

## Be Ye Holy — 06/27/21

**TEXT- 1 Pe 1:15-16** *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

**INTRO** – Peter addresses his readers as “strangers,” that is, “resident aliens” in a foreign land. This was true politically, for they were Jews away from their fatherland; but it was also true spiritually, for their citizenship was in heaven **Php 3:20** *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

Peter tells us how we ought to live in this hostile world:

### I. Live in Hope 1Pe 1:3-12

The unsaved person is “without hope” **Eph 2:12** *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise having no hope and without God in the world*

**A. We have a living hope.** Christ is our Hope and we look for His soon-expected return.

**B. We have a lasting hope** (1Pe 1:4-5). It is reserved in heaven, where it cannot decay (“incorruptible”), be defiled, or lose its beauty and delight. But not only is the hope reserved; the believer too is kept (guarded as by a soldier) by the Lord! We are kept by God’s power because of the faith we have placed in Him. Eternal security is not based on the faith of men, but on the faithfulness of God. The believer is saved; he is being saved daily (through sanctification); and he will be saved completely when Christ returns (Rom 8:15-25). The end (completion, perfection) of our faith will be the complete salvation of the believer (1Pe 1:9), who will inherit a new body.

**C. We have a tested hope.** However, until Christ returns, the believer must go through testing. **1 Pe 1:6-7** *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

**1 Pe 1:10-12** *Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*

Peter reminds us that the OT prophets spoke of this salvation we enjoy. They did not, however, fully understand the time or circumstances in which it would appear. They saw the cross and the kingdom, but they did not anticipate the “valley” in between, this present age of the church.

### II. Live in Holiness 1Pe 1:13-21

**Mat 5:48** *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

**Lev 11:44** *For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

**Was Peter holy? Are we holy?**

**Should we ignore this apostolic admonition?**

- The blessed hope ought to make us live holy lives (1Jn 3:1-3).
- Another motive for separated living is the commandment of the Word (Lev 11:44; Lev 19:2; Lev 20:7). “Holy” does not mean sinless perfection, which is a condition impossible in this life anyway (1Jn 1:8-10). It means set apart, separated unto God. If we are God’s children, then we ought to be like our Father.
- A third motive for holy living is the judgment of God (1Pe 1:17).

God chastens His children today and tests their works at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1Co 3:1). He has no “favorites” but treats all of His children alike.

- 1Pe 1:18-21 give a fourth motive for dedicated living: the price Christ paid on the cross.

Before we were saved, our lives were empty and meaningless (“vain” — 1Pe 1:18); but now they are full and happy through Him. Our salvation was not purchased with money; it took the blood of Jesus Christ, the spotless Lamb of God (Joh 1:29). His death was planned by God ages before we ever were born; yet, God in His grace included us in that plan! How grateful we should be, and what better way is there for us to show our gratitude than to surrender our all to Him (1Co 6:15-20).

### III. Live in Harmony 1Pe 1:22-25

Salvation gives us a living hope, a desire for a holy life, and a wonderful fellowship with the people of God. The Spirit of God loved us and brought us to Christ; this same Spirit has planted within us a love for the people of God (Rom 5:5, and see 1Jn 3:16). Peter uses two words for “love” in 1Pe 1:22 : one means brotherly love and the other divine love (*agape*). The Christian possesses brotherly love; but he needs to exert spiritual energy and love others the way God loves him. Even unsaved people can show brotherly love; it takes a Christian, controlled by the Spirit, to show *agape* love.

Peter likes this phrase “born again”; he uses it in 1Pe 1:3 and 1Pe 1:23. We are born again through God’s mercy unto a living hope, and we are born again by the Word of God unto love for the people of God. He compares the Word to seed, as Jesus does in the Parable of the Sower (Mat 13:1-9, Mat 13:18-23). Like a seed, the Word is small and seemingly insignificant, but it has life and power within. The Word must be planted to do any good; but when it is planted in the heart, it produces fruit. God’s Word is eternal, and the fruit it produces is eternal; but the things of the flesh do not last. Peter refers in 1Pe 1:24-25 to Isa 40:6-8. Whatever we do in obedience to the Word of God will last forever! But whatever we do in the energy of the flesh will look beautiful for a time, but will then die.

Christian harmony is a blessing to the Lord, the church, and the believers themselves **Psa 133:1-3** ***A Song of degrees of David.** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*

**CONCL-**