) V17 INTRO: And ***if you call*** on the Father who ***without partiality*** judges according to
Peter just gave the church the earmarks of a child of God

II) ***First***: He said Christians must ***gird up their minds***: be ready for action; be serious
In light of the days they were living in, it was important to be on the alert
1 Pe 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers

III) ***Second***: Believers are to be sober (calm and collected, temperate)
This is because we are aware that we are in a spiritual battle
1 Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

IV) ***Third***: Believers ***rest their hope*** in the ***grace*** brought at the revelation of Jesus
Heb 9:27-28 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered *once* to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, ***for salvation***.

V) ***Fourth***: Believers are to live as God's obedient children
Obedience ***to God*** is to be the earmark of every one of God's children (Jn 14:15)
Jn 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love

VI) ***Fifth***: Believers are aware of the evil times, and resist being conformed to this age
Ro 12:2 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.

VII) ***Sixth***: Believers begin to live holy lives
Eph 4:17-19 I tell you this in the name of the Lord: You must not live any longer like the people of the world who do not know God. Their thoughts are foolish. Their minds are in darkness. They are strangers to the life of God. This is because they have closed their minds to Him and have turned their hearts away from Him. They do not care anymore about what is right or wrong. They have turned themselves over to the sinful ways of the world and are ***always wanting*** to do every kind of sinful act they can think of (New Life Version)
Key: This is built on the fact that they are children of God

I) ***Remember***: Our Father is, by nature, holy (V16)
Is 6:3 And one cried to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory

II) Since ***He is holy*** we too should be set apart from evil (the quality of holiness)
He is set apart from evil, having no pleasure in it and neither should His children
Hab 1:13*You are* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.

III) V17 So Peter writes: If you call on ***the Father*** who without partiality judges
It is interesting how how is revealed to us in the NT

IV) In the OT, various descriptions and titles of God are given when speaking of Him
He is El Shaddai, God Almighty (Gen 17:1; Ps 91:1-2)
El Elyon, the Most High God (Supreme) (Gen 14:19; Ps 9:2)
El Olam, the everlasting God (Gen 16:13)
Jehovah, the self existing One (Ex 3:14)
Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who will provide (Gen 22:14)
Jehovah Nissi, the Lord is my banner (victory) (Ex 17:15)
Jehovah Shalom, my peace (Judges 6:24)
Jehovah Sabbaoth, the Lord of hosts (1 Sa 1:13)
Jehovah Roi, the Lord my shepherd (Ps 23)

V) The NT gives us a personal sense of who He is: ***Our Father*** in heaven
He is our Father and loves us, and as His children we are to honor and obey Him

VI) As Christians, our response it to ***honor*** (value; revere) God for who He is
This will result in us living in a way that reveals we are separated to Him
THE FACT IS

VII) Our relationship is revealed by the fruit of our lives, not just the things ***we say***
Mt 7:21 Not everyone ***who says to Me*** Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one ***who does*** the will of My Father who is in heave
1 Jn 2:4 He ***who says***, "I know Him," ***and does not keep His commandments***, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

VIII) When we truly know the Lord, our lives are transformed by His Spirit
Instead of desiring the old things of the world, we desire more of God

I) Our desires change and we begin to do the things that please Him
2 Co 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

II) In our world, there is a great emphasis on being ***authentic, true to yourself***
While it is important to ***be real,*** when pushed to the extreme it is narcissism

III) The way we ***habitually*** live reveals what we really believe
Before we came to Jesus we simply lived what was natural for us

IV) If anyone spoke to us about it, we got upset because they were judging us
A. W. Tozer: We have learned to live with ***unholiness*** and have come to look upon it as the ***natural*** and ***expected*** thing.

V) For the Christian, turning away from the old way of thinking and living is necessary
2 Co 6:17-18 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.

NOTICE

VI) V17 Who ***without partiality*** judges according to ***each one's work***
God is an impartial and righteous judge: He is not a respecter of persons
2 Chron 19:7 There is no iniquity with the Lord our God, ***no partiality***, nor taking of bribes
2 Ti 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, ***the righteous Judge***, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

VII) V17 He judges according to each one's ***work***
2 Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad
Ro 14:12 So then each of us will give an account of themselves to God

VII) A believer produces works that reveals that they are saved
Good works are the result of being saved and turning from evil
Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them

I) Ultimately ***all*** will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ in judgment
Ro 14:10 For ***we will all*** stand before God's judgment seat.

II) For some ***it is in judgment*** for rejecting Jesus, and His gospel of salvation
Jesus is the Judge and the Gospel is the standard for judgment
Jn 5:22 The Father judges no man, but ***has committed all judgment*** to the Son
Jn 12:48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept My words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

III) Believers stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive ***rewards*** not judgment
O*ur sins* have been cleansed, so we appear to receive rewards (V18-19)
Ro 5:9 Since we have now been *justified by his blood*, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!
Eph. 6:8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does

IV) Knowing we appear before Jesus is the motivation for the way that we live

V) Those who don't know the Lord have no fear of Him
They do not know, seek, or fear God
Ps 36:1 Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.

VI) Genuine Christians ***live*** in a reverential fear of God, which purifies our lives
Pr 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days
Pr 14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.

VII) The knowledge that God is the final judge motivates us to witness
2 Co 5:11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.
Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God

VIII) V18 ***Knowing*** that you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or
Knowing the cost of redemption produces love and thankfulness for salvation
It motivates us to with thankful hearts, serve Him

I) We are ***redeemed***: To liberate by payment of ransom
We have been set free from our empty, aimless lives by Jesus
Not by silver, and not by gold: they do not last forever, but eventually corrode

II) In heaven, the walls and streets are made of gold: it has no eternal value (Rev 21)
The blood of Christ has eternal value, because it redeemed us from futile lives

III) Before ***salvation*** our lives were empty, vain, unproductive and aimless
Our ***way of life*** includes ethics, values and religious convictions that we inherited
Pray certain prayers daily, pray to certain saints, do good works

IV) Our lives were aimless, worthless and devoid of genuine hope or promise
Eph 2:1-3 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you *once walked* according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others

V) V19 With ***the precious blood*** of Christ as a lamb without blemish and without spot
We have been bought out of slavery to sin by the ***precious*** blood of Jesus
Precious: ***priceless****, costly as opposed to perishable gold and silver*

VI) Our release has been secured, the price being paid by Jesus' death for us
It was an incredibly high price, beyond what any person could ever pay
Ps 49:7-8 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him--For the redemption of their souls is costly
Ro 5:7-9 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

VII) V19 He is the lamb without blemish and without spot
Jesus is the Passover Lamb, which is a picture of ransom from bondage in the OT

VII) Without ***blemish***: No character defect acquired in life; unstained by environment
Without ***spot***: No genetic or innate defect; no moral corruption
The sacrifice made was to be the best, purest, and most costly: ***Jesus was perfect***

I) V20 He indeed was ***foreordained*** before the foundation of the world but was
Redemption was not an afterthought but part of God's plan of redemption

II) From eternity, before the angels and the earth was made He intended to save us

III) The arrangements for the atonement were made even before creation
2 Ti 1:8-10 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life --not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus ***before the beginning of time***, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain ***from the creation of the world***.

IV) V20 Jesus was manifest in these ***last times*** for you
This speaks of the period of time between Jesus' birth and His 2nd Coming
It points to God's timetable, His calendar of events

V) It can be used as a synonym for the last days
Ac 2:17 And it shall come to pass ***in the last days***, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.
Heb 1:1-2 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but ***in these last days*** he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

VI) V20 But was ***manifest*** in these ***last times*** for you
Jesus has been ***openly revealed*** as Savior in these last times

VII) The last age of the world has already dawned, and we know its close is imminent
This shows us that Peter believed ***the end was soon***

VIII) In these ***last times*** He has been revealed ***for us***
Others hoped to see this time, but we are privileged to see it

I) V21 Who *through Him* believe in God who raised Him from the dead and gave Him
Jesus is our mediator: It is through Him that we believe in God (Jn 14:6)
1 Ti 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus
1 Jn 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life

II) *Who raised Him from the dead* and *gave Him glory* so that your faith and hope are
Jesus' ministry is completely validated by His resurrection from the dead
Ro 1:4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God, by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

III) V21 And gave Him glory (by exalting Him to His right hand)
Mk 16:19 After the lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God

IV) Jesus is now at the Father's right hand as Prince and Savior
Phil 2:9-11 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus *every knee will bow*, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that *every tongue will* confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Heb 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death *crowned with glory and honor*, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

V) Your faith and hope are *in God*
Even as the Lord raised Jesus, it gives us hope because we live in Him
Ro 8:11 And if the Spirit of *Him who raised Jesus* from the dead is living in you, *He who raised Christ* from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, *who lives in you*.

VI) Because God raised Jesus they can live in hope, no matter what they go through