

## HOPEFUL

(Standing firm in the hope and encouragement of the Grace of God)

### **Lesson Two: Staying Clean in a Corrupt Society**

#### Introduction

- A. Some have suggested **Sanctification by isolation** – but the Bible offers a different tactic in Philippians 2:15.
- B. Jesus prayed for His disciples to be in the world yet not of it. (John 17:14-15)
- C. In the first section of the book Peter emphasized **walking in hope**, but now he emphasizes **walking in holiness**. (1 John 3:3)
- D. There are three steps I want you to take with me in this study.
  - 1. A brief analysis of the world.
  - 2. A strong challenge to be different from the world.
  - 3. A few things to remember to help us stay clean in a corrupt society.

#### **A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF OUR WORLD**

- A. The term “World” is not talking about a planet but a philosophy.
  - 1. It is a figure of speech that encapsulates the mind-set and morality of the unregenerate. (1 John 2:15-17)
  - 2. This world system is manipulated by Satan. (1 John 5:19)
- B. The world’s philosophy.
  - 1. The world is designed to attract us: Fame, fortune, power and pleasure.
  - 2. Much of the world system is religious, cultured, refined and intellectual.
  - 3. But it is also anti-God and anti-Christ.
- C. The world’s motivation

#### **A STRONG CHALLENGE TO BE DIFFERENT**

- A. Peter’s first command is **HOPE IN GOD’S GRACE**.
  - 1. Understanding the passion behind Peter’s words.
  - 2. Notice his assertive spirit.
- B. ***“Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind.”***

1. The image.
  2. The part of us that is freed is our mind.
- C. ***“And being sober in spirit.”***
1. Don’t be drunk when it comes to spiritual matters.
  2. It implies alertness – our mind is not numb with intoxicating influences.
- D. Now comes the main verb and for the first time it is an imperative.
1. It is a command – Hopefully!
  2. This is an action we do with our mind and our heart.
  3. The main clause in these verses is that “girding up the loins of our mind” and “keeping sober in spirit” should help us to hope fully.
- E. Finally, Peter tells us what the object of hope is, namely, ***The Grace of God.***
1. When Jesus comes back, He is bringing grace to His people.
  2. Grace is on the way – hope in it. Hope fully in God’s grace.

#### **GOD’S COMMAND AND DELIGHT: HOPE IN GOD!**

- A. Hope in God is the very heart of what God commands and delights in. (Psalm 147:10-11)
1. Not in what you can perform for Him by your strength, but in what He can perform for us with His strength.
  2. It is false to say that grace does not command – that there are no conditions.
  3. Show the world that grace is all satisfying.
- B. ***“Gird up the loins of your mind.”***
1. Having girded up the loins of your mind hope fully in grace that is coming to you.
  2. Hope happens when minds are girded with Truth.
- C. ***“Keep sober in spirit.”***
1. This means self-control in contrast to reckless irresponsibility.
  2. It means posed and stable and not carried away with abnormal extremes.
- D. ***“Fix your hope completely on the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”***
1. We can be sure of His favor when He returns.

2. Such sure and radiant hope should be the mark of Christianity.

E. ***“As obedient children.”***

1. This obedient mind-set.
2. Non-conformity to evil.
3. Conformity to the lifestyle of Christ.

F. ***“But like the holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all behavior.”***

**CONDUCTING OUR WALK IN FEAR**

- A. Having God as our Father not only affects our nature but should affect our attitude.
1. This is calling for a reverent mind.
  2. The point is, if we are going to address God as Father, we should conduct ourselves in such a way that reflects our reverence for Him as our Father.
  3. Some see only the Father relationship and do not recognize Him as a judge.
  4. This has to do with our mind.
- B. Focusing our mind on Christ. (18-21)
1. The world’s target is our mind.
  2. If we tolerate these thoughts long enough, we will end up acting out what we think.

**A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- A. Pay closer attention to what you look at. (1:13 and Colossian 3:1-2)
- B. Give greater thought to the consequences of sin rather than its pleasure. (1:14 and Proverbs 7)
- C. Start every day by renewing your sense of reverence for God. (1:17 and 2 Corinthians 7:1)
- D. Periodically during each day focus fully on Christ. (1:18-21 and Hebrews 12:2)