

“A Passion For Purity!”
1 Peter 1:17-21

Introduction:

1. **IE:** This Summer, I Was Able To Go To The Zoo With My Children - We Wanted To See The Komodo Dragon On Display - Learned That They Can Be Found On Komodo Island In Indonesia - A Large Monitor Lizard, Can Grow Up To 10 Feet Long & 350 Pounds - As Carnivores, They Have Been Known To Kill & Eat People - The Most Recent Fatal Attack Was In 2007 - When They Were First Discovered, Unsuspecting Visitors Were Greeted With A Sign That Said: “There Be Dragons Here!”
 - Little Did They Know What Kind Of Danger They Would Face On That Island!
2. Peter Knew That The Christians He Was Writing To Were Going To Experiencing Suffering Of All Kinds!
 - Even Though They Would Experience Suffering:
 - There Was Another Danger That Was Still On The Prowl – The Danger Of Sin!
 - In 1:16, The Lord Already Called On His People To:
 - “Be Ye Holy, For I Am Holy!”
 - Now, He Reminds Them & Us That, In Order To Fulfill This Command, We Need A Passion For Purity!
3. The Key Phrase:
 - 1:17b - “Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear!”
 - Because Of The Constant Darkness Of The World!
 - Because Of The Constant Danger Of Sin!
 - Need To Have A Passion For Purity In Our Lives!
 - 3 Things To Remember:
 - We Live In Time!
 - “Pass The Time!”
 - No Matter What You Face, Your Time Is Short!
 - James 4:14 - “For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away!”
 - We Live As Travelers!
 - “Pass The Time Of Your Sojourning!”
 - A Common Theme In Peter & NT Books!
 - 1 Peter 2:11 - “Strangers & Pilgrims!”
 - “Sojourn” - Living On The Outside Of The House!
 - We Live With Temptations!
 - So We Are To: “Pass The Time Of Your Sojourning Here In Fear!”
 - “Fear” = Phobos!
 - **IE:** All Kinds Of Phobias! Literally From A To Z! Ablutophobia - Fear Of Washing Or Bathing / Zoophobia - Fear Of Animals!
 - Christians Need A Different Kind Of Phobia!
 - A Fear Of Sinning Against & Displeasing God! Having Such A Fear & Reverence For The Lord, That We Take Sin – In Our Own Lives & In Others Lives – Very Seriously!
 - This “Phobia” Is So Important, That It Even Sums Up The Life Of A Child Of God!
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13 - “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man!”
 - The Call To Be A Christian Is A Call To Purity!
 - And This Is A Call To Soberness / Seriousness / Sincerity!
 - It Is Not Just About Fun & Games:
 - “There Be Dragons Here” In This Life!
 - Dragons Of Sin / The World / The Devil / Flesh!
 - Take Sin Seriously!
 - 4. No Matter What We Face In This Life:
 - We Need To Have A Passion For Personal Purity! Why?
 - And Peter Now Turns To Encourage & Motivate Us To Have This Passion For Purity!

* First Motive:

1. *Your Relationship To God!*

- 1:17 - "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear!"
 - These Verses Are Written To Real Christians – Those Who Have Turned From Their Sin & Turned Unto God Through Jesus Christ Alone For Forgiveness Of Their Sins!
 - Peter Reminds Us Of A Special Relationship That We Have With God!
- God Is Our Father!
 - "If Ye Call On The Father!"
 - If You Claim That God Is Your Father!
 - If You Call God Your Father, Then You Ought To Live Like His Child!
 - A Life Of Holiness & Fear & Reverence!
 - "As Obedient Children!" (1:14)
 - What A Great Motivation!
 - Romans 8:15 - "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father!"
 - But How Many Times Do We Still Fail & Fall Into Sin?
 - Then, We Must Never Forget That Still:
- God Is Our Judge!
 - "Who Without Respect Of Persons Judgeth According To Every Man's Work!"
 - Even If God Is Your Father – He Is Still A Judge!
 - Your Judge! He Will Judge You & Your Works! What You Have Done For Him & What You Have Not Done For Him!
 - God's Judgment Is Not Based On Your Characteristics:
 - Which You Have No Control Over!
 - Your Nationality / Race / Position!
 - God's Judgment Is Based On Your Conduct:
 - As An Individual! "Every Man's Work!" Yours!
 - We Are Not Saved To Just Live Our Lives Any Old Way That We Please!
 - We Are Saved To Live Holy, Obedient, Separated Lives! And If We Don't, We Will Be Judged!
 - 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 - "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. / Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; / 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. / If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. / If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire!"
- We Should Care About How We Live Before God!
 - Because He Is Our Father & He Is Our Judge!
 - This Kind Of Relationship Ought To Motivate Us To Have A Passion For Personal Purity!
 - Does It?
 - If You Are Living In Sin – Without Conviction & Without Care – It Is Because You Are Without Christ! A Real Christian Will Have A Passion For Purity!
- Peter Says: "Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear!"

* Second Motive:

2. *Your Redemption By God!*

- 1:18-20 - "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; / 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: / 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you!"
 - If Your Relationship With God Is Not Enough To Get You To Live A Holy Life – Then, Recall & Think About What God Has Done For You!
 - He "Redeemed" You!
 - You Have Been Rescued / Delivered / Ransomed From Your Sins & Your Sentence!
- Think About Your Empty Past!

- What Did God Redeem You From?
 - “Your Vain Conversation Received By Tradition From Your Fathers!”
- A Life With No Real Purpose Or Permanence!
 - Sometimes Just Following Your Family’s Wishes!
- God Came To Give Your Life Meaning & More! How?
- Think About Its Extreme Price!
 - “Not” – “With Corruptible Things!”
 - Even Those Things That We Think Are Timeless & Incorruptible, Are, In Fact, Able To Be Destroyed! And Will Be One Day!
 - “But” – “With The Precious Blood Of Christ!”
 - A Strong Contrast! “What Can Wash Away My Sin? Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus!”
 - What A Price! To Redeem You From Your Sin!
 - “The Precious Blood Of Christ!”
 - So Much In These Few Words!
 - The Value / Price / Purpose Of Redemption!
 - Colossians 1:14 - “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins!”
 - It Was Only The Blood Of Jesus Christ That Could Accomplish This! Because Only Christ Was Morally Perfect & Spiritually Pure!
 - “As Of A Lamb Without Blemish & Without Spot!”
 - “The Treasure Is So Costly And Precious That The Mind & Heart Of Man Cannot Contain It; So Precious That A Little Drop Of This Innocent Blood Would Have Been Sufficient For The Sin Of The Whole World; Yet It Was The Good Pleasure Of The Father To Pour Out His Grace So Richly And To Let It Cost Him So Much That He Permitted His Only Son, Christ, To Shed All His Blood, And Gives Us This Treasure Entirely Free!” (Martin Luther)
 - John The Baptist - John 1:29 - “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!”
- Think About Its Eternal Plan!
 - “God Foreknew The Whole Program Of Redemption!” (Hiebert)
 - From Start To Finish!
 - Even “Before The Foundation Of The World!”
 - God’s Plan To Save You Was In Place Even Before Adam & Eve’s First Sin! Even Before He Said: “Let There Be Light!”
 - Jesus Christ Is:
 - The Author & Finisher / The First & The Last / The Alpha & Omega / The Beginning & The End!
 - And He: “Was Manifest In These Last Times **For You!**”
- How Can We Continue To Take Sin So Lightly?
 - In Your Own Personal Life?
 - When You Recall Your Past / The Price / God’s Plan?
 - This Kind Of Redemption Ought To Motivate Us To Have A Passion For Personal Purity!
- “Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear!”

* Third Motive:

3. **Your Response To God!**

- 1:20b-21 - “But was manifest in these last times for you, / Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God!”
 - How Can You Have A Passion For Purity?
- Personalize This Gospel Message!
 - Remember That Jesus Christ: “Was Manifest In These Last Times **For You!**”
 - The Entire Price & Plan Of Redemption Was For God’s Children!
 - To Display His Live For You!
 - Romans 5:8 - “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!”

- To Have A Passion For Purity, You Need To Personalize The Gospel Message! Believe That It Was Meant For You!
- Prioritize This Gospel Message!
 - The Gospel & Your Life Is All About One Person – The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Paul Said: Colossians 3:4 - “ When Christ, who is _____ our life!”
 - He Must Be Your Priority! Preeminent / #1 In Your Life!
 - Because It Is Through Him & Him Alone You Can Believe In God & Be Redeemed By God!
 - “Who **By Him** Do Believe In God!”
 - John 14:6 - “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!”
 - **IE:** There Are Many Who Say They Believe In “God” – But Apart From Jesus Christ, It Is A God Of Their Own Making & Choosing! The Question They / You Must Answer: “What Think Ye Of Christ?” (Matthew 22:42)
 - Because It Is Only Through Jesus Christ You Are Saved!
 - Through His Death / Resurrection / Glory!
 - Is He Your Priority?
 - Then You Can:
- Practice The Gospel Message!
 - “Faith & Hope!”
 - The Central Ingredients To The Christian Life!
 - Faith:
 - The Present Assurance Of Your Salvation!
 - Hope:
 - The Future Anticipation Of Your Salvation!
 - “Without Christ We Should Only Dread God; Whereas Through Him We Believe, And Hope, And Love!” (Charles Wesley)
- Only When You Begin To:
 - Personalize / Prioritize / Practice The Gospel By Which You Are Saved:
 - Will You Have A Passion For Personal Purity!
- And: “Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear!”

Conclusion:

1. Living A Holy Life In This Unholy World Is Hard!
 - “There Be Dragons Here!”
 - Or Lions! 1 Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour!”
2. Be Sober – Be Vigilant!
 - Get Serious!
 - “Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear!”
 - Because Of:
 - Your Relationship To God!
 - Your Redemption By God!
 - Your Response To God!
 - Have A Passion For Personal Purity!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com