

Reflecting on 1 Peter 1:13-21
“Living Like We Don’t Belong”
September 26, 2021

Introduction: Following his grand presentation of God’s saving work through the ages and the assurance of our hope for the future, Peter challenges followers of Christ *to live in this world like they don’t belong*. He provides three steps to lead us in this lifestyle:

1. Live with Hope (13)
2. Live in Holiness (14-16)
3. Live in Reverence (17)

The passage concludes with a description of God’s saving work for us through Jesus. We used this concept to challenge ourselves about making God our center. (18-21).

Discussion Starters

1. As you listened to this morning’s message, what part of the message was most important for you to hear today?

2. In verse 17, Peter describes the Christian experience in this life as “a time of exile.” What does he mean by that description? How should this perspective inform how we live today?

3. Verse 13 includes a challenge us to set our hope fully on the next life, or to live with hope (as we described it). What makes it so hard to place our hope in the next life instead of this one?

4. When God calls us to live with holiness, He is setting the standard very high. Our lives are supposed to reflect His holiness. How is this even possible? What would be necessary for this to happen in our lives? (See Romans 12:1-2, 2 Cor. 3:18, and James 1:21-25)

5. Peter's third instruction to us is to "conduct our lives with fear." This relates to a concept we studied in Proverbs a while back: What is the fear of the Lord? (See Prov. 1:7, 2:1-5, 8:13, 14:27, 19:23, Job 28:28, Mat. 10:28) How does the fear of the Lord relate to Peter's instructions in 1 Peter 1:17?

6. The language of verses 18-21 is complicated in both Greek and English. Read the following translation below. As you do, make a list of things to praise God for, and include this list in a closing prayer.

Question continues on next page.

1 Peter 1:18-21 (NLT)

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. ¹⁹ He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ²⁰ God chose him for this purpose long before the world began, but now in these final days, he was sent to the earth for all to see. And he did this for you. ²¹ Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And because God raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory, your faith and hope can be placed confidently in God.

Things to praise God for from vv.18-21:

1. God paid my ransom (v.18)
2. He delivered me from the empty life of sin (v.18)
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.