

## Lower Thirds Material

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Viktor Frankl, Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist, survivor of Nazi concentration camps during WWII

Hopelessness has a deadly effect on the human soul. Without some kind of future goal, we wither and die.

*We have been born again into a living hope.* That is, the very seed of the Father in heaven has conceived within our spirits a new nature, a new heart, a new family identity, a new future with God in a whole new world. (cp. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Biblical hope is the confident assurance, expectation, and conviction of God's ultimate triumph through his Son and our Savior, the Lord Jesus.

In verse 13, Peter issues his first command in the letter.

In the Bible, moral imperatives (*what we are to do*) ALWAYS follow gospel indicatives (*what God has already done*)!

v. 13 *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

God's past grace leads us to worship him with grateful praise in the present, because of the great things he has done to save us. God's future grace leads us obey him in the present, because we are as confident God will be as much with us and for us today and tomorrow as he was in the past.

In Exodus 3, *Yahweh* reveals the meaning of his personal name for the first time.

If we want to flourish as exiles, resident aliens in this world, then we, like Jesus, must lock-in on the joy set before us. Anchored in Yahweh's past grace, we must set our hope fully on Yahweh's future grace that will be brought to us at when Jesus returns.

*"preparing your minds for action" = "having girded up the loins of your mind."*

This girding of one's self was used, then, in the Bible as a metaphor. (cp. Job 38:3; 40:7; Proverbs 31:17)

Peter borrows this metaphor from God's command to Israel *in anticipation of their exodus from exile in Egypt!*

Exodus 12:11 *"In this manner you shall eat the Passover meal: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat in haste. It is the Lord's Passover."*

v. 19 Peter refers to Jesus with the same language God used to describe the Passover lambs in Exodus 12.

Peter commands us to set our hope fully on what God is going to do to liberate us from our exile in this world (v. 13) so that we live as God's obedience children until then (vv.14-16) and its all possible because of the Spotless Passover Lamb who was slain for us (vv. 17-21)!

*"being sober-minded."* The idea is to be mentally and spiritually alert, as opposed to being mentally fogged and impaired and lacking in self-control like someone who is drunk. (

4:7 *The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers*

5:8 *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 *So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.*

2 Timothy 4:3–5 *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering...*

Ephesians 5:15-18 *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.*

Luke 12:35–40 *“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning...You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

The word Peter uses here for “*mind*,” literally means *to think through rationally*. A couple places in the Bible, it means to debate.

If you want to live the Christian life like it’s supposed to be lived, you must use your mind.

Biblical faith is an exercise in thinking well.

For the Christian, a lack of faith is a failure to think well. (cp. Ephesians 4:22-24)

Jesus demands all of us—mind, will, and emotions. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37).

The Gospel always makes those who reflect on it to gird up their minds

Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*  
Andrew Strom, *Entertaining Ourselves to Death?*  
Documentary, *The Social Dilemma*

Peter commands us to live smarter, not harder!

Psalm 73:23-26 *In spite of my fits of stupidity, I am continually with you, God. Like a good, good Father, you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

*Μαράνα θα!* Our Lord, Come! (1 Corinthians 16:22)