

TITLE: GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH SALVATION

TEXT: 1 PETER 1:13-25

INTRO: Peter, having focused our attention on the finish line of our race (the incorruptible inheritance/reward of heaven), now begins “the rest of the story,” the reason for writing. His recipients were facing persecution as Christians (as all Christians are promised – **2 Tim 3:12**), and needed help in dealing with it. Having their focus on the finish line, now they needed more instruction on how to deal with the race at hand. We’ve seen a reason *why* to lead a Christian life; now we get some general instructions on *how*. The thesis for our lesson today, and really for the rest of Peter’s letter, is found in v. 13.

I. PREPARE (v. 13)

- A. Having girdled up the loins of your mind (roll up the sleeves of your mind) – Prepare!
- B. Being sober (present tense) – being discreet, watchful (**Mt. 24:42** – “*Watch! For you know not what hour he cometh!*”)
- C. Hope to the end (perfectly, completely; don’t lack anything) for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revealing of Christ.
 - 1. We’ve already received God’s grace (sending Christ-plan of salvation)
 - 2. Hope (desire it & expect it) for the grace we’ll receive at the 2nd coming, rising up & meeting Him in the air (**1 Thess 4:17!**)

II. BE HOLY (v. 14-16):

- A. (**v. 14**) Don’t fashion yourself (conform) to the previous lusts. We all have sinful pasts. God forgets these, and He expects us to as well, & to move on to holiness (**Rom 12:2** – *be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*)
- B. (**v. 15-16**) Be holy (sacred, consecrated, set apart) in *all* manner of living.
 - 1. Every bit of your life should be considered ‘set apart.’ Your life should be recognized as ‘set apart’ for God’s purposes. You can’t claim a certain ‘private’ portion for yourself where you can say, do, or think things God would disapprove of.
 - 2. Why? Because God is holy (100% light, no darkness – **1 John 1:5**). And He requires this from us in our efforts.

III. LIVE IN FEAR (v. 17-21):

- A. (**v. 17**) God is a God of love (v. 3-5, 9). He is also a God of fear (most people disagree). But if He is not, what does Peter mean?
 - God does not respect persons (no favoritism, no nepotism – He may be your Father, but you’re not his favorite!)
 - God judges according to every man’s work. This is *not* a ‘works-based’ salvation, but we’ll be *judged* by our works. Why? Because your works are *evidence* of your faith (**Jam 2:18**). “I have faith.” Your works (actions) are the tangible evidence!
 - So, pass the time (live, behave, have your conversation) of your sojourning (temp) **in fear** (‘phobos’)! A works-less person needs to be in fear. A works-less person has no faith (dead faith - **Jam 2:17,20,26**). You do *not* want to meet God like this!
- B. (**v. 18-19**) More reasons why – because you weren’t redeemed (bought back) with corruptible things as silver & gold (or any created thing - unable to redeem us). But you *were* bought back (ransom paid) with the precious blood of Christ (incorruptible).
 - In other words, you were a slave (in your vain conversation handed down from your fathers), and Jesus paid to buy you out of slavery. If he had paid with silver (something corruptible), your redemption might be called into question if His payment failed (insufficient). But His blood is a complete & permanent ransom for you.
 - No detailed discussion yet about the former conversation received by tradition from your fathers. Probably a reference to the many useless ceremonial requirements given by the Pharisees and rabbis, etc. (**Mt 15:1f**). No discussion of works yet either.
- C. (**v. 20-21**) More info about Christ
 - 1. He was foreordained [foreknown] (idea of fore-chosen) before creation. But He wasn’t revealed yet (v. 10-12).
 - 2. He was manifest (made known, revealed) in these last times (we’ve been in the last times since the D.O.P.) **for you!**
 - 3. Through Him you believe in God
 - 4. Your faith and hope might be in God. Why? Because you know He raised Jesus, so you believe He will raise you too.
**Jesus did so much by his death (redeemed us), but also by his resurrection (gave us hope for *our own* resurrection).

IV. LOVE IN PURITY (v. 22-25):

- A. (**v. 22**) Qualification: Having purified your soul in obeying the truth.
 - 1. These promises & instructions are directed only to those who have obeyed (you can’t love others w/out loving God 1st).
 - 2. You’ve purified yourselves by obeying the truth (truth requires obedience, which is the only way to cleanse your soul)
 - 3. Through the Spirit – the Spirit brought the Word (**2 Tim 3:16**) by which we must be saved (**Acts 11:14**).
 - 4. Purpose: Unfeigned (sincere, without hypocrisy) love of the brethren. This kind of love cannot exist outside the church.
- B. Commandment: Love (imperative) one another (reciprocated) with (‘ek’ – out of; source) a pure (clean) heart fervently.
- C. (**v. 23-25**) The prerequisite is also the encouragement to love the brethren
 - 1. He ends the chapter the way he began it – “being born again” (**v. 3**). Again, your “born again” status is prerequisite.
 - 2. The Word of the Lord endures forever (**Mt 24:35**).
 - 3. And this is the very same word that was preached unto you, which you believed and obeyed.

CONCLUSION: Peter has been doing his best to encourage the church by exalting our reward, our Savior, and the Word that we believe and obey. All three of these things, Peter says, are eternal, permanent, incorruptible, enduring forever. In other words, of all the goals we could pursue in this life, we’ve chosen the only one that really matters...the only *eternal* pursuit. **We should rejoice in this!** And we should **1) Be prepared for trials, 2) Be holy, 3) Live in fear, and 4) Love in purity.**