October 18, 2026: Why Should We Live a Holy Life? I Peter 1:13-25

> I Peter 1:13 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. 14As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."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. 22 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 grasses 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.

Introduction:

Holy Living is not 'for salvation,' but because of salvation. A true understanding of Salvation by Grace forces the question to the surface: What does it matter how I live?

> Romans 6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

1. We are called to live a Holy Life. Why is this asked of us?

A. Understanding Spiritual Truth: with alert and fully sober minds (verse 13) understand what was done for you (the price and gift of salvation!). See also Colossians 3:1-3.

B. Obedience and Discipline: as obedient children (verse 14). See also Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 6:46-49. A disciple puts 'disciplines' in his life to model his leader.

C. Reward: verse 17 tells us we will be judged. If you are a Christian, you have surrendered your life to Christ, chosen to believe, and have died to the law (Paul says). But there is still a Judgement awaiting us. See also I Corinthians 3:10-15, I Corinthians 4:1-5, II Corinthians 5:10.

D. Reverent Fear: verse 17. See also Psalm 25:12, 103:11. We obey, not out of obligation and not FOR reward, though we know we have one coming. We live Holy Lives out of reverent fear, out of respect, worship, honor, and admiration.

E. Your Value: verses18-21, you were redeemed. God places enormous value on your life. The price He paid for your Salvation places your value as equal to His own son. See also Romans 8:31-32, Colossians 1:22, Ephesians 1:7, Revelation 12:11

F. Love for Others: verses 22-25. See also John 3: 16-17, II Corinthians 5:16-21, John 13:34-35, Ephesians 5:2, Romans 5:5. God uses our Holy Lives in Ministry. The more you look like Jesus, the greater He can use you.

SUMMARY:

God has placed His seed of the Kingdom of God in you, through the enduring imperishable word of God. He has given you His special gift and wants to see that seed in you develop. We are to grow into maturity.

> 2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

So as we behold Jesus, we are to become more like Him every day. It is a process. God wants you to know that as you remain in Him, He will continue the work. It is a seed that can never fade.

> Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Stand firm and be on guard so God can use you in His ministry.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why? Why? Why? Children ask it all the time. As an adult, do you like to know the why before you do something? Does knowing “why” you are asked to do something influence whether you will do something? Is doing something without knowing why akin to “blind faith”?

2. Do you consider yourself “valuable”? Why? Why does Peter contrast precious metals with the "precious blood of Christ"? How does knowing the immense price paid for your freedom change your self-worth?

3. “Because in Christ we are already holy, the pursuit of holiness is our joy, not a burden, because we know that our imperfect pursuit of holiness is never the ground of our

acceptance with God." Pastor Steve often reminds us that there is a difference between "getting to" and having to" do things; does this relate in any way to this quote? Talk about these statements in relation to today's sermon on living a holy life (what do they mean, how do you live it out, etc.)

4. Are you committed to becoming holy? Are you appropriately fearful of God; are you appropriately fearful of God who judges what you do with what he has purchased for you? Do you love other Christians deeply? Do you live in community with them? Are you committed to entering into living the Gospel rather than just believing it in our heads? Talk about these questions as a group; what hinders and what helps you in these areas.