

# In All You Do

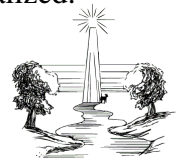
1 Peter 1:13-25

When we receive Jesus Christ, we receive “new birth into a living hope” and “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade” (1:3-4). In this we can “greatly rejoice,” even in times of trouble (1:6). In his great mercy, God has given us great blessings! In view of this, how should we live? After talking about what God has done for us (1:3-12), Peter writes, “Therefore...” (1:13), and he gives us a series of imperatives (commands) concerning how we should live.<sup>1</sup>

## Set Your Hope

□ Read 1 Peter 1:13-21. Peter writes, “...set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming” (1:13b, NIV).<sup>2</sup> This refers to the future return of Jesus Christ when the blessings of our salvation (*due to God’s grace*) will be fully realized.

1. According to verse 13, what attitude is needed for “setting our hope...”?<sup>3</sup>



## Be Holy

□ Read 1 Peter 1:14-16.<sup>4</sup> Believers have been “born” into God’s family (1:3; John 1:12-13); thus God is “Father.” As God’s children, we are to be “obedient” to the Father. We should no longer live the way we did before we knew God as Father (1:14). Our desires should change.

□ God is “holy” (1:15). The word “holy” basically means “separate, set apart.” God is uniquely holy.<sup>5</sup> Only God is God. Because God is holy, his people/children are called to be holy – that is, set apart for God. Our thinking and behavior should be conformed to God’s character. God is righteous and pure, so we should seek to live in a way that is righteous and pure.

2. In what areas of life are believers called to be holy?<sup>6</sup>

3. How does “being holy” apply to daily life? Consider particular situations, activities, etc.

<sup>1</sup> ‘The indicative of what God has done for us (and in us) precedes the imperative of what we are called to do for him.’ (Edmund Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter* [Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1998], 61)

<sup>2</sup> This hope is not merely a wish for the future. It’s a ‘living hope’ based on the past resurrection of Christ (1:3). It is a ‘confident expectation, an expectation strong enough for one to act on the basis of it’ (Wayne Grudem, *1 Peter* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988], 76). While the NIV puts ‘fully’ with ‘sober,’ other translations put ‘fully’ with ‘set your hope.’ This ‘implies a very confident and eager expectation, a very strong hope’ (Grudem, 76).

<sup>3</sup> We are to *set our hope* ‘with minds that are alert’ – ‘with minds ready for action’ (HCSB). We are to *set our hope* ‘with minds that are... sober’ – that is, ‘being sober-minded’ (ESV). We are to be disciplined in mind and spiritually alert. To have this attitude, we need minds that are informed by God’s truth and renewed by God’s Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> In verse 16, Peter quotes Leviticus 19:22 (from the *Septuagint* – a Greek translation of the Old Testament).

<sup>5</sup> ‘God’s holiness is what separates Him from all other beings, what makes Him separate and distinct from everything else. God’s holiness is more than just His perfection or sinless purity; it is the essence of His ‘other-ness,’ His transcendence.’ (<http://www.gotquestions.org/holy-holy-holy.html#ixzz3QLQVb1PI>)

<sup>6</sup> Peter writes, ‘be holy in all you do’ (*en pasē anastrophe* – in all your conduct).

- ❑ As we seek to “be holy,” we may feel out of place in a world that is opposed to God. We may feel like “foreigners and strangers on earth” (1:1, 17; Hebrews 11:13). As Christ-followers, we *should* feel that way. That does not mean we should separate ourselves from society,<sup>7</sup> but our thinking and behavior should be distinctly Christian (that is, biblical and Christ-like).

### Live in Reverent Fear

- ❑ Peter writes, “...live out your time... in reverent fear” (1:17).<sup>8</sup> While we (as Christians) can address God as “Father,” we must not forget: He is still our Judge.<sup>9</sup>

4. Read 1 Peter 1:18-21. How do these verses give believers more reason to live in a way that pleases God?

📖 Jesus said, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:35).



- ❑ To “redeem” means “to purchase someone’s freedom by paying a ransom (or redemption price).”<sup>10</sup> God’s children were redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ” (1:18-19).

📖 Paul wrote, “You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” (1 Corinthians 6:19b-20)<sup>11</sup>

### Love One Another

- ❑ Read 1 Peter 1:22-25.<sup>12</sup> Christians are to “love one another deeply, from the heart” (1:22).

5. How do the truths of verses 23-24 help us to obey the command to love?<sup>13</sup>

📖 “[God] chose to give us birth through the word of truth” (James 1:18a)

### Reflection & Application

- Peter’s commands are addressed to those who’ve received “new birth” into eternal life by receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Do you need to respond to the word of truth?
- As a believer, are you seeking to “be holy?” Review question 3 and commit to “be holy.”

<sup>7</sup> We may need to separate ourselves from some elements of society (for example, particular activities that involve or promote immorality) but Christ-followers are called to be ‘salt and light’ in the midst of a world that is decadent and dark (Matthew 5:13-16).

<sup>8</sup> The NIV adds the word ‘reverent’ to explain the kind of ‘fear’ (*phobō*) believers should have.

<sup>9</sup> This likely refers to the final judgment when believers will be judged according to their actions (2 Corinthians 5:10) though some interpreters say it refers to God’s Fatherly discipline of his children. While we are saved by grace, not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9) we are still held accountable for our actions.

<sup>10</sup> Redemption is a major theme in the Bible. In general, the term is used to describe God’s merciful and costly action to deliver his people. In particular, Jesus Christ said that he came to give his life as a ‘ransom.’ A ‘ransom’ is a price paid for release from captivity and/or punishment. The purchase price was the ‘the precious blood of Christ’ (that is, Christ’s sacrificial death for our sins). As the ‘lamb of God’ (John 1:29), Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins, so that we could be forgiven, set free, and reconciled to God (restored to relationship with Him).

<sup>11</sup> This instruction was given in the context of sexual immorality, but it applies to the believer’s life in general.

<sup>12</sup> ‘purified yourselves by obeying the truth’ – ‘The obedience to the truth of which Peter speaks is initial submission to the claims of the gospel. In saving faith the truth of God is heard and heeded’ (Clowney, 75).

<sup>13</sup> Also consider 1 John 4:7-11. The new birth into eternal life, generated by the living and enduring word of God (the gospel), provides the ‘want to’ (heart) and ‘can do’ (resources, power) for loving one another deeply.