

The Working Out of Salvation **1 Peter 1:13-16 (NKJV)**

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Don't you hate it when the Bible comes to a therefore?

We like it when it tells us about all that God has done for us, how He loved us and gave His Son to die for our sins. How that God has called us out of darkness into light.

But then the Bible writer wants to make an application.

Usually the application has to do with our reaction to all this wonderful information.

Oh yes we said last week that some of our reactions should be to worship God and be thankful for the blessings and then also to tell others the marvelous Gospel.

But there are some more personal reactions we should have and do have if we are a child of the King.

That is why Peter says "Therefore."

I. THEREFORE

- A. Believers are to obey because they are God's chosen pilgrims, because they have been begotten by the Father, because they have an untouchable inheritance, and because of the greatness of their salvation. God's commands are always rooted in his grace. Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 77.

II. GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND

- A. This has the meaning that we should ready ourselves for action.
 - 1. Christianity is not a religion of inaction.
 - 2. Jesus told the church to GO or as you are going . . .
- B. Why
 - 1. Because we are in a battle.
 - 2. We are on a journey.
 - 3. We are struggling against the evil forces of this world.
 - 4. We are running a race, Paul says.

5. And the tendency is to complacency
6. To just coast along with the flow, which would be ok if the flow was going the right way.

C. The mind

1. That is because there is a great battle for the mind.
 - a. That is how Satan persuaded Eve.
 - b. In America today the great battle is for the mind.
 - c. That is why they want to teach gender fluidity to our kinder gardeners.
 - d. That is why Christians are banned from Facebook and the like.
 - e. They know that if they control what you know that they control you.
 - f. Germany did it, the Soviet Union did it.
 - g. But they were simply imitating Satan.
 - h. That is why whatever you do in a day Satan will try to keep you from the Word of God.

III. BE SOBER

- A. Satan would have our minds clouded by alcohol, weed, drugs.
- B. That is why we must be sober, physically and spiritually.
 1. It means to be sober minded, to adopt a serious attitude in the study of the Word of God. “And hope to the end.” This is the great epistle of hope. *J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary: The Epistles (1 Peter), electronic ed., vol. 54 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 34.*

IV. AND REST YOUR HOPE FULLY UPON THE GRACE THAT IS TO BE BROUGHT TO YOU AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. When you center your thoughts on the return of Christ, and live accordingly, you escape the many worldly things that would encumber your mind and hinder your spiritual progress. Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 395.
 1. Christians live in the future tense; their present actions and decisions are governed by this future hope. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 395.*
 2. We are to live lives which reveal that we have been transformed from the inside. *J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary: The Epistles (1*

Peter), electronic ed., vol. 54 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 36.

B. The main emphasis of this verse, which is to fix their hope. *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 62.*

C. What is hope.

1. Basically defined, hope is the Christian's attitude toward the future (Acts 24:15; Titus 1:2; 2:13; 3:7). In its essence, hope is equivalent to faith (Rom. 5:1–2; Gal. 5:5; Heb. 11:1); it is trusting God (1 Peter 1:21). The major difference between the two attitudes is that faith involves trusting God in the present (Rom. 1:17; 3:28; 2 Cor. 5:7; Gal. 2:20; 1 Tim. 6:12; James 1:6), whereas hope is future faith, trusting God for what is to come (Heb. 3:6). Faith appropriates what God has already said and done in His revealed Word, and hope anticipates what He will yet do, as promised in Scripture. *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 62.*

D. Grace

1. To be sure, we will experience grace when we see Jesus Christ; but we can also experience grace today as we look for Him to return. We have been saved by grace and we depend moment by moment on God's grace *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 396.*

V. AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN, NOT CONFORMING YOURSELVES TO THE FORMER LUSTS, AS IN YOUR IGNORANCE

A. Here we go, obedience again.

1. The Word of God not only brings us hope, but it also leads to our obedience. The Word of God is to be obeyed; we are to yield to its instruction *J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary: The Epistles (1 Peter), electronic ed., vol. 54 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 35.*

2. Outlook determines outcome; attitude determines action.

a. A Christian who is looking for the glory of God has a greater motivation for present obedience than a Christian who ignores the Lord's return.

b. The contrast is illustrated in the lives of Abraham and Lot *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 396. Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 396.*

B. Titus 2:11–14 (NKJV)

1. 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

C. Leviticus 18:2–4 (NKJV)

1. ² “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘I am the LORD your God. ³ According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. ⁴ You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I *am* the LORD your God.

D. NOT CONFORMING YOURSELVES TO THE FORMER LUSTS

1. Metaphorically it means not to lose spiritual control by imbibing the world’s sinful system. It connotes the entire realm of spiritual steadfastness or self-control: having clarity of mind and discipline of heart, being in charge of one’s priorities and balancing one’s life so as not to be subject to the controlling and corrupting influence of the flesh’s allurements. *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 65.*
2. Romans 12:2 (NKJV)
 - a. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

VI. BUT AS HE WHO CALLED YOU IS HOLY, YOU ALSO BE HOLY IN ALL YOUR CONDUCT,

- A. Believers are to be holy by not being conformed to their former desires. Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 79.
- B. If a Christian finds anything more attractive than fellowship with Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 4:10; James 4:4), if he yearns more to enjoy this world than to receive the joys of heaven, then he does not love His appearing. *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 65.*
- C. Genuine hope results in purity of life, or holiness—the believer’s second

obligatory response to receiving the gift of salvation. *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 66.*

- D. Holiness is to the spiritual life what health is to the physical life. *J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary: The Epistles (1 Peter), electronic ed., vol. 54 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 36.*
- E. Children inherit the nature of their parents. God is holy; therefore, as His children, we should live holy lives. We are “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4) and ought to reveal that nature in godly living. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 396.*
- F. The dominant, compelling reason for God’s people to live in holiness was their relationship with God: “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, “You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy”’ *John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 67.*

VII. BECAUSE IT IS WRITTEN, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.

A. It is written.

- 1. “It is written!” is a statement that carries great authority for the believer. Our Lord used the Word of God to defeat Satan, and so may we (Matt. 4:1–11; see Eph. 6:17). But the Word of God is not only a sword for battle; it is also a light to guide us in this dark world (Ps. 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19), food that strengthens us (Matt. 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2), and water that washes us (Eph. 5:25–27). *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 397.*
- 2. Leviticus 11:44 (NKJV)
 - a. ⁴⁴ For I *am* the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I *am* holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth.
- 3. The first step toward keeping clean in a filthy world is to ask, “What does the Bible say?” In the Scriptures, we will find precepts, principles, promises, and persons to guide us in today’s decisions. If we are really willing to obey God, He will show us His truth (John 7:17). *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 397.*

B. Psalm 1:1–3 (NKJV)

- 1. ¹ Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and

night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.