

## 1 Peter 1:13-21 Reflection Guide

Therefore, preparing your minds for action,[a] and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 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." 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, 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. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

### Therefore...

What follows are the implications of our position: (see last weeks guide)

- You have been loved before time
- His mercy has been given to you
- You have been born again
- You have been given a living hope
- You have an inheritance, kept for you
- God is keeping you and using your trials to purify you.
- You'll receive all that Jesus deserves
- You have a very precious position by God's grace.

Note that this is the pattern of the grace-driven response to the gospel. (Eph 4, Romans 12, etc)

1. Who is God?
2. What has he done?
3. Who are we? **THEN...**
4. What should we do?

**What happens if we get this order wrong?**

### 3 Exhortations

- "set your hope" vs 13
- "be holy in all your conduct" vs 14
- "conduct yourselves with fear" vs 17

#### **Set Your Hope & Be Holy - What does hope and holiness have to do with each other?**

The idea behind 'set your hope' is like anchoring a screw into a wall. It must be screwed deeper in the wall in order to be secure or hold weight. Peter is saying that as exiles, strangers in this land, you and I must "screw our hope to the sticking place" set it in the certain reality of Jesus return and the subsequent glories.

Why is this a necessary exhortation? Though we can put our hope in Jesus for redemption, we can still have our hopes in 100 misplaced things...dying hopes. It may be good financial wisdom to have a diversified portfolio...a series of backups in case something falls though or falls apart. But not here - it will not serve us well to have diversified hope.

**What does your hope portfolio look like?  
What would you friends/spouse/children/co-workers say?**

Your hope needs to be firmly fixed on the grace that will be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus...the day Jesus returns. So, how do we do it? How do we “screw our hope to the sticking place”?

**Prepare Your Mind for action** (literally “gird up your loins”) by being sober-minded (the opposite of numb or intoxicated) Peter has a picture in mind here... don’t be a drunken man stumbling over his robes.

There is a way of living that dulls our minds and our affections and when this sets in we lose a clear sight of where our hope is to be fixed. We begin trying to fix it, and screw it into places where it can’t hold, like sheetrock, without hitting a stud. Living in Hope takes effort since it won’t happen by accident.

How does David “get his head in the game”?

- “You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.”
- “My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word.”
- “I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.”

Peter says: set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. We have to discipline in our thinking so that we can rejoice in our inheritance and not be overwhelmed by what’s happening around us. Gird up the loins of your mind, engage it, be sober...it’s not a joke...get your mind ready to think about what Jesus has accomplished for you and what you will receive. (Remember the inheritance: undefiled, waiting (secured) in heaven for you)

**Have we been sober-minded or intoxicated?  
What does ‘girding up your loins’ look like this week?**

## **Hope to Holiness**

What you hope in will shape your behavior because what you “HOPE” in determines what you WANT. This is why Peter says “...do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance...” For example...if we think that money will make us something, that our attractiveness would make us worth something. (power, entertainment) Then we will consciously or subconsciously make decisions that brings us money or makes us more attractive in our eyes or others.

So, upon what basis does Peter call us to be holy? “You have been born again to a new and living hope”. There holiness in all my conduct comes from NOT being molded by your former passions, but having new ones that come from a new and living hope.

## **Where does this hope come from? Being born again...**

When you became a Christian two things happened. You got saved and you got loved...loved so deeply that it still amazes me when I think about it. Because I got loved so deeply, I want to please the One who loved me that much. If you are a Christian, God is already fully pleased with you: “God’s pleasure with you is no more hanging in the balance than Jesus is hanging on the cross.”

**Is your present joy over your salvation enough to make you want to be like and love like God?  
What has taken its place in your affections?  
What are you more in awe of this week?**

### **“All your conduct”**

*This holiness knows no boundaries. It defines our friendships, marriages, work, leisure, finances, and politics. Holiness is as much about what you do on Monday morning on the factory floor as it is about what you do on a Sunday morning in a church gathering. Holiness is as much about the kind of neighbor you are as it is about the kind of church member you are. Holiness is as much about who you are when you are holding a steering wheel as it is about who you are when you are holding a Bible. - Chester*

### **Why is our holiness important?**

Holiness is not how we get to heaven...it's how we show that we live for better passions. It demonstrates to a watching world the power of the gospel, the realities of heaven. It does not show others how great or pious we are, but how powerful the grace of God is. It is the PROOF that we have a new / better desire in Jesus Christ. If our behavior is not different than the world, it gives the impression that Jesus is just one among many hopes.

**What recent behavior shows that you have misplaced hopes?**

**(ask the Community) What is the misplaced hope that could have lead to this behavior?**

**How can we help \_\_\_\_\_ redirect his/her hope?**

**What is the “grace that will be brought to THEM at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”?**

**What scripture can we point to tonight?**

**Who do you need to show this week that Jesus is a new and better hope?**

**Consider your recent motivation for change: is it because you know you've been ransomed or to earn your ransom?**