

“Staying Clean in a Polluted World”

1 Peter 1:10-17

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I. Introduction

* Peter continues in these verses to remind the suffering saints of the greatness of their salvation. They have been chosen by the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, and sprinkled in the blood of Jesus Christ (v. 2).

II. So Great a Salvation (1 Peter 1:10-12)

- A. The theme of the Old Testament prophets (v. 10)
 - 1. The prophets predicted it
 - 2. Our salvation was not an afterthought
- B. The theme of the Spirit’s inspiration (v. 11)
 - 1. The Spirit inspired it
 - 2. Note the two comings
 - a) The first coming
 - b) The Second Coming
- C. The theme of the apostle’s preaching (v. 12)
 - 1. The apostles preached it
 - 2. Acts 2
- D. The theme of the angel’s examination (v. 12)
 - 1. The angels pondered it

III. Peter’s Response to Our Salvation (1 Peter 1:13-17)

* “wherefore” (v. 13)

- The call
- “Be ye holy in all your behavior.” (v. 15)

* What is holiness?

- Only God is perfectly holy.

* Peter gives three incentives to walk in holiness:

- A. The coming of Jesus Christ (v. 13)
 - 1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- a) The Rapture or Second Coming
- 2. We must always live our lives in light of the coming of Jesus Christ.
- 3. “living hope” (v. 3)
 - a) Now- (v. 13) “set your hope on His coming.”
 - b) “And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:3).
 - c) “By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment” (2 Peter 2:3,4).
- 4. Three things to do:
 - a) Gird up the loins of your mind (v. 13)
 - 1) It’s a figure of speech.
 - 2) Illustration- The Exodus
 - 3) Don’t let your thoughts hinder your Christian walk. Focus on Christ’s coming.
 - 4) F.B. Meyer- *“Our souls are clad with the flowing garments of various tastes, appetites, affections, and propensities which hang loosely around us, constantly catching in the things of the world, and hindering us in the Christian race.”*
 - 5) In Greek, it’s the aorist tense. Once and for all
 - 6) It’s keeping a Christ-centered optimism.
 - 7) A mind not crippled by worry or fear.
 - 8) “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God, set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:1-2).
 - b) Be sober (v. 13)
 - 1) Don’t get drunk
 - 2) It’s used here metaphorically to mean mental sobriety. It means to be self-controlled in your thinking and life.
 - 3) Too many Christians lose their clear thinking by drinking in the world’s sinful system.
 - 4) How do you protect your mind? By reading, meditating, and studying God’s Word,
 - 5) Romans 12
 - c) Hope to the end (v. 13)
 - 1) Have a hopeful outlook.
 - 2) “Favorable and confident expectation”

- 3) Set your hope perfectly, unchangeably, without doubt and despondency.
- 4) On what? “the grace that is being brought to you” (v. 13)
- 5) Salvation’s three tenses- past, present, future
- 6) “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11-13).

B. The holiness of God (vv. 14-16)

1. The argument here is simple—children inherit the nature of their parents.
 - a) When we are “born again” (v. 23), we are “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4)
 - b) We are (v. 14) “children of obedience”
 - c) Note the order: salvation, holiness, obedience.
 - d) Don’t fashion yourself after the old life. Don’t imitate the world as you once did out of lust and ignorance.
2. (v.14) the contrast
 - a) The God that called you is holy, so be ye holy.
 - b) “For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (Leviticus 11:44).
3. (v.15) “in every kind of behavior”
 - a) J.B. Phillips- *“in every department of your lives.”*
 - b) Holiness is kingdom living now.
 - c) “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

C. The fear of God (v. 17)

1. Kenneth Wuest- *“And in view of the fact that you call on as Father Him who judges, not with a partiality based upon mere outward appearance, but with impartiality in accordance with each individual’s work, “in fear order your behavior during the time of your residence as a foreigner.”*
2. We are “sojourners.” (v. 17)
 - a) “To have a home alongside” refers to a person living in a foreign land alongside people who are not of his kind.
 - b) We are being watched by the unsaved that we live alongside.
 - c) So, live in fear of God.
 - d) What is the fear of God?
 - 1) It’s the only thing that can keep me living a holy life.

- 2) Power of the Holy Spirit
- 3) “For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness” (1 Thessalonians 4:7).

IV. Conclusion

- A. Three motivations for holiness
 1. Jesus is coming
 2. God is holy
 3. Walk in the fear of God