

# PURSUING HOLINESS

## 1 Peter 1:13-16

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Titus 2:11-15



## Watching the Moon

- All true disciples are watching for Christ to come again and take them HOME.  
(John 14:1-6; Hebrews 11:13-16)
- We are told that Christ will come as a thief in the night! (Matthew 24:42-44; 25:13; Mark 13:34-35; Luke 12:39-40; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3; 16:15)
  - ❶ He comes at the darkest part of the night.  
(Eph 5:11, 15-17; Romans 13:11-12)
  - ❷ He comes quietly and unobserved by sleepers. (1 Thess 5:4-7)
  - ❸ He comes to snatch something.  
(John 14:3; Hebrews 9:28; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2-3)
  - ❹ He is after jewels and gold and pearls.  
(Malachi 3:16-18; 1 Peter 2:9; Deut 7:6; Those given to Him by the Father: John 6:37-40; John 10:27-29; 17:2, 6, 9, 11)
  - ❺ He is not interested in things of no value.  
(Romans 3:12; Matthew 15:14; John 8:47; 10:26)
  - ❻ He comes and goes before others are aware of it. (1 Cor 15:51-52)
  - ❼ He leaves the house greatly impoverished but himself greatly enriched. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; John 14:3; 17:21-22)
- Christ is only coming for those who are **eagerly waiting** for Him. (Hebrews 9:28)

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## Therefore . . . (1 Peter 1:13)

- ★ REMEMBER: The addressees are **being** persecuted! To these, Peter reminds them of . . .
- How Great a Salvation . . . (vv. 1-9)
  - Chosen/Elect of God (v. 2)
  - Made children of God by God (v. 3)
  - Heirs of God and Coheirs of God
  - A great inheritance (v. 4)
  - An inheritance reserved for us and kept by God incorruptible, undefiled, and will not fade away. (v. 4)
  - We, ourselves, heirs, KEPT by God! (v. 5)
  - “inquired and searched carefully” by the prophets (vv. 10-12)
  - NOW **revealed** and **preached!** (v. 12)

- Something angels desire to look into. (v. 12) (Ephesians 3:10)
- ☆ If the prophets of the Old Testament were diligent in studying this salvation, and the apostles filled with the Holy Spirit preached this salvation now revealed, and angels long to look into this salvation how much ought this salvation occupy our thoughts and actions?
- ☆ We considered the serious **WARNING** in Hebrews 2:1-3!!!

## **THEREFORE . . .**

### **Rest Your Hope Fully** (v. 13)

- ★ “Rest your HOPE FULLY on the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” This verse tells —
  - ① Christ is COMING AGAIN. All Christians (disciples) eagerly await for Christ’s return.. (Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 1:7; Luke 12:37-43; Romans 8:23-25)
  - ② A grace to be brought to us! A grace that is still FUTURE!
- “rest your hope” is “fix”. HOPE: trusting God at His Word in what is yet to come.” (ACTIVE VOICE; IMPERATIVE MOOD)
- “fully” is “completely”; “perfectly”; “unreservedly”; “wholehearted” – We are commanded to “fix” our hope without doubting!
- “brought” – PRESENT TENSE; PASSIVE VOICE
  - This PRESENT TENSE is translated into the FUTURE (in English) **to show the absolutely certainty of this happening!**
  - This verb is in the PASSIVE VOICE which means that this is done FOR the ELECT – NOT by the elect! After all, it is GRACE!

### **HOW DOES ONE FIX THEIR HOPE IN THIS GRACE?**

#### **① Gird Up the Loins of Your Mind** (v. 13)

- “gird up your loins” – “tightening the belt”; “gather up your robe”
  - ★ PREPARE for ACTION!
  - ★ To a soldier this communicates: PREPARE for SERIOUS BATTLE!
  - ☆ “Gird up!” is used in Job 38:3; 40:7!
  - ☆ God commands Jeremiah to “gird up!” for action. (Jer 1:17)
  - ☆ Christ commands us to BE READY for His second coming in Luke 12:35 – “Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning!”
- Peter was speaking of the MIND! Paul says to set your mind right! (Romans 12:2)
- PREPARE your MIND to live “on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Luke 4:4; Matthew 4:4).
- THERE IS A REAL BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND. THEREFORE, “GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND!” The enemy is REAL.
- Paul uses a tense that indicates that one must DO THIS NOW! He uses the PASSIVE VOICE that this is done to the disciple.. He uses the

IMPERATIVE MOOD that emphasizes that this must be done continually! A disciple surrenders himself completely unto the Lord.

- In Ephesians 6:14 Paul tells us “to gird up our loins with the belt of truth”!
- The opposite of “gird up the loins of your mind” is to be **complacent!** (Zephaniah 1:12; Proverbs 1:32)

## ② Be Sober (v. 13)

- “sober” - “self-controlled”; “clear thinking (godly thinking)”
- Do not become influenced by anything else except the Spirit. (Eph 5:18)  
→ “be filled” is “*pleroo*” - to be completely filled, directed by, moved by the Holy Spirit. It is in the IMPERATIVE MOOD!
- Paul uses this word to show that we must be “watchful” in all things. (2 Timothy 4:5)
- Peter uses this word to tell us to be “watchful” in our prayers! (1 Peter 4:7)
- We are **commanded** to be **sober** and **vigilant** because “the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour”. (1 Peter 5:8)
- Study carefully Ephesians 5:15-17! To be “circumspect” is to walk wisely in this evil world.
- (Titus 2:11-14) – We are commanded to live **soberly, righteously, and godly** in the **present** age.

## ③ AS Obedient Children (v. 14)

### • Obedience is always a result of salvation!

- ☆ Ezekiel 36:27; Acts 6:7; 1 Peter 1:3; Romans 1:5; 15:18; 16:26
- For one to obey one must know the command!
  - ★ John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 6
  - ★ Matthew 28:20; ★ 1 John 2:3-4
  - ★ Obedience is NOT legalism BUT LOVE! (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:3)
- Obedience distinguishes Christians from unbelievers who are called “sons of disobedience”. (Ephesians 2:2; 5:6; Colossians 3:6; **1 John 3:10**)
- To be “well pleasing in His sight” is for one to OBEY Him. (Colossians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:9)  
→ “make it our aim” – “labor”; “eagerly or earnestly do something”; “strive”.

## ④ Not Conformed to Former Ways (v. 14)

- “conformed” is “to conform one’s self (i.e. one’s mind and character) to another’s pattern, (fashion one’s self according to).”
- (1 Peter 4:1-3) Christians no longer conform themselves to the ways of the world – they are DIFFERENT!
- (Romans 12:2) We are commanded NOT to be conformed to the world but renew our minds!
- (Romans 6:4) IF we claim that we have died with Christ then “even so we also should walk in the newness of life.”

- (2 Corinthians 5:17) IF we claim that we are “in Christ” then we are NEW creatures, and old things have passed away, and all things have become NEW!

### ⑤ **Be Holy** (vv. 15-16; Leviticus 19:2; 20:7) “*It is written . . .*”

- Disciples are “saints” - “holy ones”.
- Holiness is an intimate part of the entire character of GOD. God is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! His holiness affects ALL of His attributes!
- Since we are born-again with God as our Father, we inherit His “divine nature” (2 Peter 1:3-4) and now desire (hunger) to holy just like our Father (Eph 5:1).
  - ➔ Either one imitates the world (Ephesians 2:1-3) or they imitate God (Ephesians 5:1)
- ★ NATURE defines how we act! – Dogs act like dogs because they have the nature of dogs. (See Proverbs 26:11; 2 Peter 2:22)
- God **elects** (chose us) “that we should be holy and without blame before Him.” (Ephesians 1:4)
- Those who eagerly await for the second coming of Christ are “diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless. . .” (2 Peter 3:14: **1 John 3:2-3**)
- God **called** us to HOLINESS (holy living) not uncleanness! (1 Thess 4:7)
- To be HOLY means “to be set apart”. God has set His children apart from the rest of the world. God’s children PURSUE holiness! (Heb 12:14; 2 Cor 7:1)
- God’s children “separate themselves” or “make themselves different” from the rest of the world. (2 Cor 6:14-18; Psalm 1:1-3)
- **Disciples PURSUE Holiness** (Hebrews 12:14)
  - Illustration of the verb “to pursue” and “endurance”. (Heb 12:1; Matt 24:13)
  - Wile E. Coyote (1949-2024 - 74 years)!
  - **PRESENT TENSE - ACTIVE VOICE - IMPERATIVE MOOD**

### IF HEIRS of God’s Great Salvation, then . . .

- ① Are we eagerly awaiting the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ?
  - ➔ Have we **FIXED** our **HOPE** completely on the **GRACE** that is to be brought to us at His coming? Do we groan for it? (Rom 8:23; 1 Cor 1:7; Philip 3:20; Hebrews 9:28)
- ② We must “gird up the loins of our minds” for there is a **REAL BATTLE** for our minds! (Romans 7:23; 1 Peter 2:11)
- ③ We must live as obedient children. (1 Peter 1:13; 1 John 3:6-10)
- ④ We demonstrate our love, as children, by our obedience. (John 14:21, 23-24; 1 John 5:3; 2:3-4)
- ⑤ We must be holy is **all** of our conduct! (1 Peter 1:13-16)
- ⑥ We must be constantly *pursuing* personal **and** corporate holiness. (Heb 12:14)