

**"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"**

**Part 7**

**1 Peter 1:1-2:10**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of 1 Peter we started to look at verses 13-16. In these verses Peter is teaching his readers about holiness.

➤ **Living a Life of Holiness**

In 1 Peter 1:13-16 Peter gives us 5 exhortations that demand our attention. Last week we looked at 4 of the exhortations.

**Notice 1 Peter 1:13**

- 1. Gird up the loins of your mind.**
- 2. Be sober**

To "gird up the loins of our mind" is to keep our thoughts under control. When faced with the trials of life we can become so overwhelmed with the situation we are facing that we can think of nothing else. Peter also tells his readers to be sober. This has the idea of not allowing the situation to so overwhelm us so that we are "intoxicated" with worry or sorrow or fear and we are then not any spiritual good. There is a battle to be fought and as soldiers we **MUST** be disciplined in our minds. If we are not, the enemy will oppress us with negative thoughts that will lead to sorrow, worry, and fear.

- 3. Fix your HOPE on the grace to come.**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:14**

- 4. Do NOT be conformed to sinful desires.**

Considering what these believers were facing, we can understand that there would be the temptation to handle things the very way in which they would have as unbelievers. The old nature would have desired to seek vengeance upon those behind the persecution. The old nature would have become full of anger to the point of rage.

**Application:**

This is something that we too must guard against in our lives. As time moves forward and life becomes more difficult, we **MUST** guard against allowing the old nature to control us. He will lead us to be angry. He will lead us to seek vengeance. He will lead us to carry a grudge and withhold forgiveness.

We need to be reminded that there is a bigger picture. We are called to glorify our God and live as Christ would live if He were in our shoes.

Let us notice something that happened to David when his son Absalom sought to kill David. As David fled, he encountered a man by the name of Shimei.

**2 Samuel 16:5-11**

*<sup>5</sup> And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.*

*<sup>6</sup> And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.*

*<sup>7</sup> And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:*

*<sup>8</sup> The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.*

*<sup>9</sup> Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.*

*<sup>10</sup> And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?*

*<sup>11</sup> And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.*

Peter will now go on and introduce a contrast to his readers which also is the 5<sup>th</sup> exhortation.

**5. Be holy.**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:15-16**

In verse 15 Peter reasons that because God is holy His children should also be holy. Before we were saved, we often copied the same practices of our earthly parents because we had

the nature of our earthly parents. But now we have a New nature, and it is the nature of God and so the Holy Spirit is calling us to holiness as children with our Father's nature.

Now, we are holy in position. By this I mean that as we are IN CHRIST, we are perfectly holy. But the call here is not to positional holiness but it is to practical holiness. Peter calls his readers to be holy in all manner of conversation which means in all areas of our lives.

I want to raise a question here, "What does it mean to be holy?" To be holy means to be separated. It means set apart from secular, profane, evil and be dedicated to worship and service of God. The idea in Peter's mind is that the unsaved world would handle being mistreated by submitting to the old sin nature. But as believers, his readers were not to be like the unsaved who lived around them. They were to be different. They were to face the persecution in a completely different way. They were to be controlled by the Divine nature within them and they were to handle the persecution just as Jesus would. They were to be set apart from the world in everything they would do.

**Notice 1 Peter 1:15 again.**

They were to be set apart in "all manner of conversation", which means in every area of their lives.

**Notice 1 Peter 1:16 again.**

This is a quote from Leviticus 11:44-45

**Leviticus 11:44-45**

*<sup>44</sup> For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

*<sup>45</sup> For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*

Let us turn to Leviticus 11. I want to read this chapter so that we can see what God is teaching His people before they would enter into Canaan.

**Notice Leviticus 11:1-45**

God is teaching Israel to live His way. This was all an outward illustration. These dietary laws would separate Israel from all the pagan nations. They were His people and because God was holy/separated, they too were to be separated/holy. There is a bigger picture that we are to see in these dietary laws. As I said this is an illustration and it is an

illustration of how the heart is to be separated from sin. Just as God gave them dietary laws to separate them and make them distinct from the pagan nations so he also desires a great separation and that is a separation of the heart from sin.

**Application:**

This is what God desires from our lives also. We have no dietary laws that we are to follow but we are certainly called to be set apart from sin just as our Heavenly Father is holy/set apart.

Notice the words of Boice on holiness:

*"Jesus is glorified in His own people to the degree that we live a holy life. Holiness is the attribute of God most mentioned in the pages of the Word of God. To hear most people talk about God today you would think that the attribute most mentioned about him is love. But this is not true. To be sure, love is a wonderful attribute. It is all the more wonderful because we do not deserve it. There is nothing in us that could possibly call forth the love of God. Yet he loves. This makes the love of God particularly wonderful. But even with this wonder, it is not the attribute of God most mentioned in the Bible. The attribute most mentioned is holiness. So if we would glorify him, we must make his holiness known as, allowing him to work through us, we attempt to live upright and dedicated lives. If we live in spiritual adultery, compromising with the values of our society, if the priorities of our non-Christian culture become our priorities, we are not living in a way that glorifies him. But if, by contrast, the priorities of the Word of God seize upon us and we strive for holiness in our lives, then we do glorify him..."*

Now, when many think of holiness they think of a person who is rigid and uptight. They think of a person who rarely smiles or laughs. In their mind they see holiness as being very sober and stern. This is not an accurate picture.

Notice the words of J. Vernon McGee:

*"Holy does not mean sinless perfection, a condition impossible in this life (1Jn 1:8, 9, 10). Holiness is very misunderstood. To the average person, holiness means to assume a very pious attitude, to become almost abnormal in everyday life. It is thought to be a superficial thing. My friend, the Lord wants you to be a fully integrated personality. He wants you to enjoy life and have fun—I don't mean the sinful kind of fun, but real delight and enjoyment in the life He has given to you. Holiness is to the spiritual life what health is to the physical life. You like to see a person who is physically fine, robust, and healthy. Well, holiness is to be healthy and robust spiritually. Oh, how we need folk like this today!"*

Our holiness is so very important because it is our witness to the world. When the world looks at us, they should see people that are much different than all others.

**2 Corinthians 3:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> *Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:*

<sup>3</sup> *Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*

There are many verses in the New testament that call us to be set apart from sin and the world.

**Philippians 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> *Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:* *that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*

**1 Thessalonians 3:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> *And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:*

<sup>13</sup> *To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness* *before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*

I like what Deffinbaugh writes concerning holiness. His words sum it up rather well.

*"Holiness is the choice to march to the beat of a different drum... The desires which characterize the fallen world we live in once dominated us. These desires are themselves to be rejected and replaced by new desires. This is what holiness is all about—not just doing what God wants, but desiring those things in which He delights."*

➤ **Motivation for Holiness**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:17**

*"And if ye call on the Father"* does not mean that some might and some might not call on Him. The idea Peter has here is that if you are a true believer and you have the privilege of calling God Father, then you need to understand that as believers we shall all stand before God and our works will be judged. On that day there will be no respect of persons. It does not matter who we are and what path we are given to walk. God will show no

partiality. We are all responsible to live holy lives on the path which we have been given to walk. If you are poor or if you are wealthy, you still are called to holiness. If you are sick or if you are healthy you are called to holiness. If we are persecuted or if we are free, we are called to holiness. We will all answer for how we lived our lives as believers. No matter what we face there is always substantial grace to sustain us.

**1 Corinthians 3:12-14**

*<sup>12</sup> Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

*<sup>13</sup> Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

*<sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

**Notice 1 Peter 1:17 again.**

While we sojourn here, we are to live in "fear". This is not in a shaking trembling fear, but a reverential awe, a dread of displeasing God my Father,

**2 Corinthians 5:9-11**

*<sup>9</sup> Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.*

*<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

*<sup>11</sup> Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

**Conclusion:**

As our world moves toward Satan's kingdom, we can expect that living will become more of a challenge. Let us keep in mind no matter the challenges we face we are called to holiness. Let us strive to live in a way so that when we stand before the lord we shall hear, "Well done thou good and faithful servant".