

- For 12vs, Peter has been communicating to the Church all that God has communicated through His Son ... In one long sentence, Peter declares **the gracious work of salvation** that's freely given to all whom the Father calls ... He describes **the guaranteed inheritance** that's been set aside for all who are in Christ ... Peter explains how, since the beginning, God's promise of salvation, through Jesus, for His own, has been **an unfolding reality**, and has now been **proclaimed through the gospel**, which you and I have heard and read
- **Therefore** ... All that he's about to say, until the end of his letter, is to be firmly established and understood through the previous 12vs ... Listen, the imperatives of scripture (what you are to do) are ALWAYS dependent upon the indicatives of scripture (what's been achieved, who God is, who you are in Christ – the certainties of scripture) ... You and I can become easily confused ... *"We mustn't reverse the grammar of the gospel" (Ferguson) ... Our growing in Christ is a result of our standing in Christ*
  - With a **determined mind** that's **clear and focused**, **set your hope** completely on **the gospel** ... Determination which says, *"I'm going to trust the voice of my Father and Savior over the voice of the enemy," "I'm going to pursue Jesus with all my effort, no matter what," "I'm choosing to walk by faith in the situation before me" ... Certainty of the Gospel keeps your mind clear and focused ... We engage the battle certain of outcome – it's been won for us ... We go about our life from a position of victory ... Satan can beat us up, people can talk smack about us all day long, our buildings can shut down and the Church be forced underground ... But neither Satan, nor anyone in this world, can alter the outcome of **the victory Christ has won** (Col2:14-15)*
- **Because you are children of God, be children who obey God** ... **Obey** means **to comply with what God calls us to comply with** – we hear Him, and we follow Him (Jo10:27) ... In this, we refuse to allow former desires to shape how we live, think and treat others ... Why? Because those desires sprung up from an ignorance of who God is ... It's more than not believing God exists – it's refusing to see God as He truly is, and refusing to care if you offend Him ... Our ignorance kept us blind to the truth, and held us captive to our sinful human nature ... We pursued our own wants and desires, regardless of what they were and cost ... We tried to fill the void in us with everything, except the very thing that could provide what we longed for and sought after ... **Children of God are no longer to live like this**
- You and I have been called by a Holy God to imitate His holiness through every aspect of our life (vs15-16) ... Here is another example of how we can intentionally and unintentionally *reverse the grammar of the gospel* ... While our conduct is to be formed by our holiness, so our holiness is to be formed by something outside of us
  - Peter repeats himself in vs17 – our conduct should be characterized by our reverence for God ... Our God who is Holy, is also our Father ... Because He is just, faithful, good, and gracious, I should want to live in such a way that honors His justice, faithfulness, goodness, and graciousness ... In practice, this works out through my relationships with those I care about, with those I don't know well, and those I don't agree with or I don't really care for ... It actually doesn't matter who the person is – I am called to honor my Father
  - So, likewise, the call for you to be holy is dependent upon His Holiness ... To be holy goes beyond a moral purity ... You are God's child, not a child of this world or of this culture ... To live as strangers is to live with the understanding that we're residents of a greater Kingdom, that's unlike any kingdom of this world
  - We're strangers in that we've been set apart by Him and for Him who set apart Himself for us – **Jo17:19** ... Jesus set apart Himself in life and death – He achieved our righteousness and holiness, and He took upon Himself our sin and punishment ... Therefore, His life and death are now counted as our very own ... His holiness is credited to you, His righteousness is credited to you ... You've been set free from the curse of sin and death ... You're fully reconciled and at peace with God ... Forgiveness is available for every sin
- This is why we're to live differently ... This is why we want to avoid sin at all costs ... This is why we give ourselves to the Lord, and why we'll follow Him anywhere ... This is the Gospel that you and I set our hope completely on