

PLACE OF REST

Respond with Hope, Holiness and Honor

1 Peter 1:13-17

We seem to be living in the day of equally intolerable, repugnant, and futile choices and in a culture that is daily becoming more decadent and increasingly lacking in great political statesmen.

Which leads to the question, "Is there any hope?"

Our passage addresses this problem. Peter is telling his 1st Century audience where they will find rest in their increasingly decadent, and hostile environment.

The early church faced numerous trials. Many were ostracized from their community, experiencing joblessness, ridicule, and abuse. Some even suffered beatings, imprisonment and death. Furthermore, they had little choice regarding their governmental leaders. They had to take what they got. More often than not the authorities were pagan, corrupt, and unfriendly to their new found faith.

Their circumstances brought upon them numerous trials. Many grew weary. Some wondered whether they made the right choice in becoming Christians. Others were so weary they wondered how much longer



they would be able to hold on before they gave into the pressures of the world.

Where does one find rest? In whom or what do we place our trust?

The truths depicted in this letter are universal. Regardless the severity of the trials we face; the same principles, when applied, will strengthen the weary soul.

So in the first part of Peter's letter he features four tools God gave them to overcome their trials. Three were covered in previous lessons. However, we will briefly review them before examining in greater detail Peter's fourth exhortation.

Review Questions

1. Peter said, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice" or "in this" ye greatly rejoice (1 Peter 1:6a). What seven truths did Peter point out to these trial weary saints? - 1 Peter 1:2-6.

Answer:

- a. They should **rejoice in their election**, which is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father - v. 2a.
- b. They should **rejoice in the sanctification** of the Spirit, which will lead them to obedience - v. 2b.
- c. They should **rejoice in the cleansing** they received through the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ - v. 2c.
- d. They should **rejoice in the grace and peace that was multiplied unto them** through Jesus Christ - v. 2d.
- e. They should **rejoice in God's abundant mercy** wherein He gave them the new birth and a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead - v. 3.
- f. They should **rejoice in their inheritance** in Christ which is incorruptible, and undefiled, that will not fade away which is reserved for them in heaven - v. 4.
- g. They should **rejoice in the guarantee of their eternal security** because they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time - v. 5.

So when facing fiery trials, we are told to rejoice in what God has done for us through Christ.

2. What truths did Peter remind his weary brethren of, in 1 Peter 1:6b-9?

Answer:

- a. **Remember** the **trials** we face **are short** when compared to eternity – therefore they are for a season – v. 6a.
- b. **Remember** regardless of how hard our trials may appear, **they are much more precious than of gold**. Their purpose is that we might be found to the praise, honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ - v. 7

So we are to **rejoice** in what God has done and we are to **remember** that through trials we are being made more like Christ.

3. What four features further display God's astonishing gift of grace? - 1 Peter 1:10-12

Answer:

- a. It was **PREDICTED** by the Old Testament prophets. They longed to see the grace we received. – v. 10
- b. This grace was **REVEALED** by the Holy Spirit of God - v.11
- c. It was **PREACHED** to the world at great cost by the apostles – v. 12
- d. It was **GAZED UPON** by angel's – v. 12c . . . meaning the grace we received is so amazing and wonderful even the heavenly hosts are astonished by it.

Because of God's grace, we should **RECOUNT** how precious our faith is, **REJOICE** in what God has done and **REMEMBER** that through our trials we are made more like Christ.

Study Questions:

It is one thing to KNOW something about an item. It is entirely another thing to trust in what we know. Peter now gives his readers three different imperative commands. Three important actions God's children must take in order to endure fiery trials. These are not suggestions. These are not appeals. These are commands . . . divine commands that we must individually put into action so that we will be able to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

4. What imperative commands are found in 1 Peter 1:13-17?

Answer:

- a. "**HOPE** to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" - 1 Peter 1:13
 - 1) *You must* respond to the great hope you have
 - 2) *You must* "set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
 - b. "Be ye **HOLY** in all manner of conversation" - 1 Peter 1:15

"Be ye **HOLY**; for I am holy" - 1 Peter 1:16

 - *You must* be holy
 - c. "**PASS** the time of your sojourning here in fear" - 1 Peter 1:17
 - *You must* "pass the time of your foreign residence in fear."
5. As soldiers ready for combat, we are told to set out onto the battlefield of life with the hope we have in Christ. **How does "girding up the loins of our minds" - (v. 13a) and "being sober" (13b) help us fulfill the command, *You must* "set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.?"**

Answer:

- a. "Girding up the loins of our minds" - v. 13a.
- 1) It is a vivid phrase. In the east men wore long flowing robes which hindered their fast progress or strenuous activity. So around their waist they wore a broad belt or girdle; and when strenuous action was necessary they shortened the long robe by pulling it up within the belt in order to give them freedom of movement.
 - 2) It is like rolling up one's sleeve or taking off one's jacket.
 - 3) Peter is telling his audience that they must be ready to face the most strenuous mental endeavor. Never be content with flabby and unexamined faith. We must be set to biblically think things out. We must be willing to discard wrong or secular thinking and put on Christ.
- b. "Being sober" - v. 13b.
- 1) This phrase has two meanings. First to refrain from drunkenness and second to be steady in their minds. Therefore, we must not be intoxicated with liquor or with wrong thoughts.
 - 2) We must preserve a balanced judgment. It is easy to be carried away with sudden enthusiasm, desires or feelings. Peter is appealing to us to maintain a steadiness to our faith and in what we believe.

6. What is the hope described in 1 Peter 1:13c?**Answer:**

- a. *You must* "Hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- b. Hope defined is the Christian's attitude towards the future (Acts 24:15; Titus 1:2; 2:13; 3:37). The term is an aorist active imperative by which Peter exhorts believers in military fashion to a decisive kind of action, to a hope that is an obligatory act of the will, not merely an emotional feeling. We are commanded to live expectantly, anticipating our "a living hope" and our inheritance . . . reserved in heaven . . . to be revealed in the last time."
- c. Hope is beneficial in settling and strengthening the saints, but it is also a form of worship that rest in the faithfulness of God and in doing so glorifies His name. Biblically, hope affirms the integrity of God's promise and declares that He is a covenant keeping God.
- d. The ultimate feature of the believer's hope is the grace to be brought at the appearing of Jesus Christ. The fixation of our focus "is the grace that is bestowed on us" and will be climaxed at the Second Coming. We should be humbled by the thought that we are glorified in Christ, and by this ultimate act we will be consummated at His return. Therefore, focus on the amazing "grace that is brought unto you."

7. How are we to respond to God's amazing grace that is bestowed upon us - 1 Peter 1:14-16?

Answer:

- a. This second command explains how we are to respond . . . **In Holiness. – 1 Peter 1:15, 16.**
- b. Peter opens his letter by reminding his readers that they are sanctified by the Spirit unto obedience – v. 2. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to overcome sin and temptation. He is now commanding us to responded by yielding our lives.

 “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind . . . *but* . . . be renewed in the spirit of your mind;²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” – Ephesians 4:17, 23-24.
- c. Therefore, we are told, don't be “fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in our ignorance” – 1 Peter 1:14 but rather be holy in all our conduct.
- d. Several reasons for this. We are new creatures in Christ. We have the power of the Holy Spirit available to us. Finally, we are to be holy because God is holy. We are being transformed into His image.

8. The final imperative command is found in 1 Peter 1:17 - *You must* “PASS** the time of your sojourning here in fear.” **What does this mean? How do we do this?****

Answer:

- a. If we say God impartially judges. If we sincerely believe God is all powerful and true. If we believe the blessings given to us are truly from God. If we honestly believe the fact that God enables us to endure trials, and believe there is hope laid in store for us. Then we must “pass the time of our sojourning here in fear.”
- b. We are to honor God with proper reverence, awe and respect. Hope and holiness produces a life of worship and the most foundational of all spiritual virtues is the fear of the Lord. For this is the beginning of true wisdom, knowledge and understanding.
- c. We are to pass the time of our sojourning in fear because God is also the One who impartially judges according to each one's work. As long as people live on their earth as believers, God is keeping the record of their works. At the return of Jesus Christ, there will be a judgment of all believers (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 4:3-5; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10; 1 Peter 4:17; Hebrews 12:5-11).
- d. How we conduct ourselves before God's omniscient presence matters in both time and eternity - 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12.