

## 1 Peter Chapter 1D

In Luke Ch. 12, The Lord Jesus taught His Disciples about his Second Coming by employing a Parable. In this parable, He takes us to the home of a rich landowner with many servants. Now, the Master of the house has gone off to a Wedding Feast leaving the servants to take care of His business.

- Well, after having established the scenario Jesus (who is the Master) gives this command to his Servants:

Luke 12:35 **Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning 36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.**

- In this parable, we learn that the servant of the Lord must live in a constant state of readiness. He must be alert, dressed and ready for action. He must live with the awareness that his Master could arrive at any time.
- So, the servant of the Lord is to be diligent in his calling, wholly committed to His Master's service.

Luke 12: 40 **You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."** 41 Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?"

- Peter asks, "Is this instruction for everyone or is it just for us, your disciples?" And Jesus answers Peter's question with a question.

42 **the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? 43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 44 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.**

- Jesus answers Peter's question by continuing the Parable. Those who know and love their Master, those who joyfully and diligently serve Him, they are the faithful and wise stewards. They will receive honor and great blessing at the coming of the Lord.
- On the other hand, there are servants who love themselves and live for their own pleasure. They have no respect for the Master and don't care about His coming.

Luke 12: 45 **But if that Servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.**

- The coming of the Lord will bring great GRACE and abundant reward to the faithful servant but it will also bring God's righteous judgment on the unfaithful servants.
- Listen carefully to how Jesus sums up this parable:

Luke 12:48 **Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.**

- LISTEN: The calling of the Lord comes with great responsibility. Those who have received God's amazing grace through the revelation of Jesus Christ have an obligation to live a life that is wholly devoted to their master.
- The Apostle Peter listened carefully to the Lord Jesus as he told this Parable and he repeats these same principles in his Epistle.
- Let's continue on in our study of 1 Peter.

In the first two verses of his Epistle, Peter brilliantly laid out for us the gracious work of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit securing our eternal salvation.

IN verses 3-5, He praises God for the living hope that belongs to those who are Born of God, regenerated by the Spirit. He praises God for the imperishable inheritance that will be ours at the coming of the Lord.

When we arrive at verse 13 there is a noticeable shift in Peter's writing. He moves from unfolding and explaining the nature of our salvation to describe for us the obligations and the responsibilities that belong to the servants of the Lord.

- Have you noticed in your study of God's Word that the delineation of responsibilities always comes after a clear exposition of God's saving grace?
- Friends, that's simply good theology, God is the initiator, He is the one who calls man with an effectual calling and man merely responds to His grace.

This morning we are going to consider the obligations and responsibilities that belong to those who receive God's gracious gift of Salvation. Verses 13-17 describe the response of a believer to God's abundant grace in the following way:

1. Believers respond with hope.
2. Believers respond in holiness.

1. Believers must respond with hope.

1 Peter 1: 13 **Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

- In this verse, Peter commands us as believers to "Set our hope fully or completely on the grace that will be ours at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Peter doesn't call us to set our hope on the event itself but on the GRACE that will be brought to us at the (Apokalupsis – the Revelation of Jesus Christ)

- Friends our hope is always based upon the grace of God alone.
- We were saved by the grace of God through faith in Christ. (Eph 2:5)
- In the same way, the culmination of our salvation, our glorification and eternal life in the presence of God will be all of grace.

Right here at the beginning we need to remember that every blessing we receive from God comes by grace alone and not because of our worth or individual merit.

Now that we are Born of God, Sealed with the Spirit, we are called to set our HOPE fully on the Grace that will be given to us at the revelation of Christ.

- Hope is one of the distinguishing marks of a true believer. According to the Apostle Paul, **Our blessed hope is the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Let's try to understand this "Blessed Hope." At its very essence, you could say that Hope is equivalent to faith; IT is trusting God for the future. (TAKE THIS SLOW)

- The difference between faith and hope is that faith involves trusting God for the present and hope involves trusting God for the future.
  - Both Faith and Hope are expressions of Trust in God.
- Faith appropriates what God has already said and done as revealed in his Word. Hope anticipates what God WILL YET DO as revealed in his Word.

Here in Vs13, Peter commands us To LIVE, here and now, IN the hope, the joyous expectation of Christ's imminent arrival and the fullness of our salvation that will be realized, that will be experience and enjoyed when he comes.

- This exhortation tells us that God's saving work has YET to be fully realized by those of us who believe. The fact that our salvation has not yet been fully realized actually energizes our hope because:

Philippians 1: 6 (we can be) **sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**

- How exactly are we supposed to "Set our hope fully on the Grace that will be given at the revelation of Christ?"
- Peter gives us two disciplines, two practices that will help us to fix our hope on this future grace.
- They are: 1. Preparing our minds for action, 2. Being sober minded

FIRST: **preparing your minds for action** (KJV) "**gird up the loins of your mind**"

In Peter's day, men wore long flowing robes or tunics that were very difficult to work or run or fight in. So when you were preparing yourself for action you grabbed the corners of your robe and tucked them into your belt so that your legs were free to move. In this way you wouldn't trip and fall.

- What Peter is telling us, is that we need to be alert, we need to be purposeful and disciplined in our thinking.

Paul told the Ephesian believers to girt up their loins with truth.

Ephesians 6: 14 (KJV) **Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,**

- The preparation of the Mind involves a continual, ongoing study, meditation on God's Word, which is the embodiment of all Truth. (Not just Sunday)
- When you fill your mind with the Word of God, your attitude will be transformed; your faith will grow because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Truth.
- When the Word of God becomes your meditation you will grow in wisdom.

When we store up the Word of God in our hearts, we will be better prepared for the day of battle, we will easily recognize the lies of the enemy. As Paul said:

2 Corinthians 10: 3 **For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.** 4 **For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.** 5 **We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,**

- With all of the influences that come at us from the different the forms of media in our day, we need to be all the more diligent to know the Word of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.
- We should understand that the enemy of our soul often attacks us in our minds, bringing temptation, confusion, fear and distractions.
- The Apostle Paul assists us in evaluating our thoughts when he writes:

Php 4:8 **Finally, brothers, whatever is true, (Word of God is True) whatever is honorable, whatever is just, (God is just) whatever is pure, (God is pure) whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (present imperative - continually)**

- Last week listening to a sermon:
- I was struck to the heart when the preacher asked, "Where does your mind go when you don't have anything pressing to do?"
- How about you? When you are left alone, just you and your thoughts? Where does your mind go? WE need to **"prepare our minds for action."**

SECOND: When we set our hope fully on the grace to be received at the coming of the Lord we will be: **being sober-minded**

- Peter is not merely saying that believers should refrain from drunkenness. *(although I really do think that's a great idea)*
- There are a multitude of intoxicating distractions that are readily available to us every day.

Some people are drunk with power, others, intoxicated with lust, inebriated with wine. There is NO form of drunkenness that is beneficial for the believer.

Tom Schreiner *(in his commentary)* explains Christian Sobriety in this way.

"There is a way of living that becomes dull to the reality of God, that is anesthetized by the attractions of this world. When people are lured into such drowsiness, they lose sight of Christ's future revelation and concentrate only on fulfilling their earthly desires."

- SO The Servant of the Lord must be Diligent, Sober, prepared for battle.
- In writing to the Ephesian Believers, Paul gives the following commands:

Ephesians 5: 15 **Look carefully then how you walk, (*Live your life*) not as unwise but as wise,** 16 **making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.** 17 **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.** 18 **And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, (*wicked excesses*) but be filled with the Spirit,**

- Paul encourages us to make the best use of our time.
  - We have all been given 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week. The Question is, “HOW can we use those hours for the glory of God?”
- Do we use our time seeking after the intoxicating pleasures of this present world or do we use our days preparing for the world that is to come?

Are you that faithful steward who is diligent at the Master’s business while he is away OR are you that unfaithful steward who is given to self-indulgence, drunkenness and revelry, casting caution to the wind and living only for today?

- If you, as a Christian, find anything more attractive than fellowship with Jesus Christ, if you desire the enjoyment of this world more than the joys of heaven then you do not Love His Appearing as you should.

Listen to the Words of Paul as he writes to his friend Titus:

Titus 2: 11 **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,** 12 **training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,** 13 **waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,** 14 **who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.**

- The revelation of Jesus Christ and the grace that God has lavished upon us literally teach us how we should live as we await his promised return.
- These words of Paul to his friend Titus help us move on to our final point.

2 Believers respond in holiness

1 Peter 1: 14 **As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,** 15 **but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,** 16 **since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."**

- When we set our hope completely on the grace of God that will come at the revelation of Jesus Christ, we will BY that same grace BE continually transformed into the image of our Holy Savior.
- The imperative, the command, in this section is found in verse 15 and it is this, **“Be holy in all your conduct”**

This command should sound familiar to you, it is the same mandate God gave to the people of Israel.

Leviticus 11: 44 **For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.**

- This same command is repeated in 19:2, 20:7, Ex. 19:5-6, Deut. 7:6-8,
- In the New Testament

Matthew 5:48 **You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

- Because God is our Father and because we have been made partakers in the divine nature through our New Birth we are called to be holy.
- Paul told the Ephesian Believers:

Ephesians 5: 1 **Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

- As Children of God we possess a sincere desire to be like our Father. To live a life of Love, a life that is set apart to God, a life of devotion and moral purity,
- BUT when it comes to our flesh, we struggle and all too often, we fall.
  - “we are prone to wonder!”
- There is a part of us, that loves and longs for holiness, but there is another part, a darker part, in our flesh, that rebels against God’s holy call.
- I am thankful that I am not the only one who struggles with this command; The Apostle Paul openly expressed this same internal battle.

Romans 7:18 **For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.**

- As children of God we are called to live in obedience but there are times when remaining sin, causes us to regress back into the ways of this world.
  - Once we were children of disobedience (Eph. 2:2) BUT now we are the children of God, adopted sons and daughters of the Most High God.
- When we begin to slip back into our former disobedience, like a good Father he faithfully disciplines those he receives as Sons..

Hebrews 12:10 **He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.**

John understood this ongoing battle for holiness and he gave a key to unlock the door of continual transformation.

1 John 1: 8 **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

9 **If we confess (continually) our sins, he is faithful and just to (continually) forgive us our sins and to (continually) cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

10 **If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

- John helps us to understand the process by which we are continually cleansed from all unrighteousness. Continually transformed into the image of Christ.
- Recognizing and confessing our sin, receiving and walking in God's abundant grace, receiving the forgiveness and continual cleansing that leads to holiness.

This is one of the reasons why God gave us the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

- So that when we gather together for corporate worship we would always be reminded of His precious sacrifice and grow together in the image of Christ.
- As we prepare our hearts to partake of the Bread and the Cup let's reflect on the words of Peter.

1 Peter 1:17 **And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,**

- If you truly honor God, as your Father, if you know that there is a day coming when you will stand before him and give an account of your life.
- YOU WILL know that it is ONLY because of Jesus Christ, His perfect life, his sacrificial death that you are able to stand before a Holy God.
- His death removed God's wrath, pardoned your sin and imparted to you the righteousness of Christ which makes you holy.

18 **knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,**

19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.**

- As the deacons come forward, take some time in humble confession before the Lord.

Remember where we started:

The Master of the House returned and judged his servants.....

Luke 12:35 **Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning** 36 **and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.**

43 **Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.**

44 **Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possession**